

# Quality of Life Council Committee

## Meeting Record

(DRAFT)

**Meeting Date:** 1-26-2009

**Convened:** 2:07 p.m.

**Adjourned:** 4:02 p.m.

Pauline Medrano, Chair  
Vonciel Jones Hill, Vice Chair  
Sheffie Kadane  
David A. Neumann  
Carolyn Davis  
Steve Salazar  
Angela Hunt  
Elba Garcia (non-member)  
Jerry Allen (non-member)

### **Briefing Presenters:**

-Karen Rayzer, Mike Rawlings, & Mike Faenza, Environmental & Health Services  
-Steve Houser, Chair of the Urban Forestry Committee  
-Michael Hellman, Park & Recreation Department

### **Staff Present:**

Forest Turner, Shanika Brooks, Sarah Hasib, Rick Galceran, Sally Rodriguez, Terri Phillips, Phil Erwin, Paul Dyer, Michael Hellman, Karen Woodard

## AGENDA:

### 1. **Approval of January 12, 2009 minutes**

**Presenter(s):**

**Information Only:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** Motion to approve the January 12, 2009 minutes.

Motion made by:

Item passed unanimously:   X  

Item failed unanimously: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion seconded by:

Item passed on a divided vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Item failed on a divided vote: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. **Update of the Bridge**

**Presenter(s):** Karen Rayzer, Mike Faenza & Mike Rawlings

**Information Only:**   X  

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**

The briefing provided background about the ten year plan to end homelessness. In 2004 and 2005 citizens approved \$27.8 million in bond funds to design, build, and create a new permanent supportive housing for the homeless. In 2008 City Council contracted with the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA) to operate the facility.

With the new facility crime decreased in business robbery, burglary and accessory theft. Unfortunately crime increased in individual robbery, aggravated assault and other theft. This report does include individuals stealing from one another at the shelter.

The Bridge has placed 476 people in permanent employment and 216 in permanent housing. Challenges did arise when unplanned courtyard sleeping resulted in diminished resources, higher costs of security and unmanageable caseloads. Lack of storage space for clients resulted in the disposal of personal property of some guests. Resolutions such as partnering with facilities to

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assist with moving people to alternative shelters for overnight sleeping and agreeing to check bags for medication and personal items have been set into place. Additional challenges include functionality concerns, contractor involved solutions, ongoing maintenance and maintenance training.

Next steps are to continue an ongoing review of the expenses of MDHA, develop goals with MDHA and other agencies as specified in the contract, and work diligently with MDHA

Motion made by:

Item passed unanimously: \_\_\_\_

Item failed unanimously: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion seconded by:

Item passed on a divided vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Item failed on a divided vote: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Urban Forestry Presentation Update

**Presenter(s):** Steve Houser

**Information Only:**  X

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**

The purpose of the briefing was to explain how a division of Urban Forestry could potentially fit into our existing government structure. According to research the majority of the largest cities have Urban Forestry within the Park Department followed closer by Public Works. The top ranked organizational structure around the nation is a "Forestry/Tree unit".

Criteria utilized in judging a community's urban forestry program include systematic management, being aware of federal aid, City tree ordinance, preservation ordinance, setting emergency plans in place, tree budget as percent of city budget, and number of trees maintained.

Next steps are to determine the level of support from the Quality of Life Committee. If support exists then a list of the broad objectives from the committee will need to be accomplished. Getting key agencies to agree, reach consensus and presenting the issue to full council are all for consideration.

It was decided to hold off on the motion until the "Roadmap to Tree Planting" briefing is presented to full council on March 4, 2009.

Motion made by:

Item passed unanimously: \_\_\_\_

Item failed unanimously: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion seconded by:

Item passed on a divided vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Item failed on a divided vote: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 4. City of Dallas Urban Forestry Activities

Presenter(s): Steve Houser

Information Only:  X

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

A review of the existing codes and ordinances related to trees and urban forestry was conducted to determine changes needed. Many departments participate in the Current Urban Forestry programs including Streets, Public Works & Transportation, Dallas Water Utilities, Development Services, Office of Environmental Quality, Building Inspection, Code Compliance, Trinity River Project, Strategic Customer Services and Police.

The Park and Recreation Department has a City Forester that is involved with partnering with the Texas Food Services, training, Tree City USA designation, the Mayor's Urban Forest Advisory Committee, public outreach and education, making recommendations to the City, public tree planting projects and Arbor Day events.

Challenges ahead are to have consistent services citywide, pro-active versus re-active urban forest management, and the implementation of a Trinity Forest Management Plan.

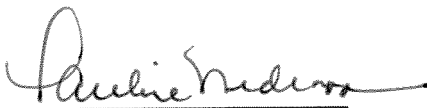
Motion made by:  
Item passed unanimously: \_\_\_\_\_  
Item failed unanimously: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion seconded by:  
Item passed on a divided vote: \_\_\_\_\_  
Item failed on a divided vote: \_\_\_\_\_

5. A motion was made to approve and move the upcoming agenda items.

Motion made by: Vonciel Jones Hill  
Item passed unanimously:  X   
Item failed unanimously: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion seconded by: Carolyn Davis  
Item passed on a divided vote: \_\_\_\_\_  
Item failed on a divided vote: \_\_\_\_\_



Pauline Medrano  
Chair