



City of Dallas

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
Dallas City Hall – 1500 Marilla, L1FN Conference Room “C”
Regular Meeting
April 7, 2008
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Sheron C. Patterson
Jon (Tad) Heimbürger
Diane Benjamin
Cheryl S. Camin
Keith Kwoh
Sylvia Lagos
Meredith McQuiston
David J. Metzler
Reginald Seastrunk
Linda Sharp
Mandy Valasek
Mary Warner
Kedra Williams

Members Absent

None

Staff Present

Lilia Gonzalez, Coordinator, EHS
David Howe, City Attorney's Office
Frank Camp, Office of Environmental Quality

Public Present

Rachel Orr, SMU Journalism
Ashleigh Reuter, SMU Journalism
Alan Rose, SMU Journalism
Mary Summers, SMU Journalism
Katie Ruppe, SMU Journalism

Minutes

Dr. Sheron C. Patterson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Minutes from the March 3, 2008 were approved unanimously with one minor correction.

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Trinity River Project Update

Rebecca Dugger, Director

Ms. Rebecca Dugger informed the commission that the Trinity River Project is the largest public works project that Dallas has undertaken. The project covers 20 miles of the Trinity River approximately 10,000 acres. Ms. Dugger stated that the Trinity River Project will be one of the largest parks in the country. Central Park is the most famous urban park in the country and it only covers 840 acres.

Ms. Dugger also mentioned that the project has a lot of objectives one being flood protection. She stated that there are a lot of people in the city of Dallas that do not have flood protection. The last time Dallas had a 100 year flood event was in 1908. Other objectives are environmental management, recreation, transportation and community/economic development.

In May 1998, proposition 11 was passed for \$246 million in bonds to begin the project. The project is estimated to cost \$2 billion. Partners with the North Texas Tollway Authorities, Texas Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and private donations have contributed donations to the project.

In August 2002, Mayor Laura Miller contracted a private consultant to review the Master Implementation Plan that was adopted by Council in 1999. The consultant helped make the plan more compatible. In December of 2003, the Council adopted the Balance Vision Plan. The new plan provides new concepts for lakes, park areas and roadways.

A copy of Ms. Dugger's presentation was provided to all member of the commission.

Obesity Education

Amy Johnson, American Heart Association

Ms. Amy Johnson has been in the nonprofit sector for over 20 years in the Dallas area. She is excited that the Trinity River Project will help make Dallas a "walking community" and also help Dallas citizen become healthier.

Ms. Johnson mentioned that the Heart Association attained their 20% impact goal. This means that heart disease was decreased by 25% which was estimated for 2010.

She stated that our culture now is one of physical inactivity due to technology, transportation, etc. Since the 1950s, sedentary jobs have increased by 83%. Americans work longer hours than 20 years ago and 65% of Americans are overweight or obese.

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Ms. Johnson informed the commission that individuals gain two hours of life expectancy for each hour of regular, vigorous exercise. Brisk walking for 30 minutes a day can reduce risk of stroke, bad cholesterol level and high blood pressure. By being a physically active individual, healthcare costs decrease about \$500 a year.

The "Start! Program" targets women and men ages 35-54. Companies may find this program beneficial because it can reduce healthcare costs to the company and reduce health-related productivity losses.

A copy of Ms. Johnson presentation was provided to all commission members.

Commission Reports

None

Staff Reports

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.