



Minutes Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program Board Meeting



**February 1, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

**Dallas County Records Building
Innovation Training Room, 7th Floor
500 Elm St, Dallas TX 75202**

Members Present: Ed Koppman, William Freeman, Amy Martin, James Curl, Philip Hiatt Haigh, Rick Kopf, Javier Vilchis, Kiphani Allen,

Members Absent: Andrew Albert Jones, Rinkesh Desai, Fred Washington

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ed Koppman at 9:06 am.

2. Welcome/Introductions

3. Public Comment

4. Review and Approval of the December 7, 2023, Minutes –

Mr. Freeman made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes and Mr. Curl seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Status of Trails

Micah Baker, Mobility Planning Manager with the Dallas County Public Works Department, provided the trails update.

Cypress Waters Trail

- Right-of-way (ROW) negotiation follow-up meeting occurred on December 15th. The Dallas County Civil District Attorney is reviewing easement documents and the Project Specific Agreement (PSA). 95% plans were submitted to TxDOT.

Chalk Hill Trail

- This trail is in preliminary design. Dallas County is awaiting a final copy of the Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) from TxDOT. Dallas County is expecting a consultant proposal for the project this week.

Heritage Trail

- City of Mesquite awarded a bid earlier this month for construction, which will begin this spring.

Campion Trail

- Phase 1 concrete pavement is complete. The final plans and environmental assessment for Phase 2 are pending approval from the USACE. Bidding for Phase 2 will begin this year.

6. Status of County Preserves

Mia Brown, Open Space Administrator with the Department of Planning & Development, provided the County preserve update.

Utility Easement Requests

Trinity River Mountain Creek, Goat Island, Rowlett Creek, and Paul S. Dryer preserves all currently have ongoing utility easement requests.

Preserve Updates

- Goat Island Preserve – Dallas County closed on 60 acres at 3200 Post Oak Road and 70 acres at 4403 S. Beltline Road in December. The properties will be incorporated into the ongoing work on the 2024 Open Space Plan.

Open Space Coordinator

- Jade Affleck, the new Open Space Coordinator, was introduced to the TAPP Board.

Past Events

- Dallas County partnered with Texas Conservation Alliance to host a clean-up at Post Oak Preserve on December 9, 2023. This may become an annual event in the future.

Upcoming Events

- The Old Growth Forest Network will dedicate Spring Creek Forest Preserve as a Community Forest on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. A guided hike will follow the ceremony at 1:45 p.m.
- Dallas County is partnering with the DISD Environmental Education Center and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Texas Nature Trackers program to host a BioBlitz at Post Oak Preserve on Saturday, April 6, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. This event will focus on documenting as many species as possible in the preserve using the iNaturalist or eBird apps.

7. Dallas County Open Space Plan Update

Kendall Howard with Halff Associates gave an update on the progress of the Open Space Plan. Chapter 2 is complete. This chapter contains preserve profiles and assessments on demand, natural and cultural resources, equity, access/connectivity, and park operations of Dallas County and its city partners. Next, Halff Associates and Dallas County will develop system-wide and preserve-specific recommendations and draft Chapter 3. Public meetings to solicit feedback on the proposed projects and recommendations will be held in April.

Mr. Haigh emphasized the need for the Open Space Plan to recommend improvements to preserve management and increased staffing. Members discussed their role in advocating for the Parks and Open Space Program.

8. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were proposed.

9. Upcoming Events/Board Meetings

Next TAPP Board Meeting: April 4, 2024.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.