

Minutes
FERGUSON ROAD INITIATIVE
GRADUATED & 2-POINTS *WEED & SEED*
STEERING COMMITTEE

Monday, September 14, 2009
White Rock Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall, 9220 Ferguson Road

***Mark Your Calendars, next FRI Graduated & 2-Points Steering Committee meeting:
January 11, 2010, 7 p.m. at White Rock Church of Christ***

Meeting Purpose: To update the community on our progress and gather input on key issues and challenges.

Desired Outcomes:

1. Approve Minutes from our May 11, 2009 meeting
2. Celebrate Bayles Elementary School – Recognized Status by TEA
3. Understand Wilkinson Center programs & FRI partnership in the community
4. Understanding the partnership with Earn It, Keep It, Save It, EKS Program (United Way, Consumer Credit Counseling & Girls, Inc) with our VITA initiative
5. Understand *Weed & Seed* reports
6. Understand upcoming events
7. Create a list of next steps and an action plan of who will do what by when

Roles:

- *Sponsors:* Councilmembers Carolyn Davis & Sheffie Kadane
- *Facilitator:* Bill Coleman, Chair
- *Scribe:* Gary Lawler
- *Timekeeper:* Carolyn Bullard

Rules:

- Listen and respect the comments and ideas of others.
- Honor time limits, stick to the agenda.
- Share your experience and perspective with the group

Decision Making:

Consensus, Fallback: Majority vote.

Meeting Participants:

(Lawler's note: Basic list format from January 2009 meeting)

<p>2- Points Steering Committee Members</p>	<p>Graduated Steering Committee / Community @ Large</p>	<p>Guests/Staff</p>
<p>Bill Coleman, Chair Eileen Moore, Eastwood Hills NA Principal Tiffany Nemece, Truett Elementary Sch Lt. Alan Bull, DPD Dow Croyle, US Atty. Office Rev. Charles Cooper New Hope Comm. Church Brian Burton, Wilkinson Ctr. Leigh Ann Ellis, DISD Trustee Kimberly Humphrey Cherie McMillan, S.S. Conner School Lauren Roberts, Truett CW Derek Smith, YMCA Staci Thetford, City of Dallas John & Ellen Childress Mark Couser Julius Whittier, Dallas County DA Office</p> <p>Alternates Rossi Walter, City Council of PTAs. Vicki Sanger, Hillview Terrace NA</p>	<p>Robert Brown Debbie Chitsey Councilmember Sheffie Kadane Nancy Weber Francy Tafur, Bayles School Carolyn Bullard Terri Hodge, State Rep. Dale McKissick, CANA Mike Nurre, Harry Stone CW</p>	<p>Staff/Consultants Sgt. Keitric Jones, DPD Kerry Goodwin, W&S Coordin Gary Lawler Gail Washington Sr. Cpl Elena Perez Daniel Ryan, Community Prosecutor</p> <p>Guests: Bernadette Nutall Gina Paniagua, Bayles Brenda Parker, L.E.A.D. Corp Bruce Parrott Felicia Pitre Betty Rice K. Richardson, Bayles Yvonne Salazar, Braeburn Glen Ann Sansone Betty Swinners Steve Hamilton, Empower American Children Renee Hartley Candace Henry, Empower American Children June Howard, Harry Stone CW Cyrus & Jan Johnson Eric Johnson Sid King Dan Klein Janie Lipscomb Virginia Loreto Matt Mahathey Barbara Malloy Felicia Marshall, Bayles Penny Anderly, Alger Park Evangelina Ayala Rebecca Bacsik, Bayles Lee Barron, Braeburn CW Lisa Bennett Kristine Brockhager Amanda Buckley Jane Didear, DISD Jolene Fullwood, New Hope Leonard Hall Jerri Shevilin E. Williams</p>

--	--	--

Minutes

Meeting Start Up

- Bill Coleman convened the meeting at 6:35 pm.
- Coleman recognized political official, dignitaries, and candidates running for election
- Coleman reviewed the rules
- **Action Item:** Carolyn Bullard moved and Kimberly Humphrey seconded a motion to approve the May 11, 2009 Joint Steering Committee minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Action Item:** Kimberly Humphrey moved and Tiffany Nemec seconded a motion to approve the July 9, 2009 2-Points Steering Committee minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Celebration of Bayles Elementary School Recognized Status from TEA

- Vikki Martin said that years ago, Bayles was the second lowest scoring school in DISD., and told how community mobilization efforts have helped build the school up, moving it from one of the lowest academically achieving schools in the district to Recognized by TEA
- District 3 School Board Trustee Leigh Ann Ellis congratulated Bayles on their success She congratulated FRI for embracing the school, spoke on how a stable school helps improve neighborhoods and the quality of life for all in a community.
- Bayles Principal Maria Tafur recognized Bayles teachers Bacsik, Marshall, Paniagua, and Richardson.
- S.S. Conner Elementary Principal McMillan, Truett Principal Tiffany Nemec were recognized during the Bayles celebration.

