

Quality of Life Council Committee

Meeting Record

(DRAFT)

Meeting Date: 10-26-2009

Convened: 12:04 p.m.

Adjourned: 1:58 p.m.

Pauline Medrano, Chair
Vonciel Jones Hill, Vice-chair
Sheffie Kadane
Steve Salazar
Carolyn R. Davis
David Neumann
Angela Hunt

Briefing Presenters:

-Steve Houser, Dallas Urban Forest
Advisory Committee & Dr. Fang Qiu,
Associate Professor at the University of
Texas at Dallas
-Rick Galceran and Alan Hendrix, Public
Works & Transportation
-Mary Nix, Sanitation Services

Staff Present:

Forest Turner, Jill Jordan, Michael
Hellman, Travella King, Karen Plunkett,
Errick Thompson, Chiamin Korngiebel,
Danielle McClelland

AGENDA:

1. **Approval of October 12, 2009 minutes**

Presenter(s):

Information Only: _____

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Motion to approve the October 12, 2009 minutes.

Motion made by: Sheffie Kadane

Item passed unanimously: __X__

Item failed unanimously: _____

Motion seconded by: Carolyn R. Davis

Item passed on a divided vote: _____

Item failed on a divided vote: _____

2. **Urban Forestry Inventory Using Concurrent Airborne LiDAR & Hyperspectral Remote Sensing**

Presenter(s): Steve Houser & Dr. Fang Qiu

Information Only: __X__

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

The briefing discussed how larger existing trees provide 60-70 times the benefit of newly planted trees. The highest priority in managing any urban forest is a complete tree inventory. The traditional method of inventory which involves volunteers surveying only public trees is very labor intensive, time consuming and often inaccurate.

Since a traditional survey was not ideal, extensive research was completed which included hyperspectral images. Dr. Fang Qui was asked to use the new images for a complete tree inventory, but it had never been done before. The chair of the Urban Forest Advisory Committee

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personally funded the field work portion of the project (\$13k) and convinced others of the value. The chair raised over \$100k to complete the project. Therefore, the first tree inventory ever based on laser scanning and hyperspectral images using highly advanced computer algorithms had been completed. This is the first in the history of urban forestry in that someone can now effectively manage all trees (public and private) by simply sitting at the computer. Hyperspectral images can also be used to manage water quality and quantity, street markings or light fixtures, and many other existing land cover management.

The projected cost to complete the entire city is \$1.25 million for collection and \$1.25 million for processing. When other city departments understand the potential use of the images in infrastructure management, the cost can be shared and hopefully become economical. As the use of hyperspectral images increases in the future, the cost will decrease.

Next steps include briefing other departments on the potential uses, briefing the Texas Forest Service, NCTCOG, EPA and others to gain backing and financial support in completing a city and regional tree inventory and infrastructure mapping project.

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. Katy Trail Extension from McCommas Boulevard to White Rock Station

Presenter(s): Rick Galceran & Alan Hendrix

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

The purpose of the briefing was to provide updates on Phase III, IV, and VI of the Katy Trail Extension from McCommas Boulevard to the White Rock Station. Phase VI was separated from Phase III in 2006 due to numerous issues related to the design of the grade separated crossing at Mockingbird Lane. Phases I, II and V are complete.

Phase III is a joint project between the City of Dallas and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The scope of work is a 12 foot wide concrete trail from McCommas Boulevard at North Central Expressway to Sandhurst Street just west of Skillman Street, totaling approximately 1.15 miles. The City is the lead agency to administer design and construction. The current total estimated cost is \$2.8 million. Scheduled to be completed by March of 2011.

Phase IV is a joint project between the City of Dallas and TxDOT. The scope of the work includes a 12 foot wide concrete trail with four 12 foot wide pedestrian bridges at Skillman, Abrams, Ridgewood Park, and UPRR at Fisher as well as passing zones along the Northwest Highway segment for the shared trail and alley, totaling approximately 2.5 miles. Current total estimated cost is \$5.4 million. Scheduled to be completed by September of 2011.

Phase VI is a joint project between the City of Dallas, TxDOT and Dallas County. The limits are from Ellsworth Avenue to Worcola Street, approximately .65 miles. The scope of the work

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includes a 12 foot wide concrete trail, 841 foot long 6 foot wide signature pedestrian bridge over Mockingbird lane, and a 94 foot long 14 foot wide pedestrian bridge over a DART track. Current total estimated cost is \$8.1 million and the estimated completion date is December of 2011.

Motion made by:

Item passed unanimously:

Item failed unanimously:

Motion seconded by:

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

4. OneDAY Dallas: Citywide Rollout in 2010

Presenter(s): Mary Nix

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

The purpose of the briefing was to review the plan for the OneDAY Dallas transition and solicit councils input for outreach. Phase I of OneDAY started in March 2008 with far North Dallas, Phase II followed in February 2009 in Northwest Dallas. Council approved a citywide transition with fiscal year 09-10 budget which will occur on March 1, 2010.

In order to complete the transition, current routes and service styles were assessed, software was used to re-route, field checks were performed to check routes and routes were finalized. Meetings with each councilmember are scheduled for November to review new days of service, identify locations where service changes are needed, and plan community meetings.

Lessons learned through the phases and route development included, carts being set out on wrong days and carts placed in the wrong location; increases in recycling tonnage collected is anticipated though. Broad strategies for public outreach include radio and newspaper advertising, billboards, kiosks, bus advertising, website look-ups by address, dedicated call center at 3-1-1, and community meetings. Targeted strategies include direct calls to households, invitations to community meetings, letters to households, cart hangers, e-mails to community associations and special messaging on city utility bills.

After the March 2010 implementation customers will be surveyed and three to six month findings will be shared with council. The early findings will also be used to adjust the proposed budget for fiscal year 2011 for savings.

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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Pauline Medrano
Chair

Witness