

Environmental Task Force Minutes for 1/9/07

Members Present: Commissioner Cynthia White, Darlene Munger, Rich McMullen, Elaine Smith-Poyourow, Sarah Hartpence, Jody Gonzales, Mike Sweet, Mike Weldon, Jan Thompson, Mary Thomas.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by Commissioner White. Approval of minutes was called for with Darlene making motion and Elaine 2nd all members voted aye and motion passed.

Motion by Rich, 2nd by Darlene to set 2007 Meeting dates and to send out reminders 1 week prior with members to respond by the Monday prior to the meeting by noon on attendance to be able to determine if the meeting will have a quorum. All members voted aye and motion passed.

Darlene introduce speaker Bonnie Bradshaw of Wildcare. Darlene also discussed the organization's purpose of rehabbing wildlife in urban areas. The organization has been in existence for 15 years but hasn't done much PR and their goal is to increase public awareness. They currently have 136 members and are a 501c3 organization. They are in a capital improvement program for a centralized intake center. Bonnie then spoke on the main wild animals that are commonly found in urbanized areas and how they actually have acclimated and thrived in the changing environment. She discussed armadillos (they eat fire ants!), bats (if one is on the ground more than likely they are dehydrated but care should still be taken if approached), bobcats (2 aversion techniques: shouting or spraying with water and do not feed), coyotes (do not travel in packs and have 11 vocalizations), raccoons (distemper is #1 illness for them and they have 25 vocalizations) and possums (an average lifespan of 18 months, they eat venomous snakes, and have 4 vocalizations). [Ms. Bradshaw's program illustrated why urban wild animals should not be trapped and relocated to non-urban areas. Organizations such as 911Wildlife are available to assist homeowners and businesses with wildlife nuisance situations without having to relocate the offending animal\(s\).](#)

Elaine shared a PR idea for the ETF: a contest targeting kids in school and give an award. She will send email with details and solicit one or two other committee members who would be willing to work on the project with her and bring it back to full committee via email.

Jody nominated Mike Nowels for Chair and Mike Weldon for Vice-Chair for 2007. Mike Sweet 2nd and all members vote aye. Motion passed unanimously.

Darlene asked for information on limiting truck traffic from the far left hand lane and Cynthia offered to get the information as she is the Chair for the RTC and familiar with the pilot project that was sponsored by RTC.

Mary asked about bat houses in the Denton County area and how to go about pursuing the idea of getting them in place. Jody had several suggestions for her as did Mike Weldon and Elaine and Mary was going to pursue some of those suggestions.