Wilkinson Center Update

- Brian Burton, Executive Director of the Wilkinson Center, spoke about partnering with FRI on Pathways out of Poverty program regarding food and energy costs. They opened up a food pantry on Buckner last year, are now serving 2000 people/month. They are also working to prevent homelessness through their education programming. Wilkinson Center has distributed 3,492 food baskets from their center since opening in January. This has been overwhelming and other services have had to be moved to other locations.
- The Wilkinson Center is focusing on school academics and currently has program CLIMB (Changing Lives by Improving Minds and Bodies) at Truett and Lang Schools.

FRI Partnership with EKS

- Kerry Goodwin said that as of May 2009, FRI's VITA (Volunteers Income Tax Assistance) program had generated over \$1 million in tax returns over the past 3 years. FRI is working with Consumer Credit Counseling, Girls Inc, United Way, and the City of Dallas to expand VITA to include Financial Literacy Training, and Benefits Screening for low income families as a way of helping stabilize the at risk community. This is a top priority of the Mayor's Office..
- FRI hopes to stop predatory lenders from preying on vulnerable families.
- The Earn It, Keep It, Save It initiative through the United Way is the largest federally-sponsored anti-poverty program in the nation. FRI program is to begin in early October and will serve ALL of the FRI community.

Law Enforcement Report

- DPD Sgt. Keitric Jones told of new source for crime reports under "NIXLE" on DPD web site.
- Keitric reported that in the Graduated *Weed & Seed* community, total violent crime is down -1.5% and total nonviolent crime is down -2.2%, for an overall decrease of -2.1% for the 2009 YTD compared to 2008 YTD. For the 2-Points Community, total violent crime is down -23.4%, non-violent is down -10.6% and overall crime is down -13.3%
- There was a question about how FRI crime rate compares citywide. DPD officer Lt. Alan Bull (220 Sector Commander) said that we are roughly #8 in the top ten high-crime areas.
- There was a concern about gunshots. DPD encouraged everyone to call in and report gunshots.
- Burglary of motor vehicles is the only crime not decreasing. When parked, take your keys, lock your car, hide your belongings is best burglary prevention technique.
- VIP program is a good crime prevention technique. Contact Ron Carpenter to join this effort, requiring only 2-4 hours per month.
- In June and July in 2-Points, there was no Overtime Patrol funding, so Crime Watch was main crime reduction effort.

Executive Director's Report

- Martin reported that FRI's Fall Newsletter is scheduled to come out in late October, recognized Gary Lawler and Amanda Buckley for help with newsletter.
- FRI is in process of seeking a paid Executive Director, should have one in place by October 1. .
- Martin said that \$292,000 had been raised by FRI.

Casa View Community Expansion

- Martin reported that Casa View leaders have approached FRI and have asked to join and to consider expansion into Casa View. FRI has worked to restore far East Dallas, and restoring Casa View is a necessary part of that.
- Martin and Goodwin have spoken with Casa View neighborhood leaders, feel that Casa View might be a good candidate for receiving a new *Weed & Seed* grant after 2-Points grant expires.

- FRI met with 115 Casa View residents on June 29, talked about *Weed & Seed*; need to mobilize now for crime reduction, economic development, etc.
- Lee Barron, Braeburn Glen NA in Casa View spoke on Casa View's desire to learn from FRI and to come under the FRI umbrella
- Councilman Sheffie Kadane spoke on the positive impact FRI and operation *Weed & Seed* can make in a community
- **Action Item:** Rossi Walter moved and Kimberly Humphrey seconded a motion that FRI extend an invitation to Casa View to join under FRI's umbrella. Motion carried unanimously.
- Councilman Kadane said I'll be behind you 100%.

2-Points *Weed & Seed* Report

- Goodwin reported on a special Crime Watch meeting on September 24, targeting the Shiloh Terrace Community Center and Spanish-speaking residents to help train them to report crimes. Meeting will be held at 2914 Oates Road, Dallas, TX 75228, (Shiloh Terrace Community Center) starting at 7pm.
- The U.S. Dept. of Justice will be visiting the FRI 2-Points *Weed & Seed* area on September 24 and is interested in Crime Watch relations in Spanish. FRI is the only *Weed & Seed* site with a Spanish language Crime Watch effort.
- National Night Out is Tuesday, October 6. If your neighborhood is not participating, everyone is welcome to join us at Lakeland Hills Park. We had 200-300 attend last year.
- LeTourneau University has completed their evaluation of FRI and their report is on FRI's web site. FRI's annual audit will be on the web site. A financial report will be in the Fall Newsletter.
- NewsFlash will be coming out this week, will include a link through email to a survey on crime perception, part of a federal program. The survey will be on FRI web site later.

Crime and Gang Prevention Services

- Gail Washington thanked everyone for sending her graffiti photos. FRI has received a grant for Victim's Assistance; spoke about a brochure available for reporting Domestic Violence.

Wrap Up

- Coleman said that FRI is preparing now for next bond election, though there may be a delay in normal 3-year cycle due to the economy.

- **Upcoming Dates:**

Thursday, Sept. 17	Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church cell tower zoning case meeting, 6:30 pm.
Thursday, Sept. 24:	U.S. Dept. of Justice visit Special Spanish-speaking Crime Watch 2914 Oates Road, 7pm.
Tuesday, Oct. 6	National Night Out (Lakeland Hills Park)
Sunday, Oct. 18 noon to 5 pm	Casa Linda Forest Home Tour

