



MINUTES

Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program Board Meeting



**August 15, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

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

Members Present: Ed Koppman, Rinkesh Desai, William Freeman, Fred Washington, Javier Vilchis, Amy Martin, Kiphani Allen, Raja Chaudhry

Members Absent: Philip Hiatt Haigh, Rick Kopf, Andy Jones

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ed Koppman at 9:02 a.m.

2. Welcome/Introductions

Raja Chaudhry, the new District Two appointee, was introduced to the board.

3. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

4. Review and Approval of the April 4, 2024, and May 9, 2024, Minutes

Mr. Freeman made a motion to approve the April and May meeting minutes and Mr. Chaudhry seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Dallas County Open Space Plan Update

The 2024 Open Space Plan has been completed. Kendall Howard with Halff Associates guided the board members through the finalized plan, offering a review of its goals, themes and organizational structure, along with a summary of each chapter. The Board members expressed satisfaction with the final product and emphasized the importance of adequately staffing the Parks and Open Space Program to ensure the successful implementation of the 2024 Open Space Plan.

6. Action Item: Vote to Recommend the 2024 Open Space Plan to the Commissioners Court

Mr. Freeman made a motion to recommend the 2024 Open Space Plan to the Commissioners Court and Mrs. Allen seconded the motion. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

7. Status of Trails

Cypress Waters Trail

The ILA with City of Dallas was fully executed on August 6th. In July, the 100% plans were submitted to TxDOT and TxDOT has requested the State Letter of Authority (SLOA). On August 8th, Dallas County SBE Office hosted a Pre-Project Meeting in preparation for bidding. Advertisement and the SLOA are expected in September. ROW easements are being finalized.

Chalk Hill Trail

Consultant Work Orders for Phase 1 and Phase 2 are scheduled to be approved at the August 20th Commissioners Court. The consultant will begin preparing 95% submittal for TxDOT.

Heritage Trail

Construction began in June and is 10% complete.

Campion Trail

Phase 1 concrete pavement is complete. For Phase 2, Dallas County is awaiting 100% revised plans from the city to review. An updated alignment at the Trinity River crossing has been established. Final Plans and the environmental assessment are pending USACE approval. The Project Specific Agreement will need to be approved before construction.

8. Status of County Preserves

Utility Easement Requests

Trinity River Mountain Creek, Goat Island, Rowlett Creek, and Palmetto-Alligator Slough preserves all currently have ongoing utility easement requests.

Parks and Open Space Projects

The use of ARP funds to purchase a restroom facility for Cottonwood Creek Preserve was approved by Commissioners Court on August 6th. In addition, the City of Wilmer will be installing a disc golf course, parking and lighting. Project start date is to be determined.

A building assessment was conducted at Cedar Ridge Preserve and will be used to determine necessary renovations. The City of Dallas recently replaced the HVAC unit in the building.

Past Events

On July 12th, the Trinity River Crew, a program for high school students in partnership with Trinity Park Conservancy and Greenspace Dallas, volunteered to remove invasive privet from Joppa Preserve.

Upcoming Events

Dallas County Parks & Open Space staff will be at the TPWD Booth in the Poultry Barn at the State Fair of Texas on Friday, September 27th and Saturday, September 28th.

On Saturday, September 21st, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., volunteers will be removing tires at Goat Island Preserve.

9. Discussion Item: DMN Commentary: Hi Line Connector Opens

Board members briefly discussed The Loop's significant milestone with the opening of the Hi Line Connector Trail. Mr. Koppman highlighted that the once dark and unsafe highway passageway now features colorful lighting and two remarkable murals.

10. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

There were no proposed future agenda items.

11. Upcoming Events/Board Meetings

a. Next TAPP Board Regular Meeting: October 3, 2024

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.