

Environment and Sustainability Task Force Meeting Minutes

The Environment and Sustainability Task Force meetings are recorded. Agenda materials and recordings may be reviewed/copied by contacting the Board Coordinator at 214-671-1200

Meeting Date: March 12, 2021
Convened: 1:10 p.m.
Adjourned: 2:52 p.m.

Task Force Members Present:

Sandy Greyson, **Chair**
Rita Beving, **Vice-Chair**
Dr. Maria Boccalandro
Aaryaman Singhal
Tracy Wallace
Janette Monear
Michael Martin
Tony Robinson
Alan Hoffmann

Task Force Member(s) Absent:

Erryn Hopson
Ples Montgomery, IV
Pamela Rogers
Phil Crone
Raphaella Silva
Drew Campbell

Staff Present:

Susan Alvarez, OEQS, Task Force Staff Liaison
Pharr Andrews, OEQS
Katy Evans, OEQS
Brittany Hailey-Wells, OEQS
Michael Gange, OEQS
Phil Erwin, DEV
Joey Zapata, CMO
Jon Taylor-Brown, PBW

Special Guest(s):

Zach Wirtz, Texas Trees Foundation

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order

Action Taken/Recommendation(s):

Chair called the Environment and Sustainability Task Force meeting to order at 1:10 p.m., Friday, March 12, 2021 at Dallas City Hall, via TEAMS Virtual Meeting Service, Dallas, TX, 75201. A quorum was present.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments received.

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3. Approval of Meeting Record of February 12, 2021 and February 19, 2021 Meetings

Approval of the February 12, 2021 and February 19, 2021 minutes will be held for the April meeting.

4. Presentation: Urban Forest Master Plan

Susan Alvarez and Zach Wirtz briefed the task force on the Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP). The full presentation is available online.

Sandy Greyson commented that planting trees, or leaving space for future tree planting, should be a priority in new development.

Aaryaman Singhal asked for an estimate of how much is in Dallas' Tree Fund. Phil Erwin estimates the fund is over \$7.5 million. Aaryaman followed up with a question about the amount going in and out of the fund each year. Per Phil, \$150,000 per year has been spent on tree plantings for the last several years. Last year a little over \$1 million came into the fund. It is reiterated that funds are available for planting and protecting trees in Dallas.

Aaryaman asked about the proposed structure of the City's tree task force. Per Susan, this is TBD, but Joey Zapata will be meeting with all departments involved with trees to discuss how they can best collaborate. Aaryaman voiced support for creating a centralized group to focus on implementation of the UFMP and other tree-planting initiatives. Sandy agreed. Joey Zapata recognized the recommendation while acknowledging the challenge of centralizing efforts when no one group is in charge of *all* the trees.

Sandy asked about the external stakeholders on the task force. Per Susan, the task force has not yet been formed, but there is a diverse list of project sponsors and supporters that a task force can be established from. Joey added that he anticipates this group being tied to the new Environmental Commission (EC). Sandy suggested the new commission could form a standing committee to oversee these efforts.

Sandy further commented that average citizens should have an opportunity to participate and provide input.

Alan Hoffman voiced support for Aaryaman's suggestion of a centralized task force. Alan then expressed concern that the City may not have all the necessary resources to maintain the trees, and he proposed partnerships with community groups to ensure a directed and effective effort.

Rita Beving asked about incentives to developers for planting or protecting trees. Phil responded that the 2018 Article X provisions are built on incentives and it encourages developers to develop with the current landscape instead of clearing the property. Rita would like the commission to be involved with implementation of this ordinance.

Janette Monear cautioned the group about diverting too much of the money to other things and not having enough left for planting trees. Aaryaman asked how to ensure the funds are being most effectively distributed. Zach responded that this will be addressed in the Urban Forest *Management* Plan, which is part of the UFMP. This management plan will include a planting plan that will guide short-term planting efforts; however, tree planting efforts are still happening now.

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Alan commented that there is often not enough space to plant trees where the trees are needed and reiterated the need to work with developers to better design new buildings.

Tracy Wallace expressed that it is imperative to engage with developers and incentivize or otherwise motivate them to especially protect mature trees.

Rita asked if there were any case studies for how other cities are incentivizing greener development. Sue responded that CPC may have studies related to updates to the development code around parking requirements. Additionally, PUD will study other cities and case studies as part of the update to the Forward Dallas Plan.

Janette provided examples of developers in the area incorporating biophilia and other greening strategies.

Sandy asked if the city-wide task force will tackle the Emerald Ash Borer issue. Susan affirmed and added that PKR has been working with Texas Forest Service on some planning efforts also.

Sandy then asked if the UFMP's goal of increasing tree canopy cover from 32% to 37% in five years is ambitious enough. Zach answered that the goals of the UFMP are based on the CECAP goals for ecosystems and green spaces. Per Sue, the goals align with the average of other major cities and Dallas' own trends. Janette commented that the federal goal is ~40%, but the UFMP's goal is suitable for now and can be reviewed in the future.

5. Discussion on Task Force Subcommittees

Susan shared opportunities for task force members to participate on subcommittees and help advise on some upcoming environmental topics, including

- 2021 International Building Code Update
- Urban Forest Master Plan
- Emerald Ash Borer
- Forward Dallas Update
- Local Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Aaryaman and Alan volunteered to participate in the Forward Dallas Plan update.

Sandy requested that task force members let Susan know by the April meeting if they would like to participate in any of the planning efforts.

In response to an inquiry from Dr. Maria Boccalandro about the lifespan of the EAS-TF, Sandy commented that the task force's final meeting will be in August and that the EC will then pick up implementation duties.

6. Time Permitting: Review of FY 2021 Proposed Work Plan by CECAP Section: Buildings & Energy

Time did not permit this agenda item. The Buildings and Energy sections will be reviewed in a future meeting.

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7. Meeting Wrap-Up

Motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion by: Alan Hoffman

Motion seconded by: Dr. Maria Boccalandro

Passed by majority.

The March 12, 2021 Environment and Sustainability Task Force Meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

ATTEST:

Sandy Greyson

Chair
Environment & Sustainability Task Force



Task Force Staff Liaison
Environment & Sustainability Task Force