

**TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD**

The Transportation and Environment Committee (TEC) meetings are recorded. Agenda materials are available online at www.dallascityhall.com. Recordings may be reviewed/copied by contacting the TEC Staff Coordinator at 214-670-4545.

Meeting Date: March 8, 2010 **Start Time:** 2:06 p.m. **Adjournment:** 3:55 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Linda L. Koop (Chair), Sheffie Kadane (Vice Chair), Jerry Allen, Tennell Atkins, Carolyn R. Davis, Angela Hunt, Delia Jasso, Pauline Medrano, Ron Natinsky, and Vonciel Jones Hill

Committee Members Absent:

None

Other Council Members Present:

None

City Executive Staff Present:

Jill A. Jordan, Assistant City Manager

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes for February 22, 2010 and Corrections for the Minutes of September 15, 2009

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to approve the minutes for the February 22, 2010 meeting subject to corrections. No corrections were suggested and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Made by: Kadane

Seconded by: Atkins

Passed unanimously

Motion was made to approve the corrected minutes for the September 15, 2009 meeting subject to any further corrections. Ms. Koop requested that only the phrase "Due to a conflict of interest," be removed from page two concerning the Taxicab Task Force Status Report. The minutes were approved with the correction.

Made by: Kadane

Seconded by: Atkins

Passed unanimously

2. DFW Board Interview

The Committee interviewed Forrest Smith as nominee for reappointment to the DFW Airport Board. Dallas City Council is scheduled to vote for DFW Board Place 4 on March 10, 2010.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Motion was made to forward the DFW Board Nomination to full Council for consideration on March 10, 2010.

Made by: Kadane Seconded by: Atkins Passed unanimously

Ms. Koop distributed a memo to the Committee regarding interviews for the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Board appointments for Place 1, 2 and 9. The DART Board appointments and applications for nominees/renominees must be received by March 19, 2010, with interviews scheduled for April 26, 2010. Dallas City Council is scheduled to vote on nominees for the DART Board on April 26, 2010.

3. Community Gardens

Presenter: Kris Sweckard, Managing Director, Office of Environmental Quality

Mr. Sweckard briefed the Committee on three zoning options for Community Gardens: (1) by right in all zoning districts, (2) by specific use permit (SUP) in all zoning districts, and (3) through a hybrid approach.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Hunt asked if the SUP "hybrid process" would be applicable only in single-family and certain multi-family districts. Mr. Sweckard stated that the process has been defined such that an SUP would be required in single-family and duplex districts, but not in townhouse districts and above.

Ms. Hunt asked if there is a way to reduce the cost of the permits in single-family and duplex districts. Ms. Theresa O'Donnell, Director of Sustainable Development and Construction, stated that an appropriate fee would typically be set once Chapter 51A is amended to modify the Development Code with new definitions. Ms. Hunt stated that she likes the hybrid approach; however, she will hold her support until the lowest possible fee for an SUP is determined. Ms. O'Donnell stated that the fee for an SUP could be determined by the notification cost, which would be approximately \$500 to cover the cost of newspaper advertisement and signs. Ms. Hunt requested that the cost be set as low as possible.

Ms. Jasso introduced Mary Anna Griggs, President of Community Gardens in Oak Cliff, and Mr. Don Lambert and asked that they share their opinions on the three options presented.

Ms. Davis asked why the City was proposing to regulate community gardens. Ms. Jordan stated that some communities are divided as to whether they wanted a garden in their neighborhood. Ms. Davis stated that she supports community

gardens, but would not support a fee for an SUP.

Mr. Atkins asked how it was determined to allow two harvest sales per year for the hybrid approach. Mr. Sweckard stated that this was consistent with the number of garage sales allowed per year, and would be enforced by Code Compliance. Mr. Atkins indicated that he had concerns regarding possible City liability for the harvest sales and did not believe Code Compliance would be able to monitor the number of harvest sales. He also wanted to be assured that community gardens would not compete with the City's Farmers Market.

Mr. Natinsky introduced Mr. Russell Scott, from the City's Environmental Health Commission, and asked that he provide his perspective on community gardens. Comments from the Environmental Health Commission were distributed to the Committee.

Mr. Natinsky stated that he did not agree with any of the proposed options and indicated that he would support a permitting process instead of an SUP. Mr. John Rogers, Assistant City Attorney, stated that it would be possible to add community gardens as an accessory use for a small lot and main use if it is on a large lot in the Building Code to allow for permitting that would have neighborhood input.

Ms. Hill stated that she does not agree with taking rights or control away from the neighborhoods. However, Ms. Hill also indicated that she has some concerns with use of vacant lots and food distribution.

Mr. Kadane stated that he did not want to see a fee for community gardens.

Ms. Hunt stated that while she supports community gardens, she is concerned about someone from outside a community coming into a neighborhood to develop a community garden. She also indicated that she likes the idea of a petition process instead of an SUP process.

Motion was made for staff to continue its review of the issue and to return to the Committee with another option that includes a permitting process and neighborhood petitions.

Made by: Jasso

Seconded by: Hill

Passed unanimously

4. North Central Expressway Landscaping

Presenter: Rick Galceran, Director, Public Works and Transportation

Due to time constraints, this item was not briefed. Ms. Koop requested that it be placed on the next agenda.

5. Implementation of Head-of-the-Line Privileges for CNG Taxicabs at Love Field

Presenter: Dan Weber, Director, Aviation

Mr. Weber briefed the Committee on the proposed head-of-the-line incentive for compressed natural gas (CNG) taxicabs at Love Field. If endorsed by the

Committee, the ordinance amendment would be scheduled for full City Council consideration on March 10, 2010, with an effective date of April 10, 2010.

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation:

Ms. Hill asked if the City restricts access at Love Field only to taxicabs that are permitted in Dallas and Fort Worth.

Ms. Koop stated that there are taxicabs permitted in other area cities which are allowed to pick up at our airports, but do not meet the same standards as the Dallas and Fort Worth taxicabs.

Mr. Natinsky clarified that taxicabs at Love Field are already restricted to Dallas-permitted taxicabs.

Mr. Kadane asked if a change in the age limit was included in this proposal. Ms. Koop stated that there is currently a five year age limit on taxicabs with alternative fuel vehicles getting an additional two years for a total of seven years. This proposal does change that policy.

Motion was made to recommend approval to implement head-of-the-line privileges for CNG taxicabs at Love Field. Full City Council consideration will be scheduled for March 10, 2010.

Made by: Natinsky

Seconded by: Atkins

Passed unanimously

Linda L. Koop, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee