

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

Monday, September 8, 2008, 7 p.m.
White Rock Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall, 9220 Ferguson Road

*Next FRI Graduated & 2-Points Steering Committee meeting:
Monday, January 12, 2009, White Rock Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall, 7 p.m.*

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

Desired Outcomes:

1. Approve Minutes from our April 14, 2007 meeting.
2. Shared understanding of Progress Reports.
3. Understanding the status of the WRH Recreation Center/Library Complex.
4. Understand *Weed & Seed* activities.
5. Understand upcoming events.
6. 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:*

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:

2- Points Steering Committee Members	Graduated Steering Committee / Community @ Large	Guests/Staff
<p>Bill Coleman, Chair Doug Hunt Susan Walker, Vice Chair Councilwoman Carolyn Davis Kimberly Humphries Eileen Moore, White Rock Hills NA Principal Tiffany Nemece Vicki Sanger Dist. Attorney J. Whittier Lt. Alan Bull, DPD Chris Holder, New Hope Lutheran, Safe Haven</p> <p>Alternates Mary Brown, CWEB Apartment Community Rosalind Jeffers, Dallas City Attorney's Office Jacqueline Ross, U.S. Attorney's Office Rossi Walter, City Council of PTAs. Gene Gilliam, Truett Elementary Ellen Childress, Truett Community Louise Southworth for SC Secretary, Dr. Cantrell</p>	<p>LaRue & Lefty Adkins Ann Bagley James Berry Ninva Barkham Robert Brown Debbie Chitsey Ruby Dickson Devinee King Ed Snyder Nancy Weber Timothy White</p> <p>Community @ Large Carla & Clark Cole Mike Nurre Betty Rice Barbara Snyder Peggy Trull Hampton Miller John Childress</p>	<p>Rick Griffith, IRS Sr. Cpl. Tracy Glenn, DPD Ofc. A.J. Serratos, DPD Sgt. Eric Larsen, DPD Chris O'Brien, Dallas City Manager's Office, Business Expansion & Retention</p> <p>Staff/Consultants Kerry Goodwin Sgt. Keitric Jones, DPD Gary Lawler Vikki Martin Gail Washington Ben Williams</p>

Minutes

Meeting Start Up

- Bill Coleman convened the meeting at 7:05 pm.
- First-time attendees were asked to introduce themselves.
- **Action Item:** Susan Walker moved and Doug Hunt seconded a motion to approve the April 14, 2007 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

White Rock Hills Library/Recreation Center, Chris O'Brien
(Senior Coordinator for Business Expansion and Retention, City of Dallas Office of Economic Development, Room 5CS, City Hall, 1500 Marilla, Dallas, TX 75201, 214-670-1626.)

He is the point person for all FRI relationship dealing with City Hall and the Recreation Center/Library, has been working with Bobbi Bilnoski, has been impressed by FRI as a well-organized, very successful entity with political clout.

Recreation Center: He is seeking to have code liens on the proposed property (2229 Highland Road) waived by the City as a condition of sale to the City. Taxes would still need to be paid by the current owner.

Library: There is a sale agreement with the White Rock Church of Christ for vacant land they own, including driveway alignment (for Ferguson Road address). O'Brien expects church to have a land appraisal in 2-3 weeks. The City will make a formal offer when appraisal is returned. The matter will then go to the City Council for authority to acquire property. O'Brien anticipates that this will finish up by the end of October. It is anticipated that there will be a groundbreaking by mid-November, date TBD.

Next Steps for FRI:

- Raise \$50,000 matching funds for City grant to study recreation center options.
- Finalize presentation by City and FRI for potential developers.
- Start selling.

City is to move forward with project, per commitment by Mayor Tom Leppert and City Manager Mary Suhm.

O'Brien is to seek developer to develop significantly larger area than just what is needed for the recreation center.

The City has about ten potential developers that are suitable for this development.

O'Brien reviewed 2007 demographics surrounding proposed recreation center site regarding age, income, education, etc., along with 2000 and 2001 traffic counts.

He also said that money is going out of the community for general merchandise (including groceries), clothing, furniture, electronics, restaurants, service stations, jewelry, hobby-toys, book stores and others. These are service needs that might be addressed by development near the recreation center site.

The City can provide legal incentives to bring in development, such as Tax Increment Financing (TIF). A TIF could also address any crime-adjacency concerns.

Some questions were asked by attendees about traffic flow and how many people moved in and around the FRI corridor on a daily, weekly basis. Reverend Timothy White from the Dallas Central Church of the Nazarene mentioned that his church had recently had a traffic study done and he agreed to share the results with the City.

Progress Reports

Executive Director's Report, Vikki Martin

- Martin spoke on FRI's membership drive. Membership information has been mailed to the graduated site, with roughly a 4.5% return and about \$65 per membership. Membership information will be mailed to 2-Points next.
- FRI has a commitment for \$25,000 for the recreation center study.
- There will be a bus tour for about 40 civic, business and philanthropic leaders this month to commemorate FRI's 10th Anniversary, and to show what FRI has done. At the end of the tour, FRI will celebrate, along with the community, from 1:15-2pm with cake and coffee. Mayor Tom Leppert will be our speaker.
- FRI will be moving some of their offices to White Rock Hills Town Homes on Ferguson Road near I-30.
- FRI has attended meetings with Casa View community leaders regarding a potential Weed & Seed grant there in 2-3 years.
- An Economic Development Summit is planned for North Buckner Boulevard in the spring of 2009. FRI is hoping for a university graduate-level class to take part.

2-Points Weed & Seed Report, Kerry Goodwin

- A Community Prosecutor for our area is in the next city budget.
- FRI has received *Weed & Seed* grant funds, has restarted police patrols.
- A *Weed & Seed* Budget and Strategy for 2-Points is available, along with a long-term calendar, from Goodwin.
- Goodwin spoke on the November 13 2-Points Steering Committee meeting at the White Rock Church of Christ, National Night Out on October 7, and the CPTED Training Conference on December 2-3 at White Rock Church of Christ (35 crime and prevention folks, including Code Compliance, DPD, prosecutors, and the Parole Department to develop a crime prevention strategy).
- Kerry introduced Rick Griffith, SPEC Officer with IRS. Rick reported that VITA did about 300 returns (twice 2007's number), generated about \$85,000 in Earned Income Tax Credits and about \$300,000 in tax refunds overall. There may be a VITA setup at City Credit Union on Ferguson Road next year.
- FRI is presently negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church, Oates & La Prada, for a new Safe Haven site.

Gang Prevention Services, Gail Washington

- FRI joined with Amelia Flores Youth and Family Center (Parkland/Bryan Adams HS) and Big Thought to conduct a replacement event for Bayles Fest. A "Back-to-School Bash", serving about 2,000 families, was held at Lang Middle School and Harry Stone Recreation Center.
- Apartment partnerships, including one with Shiloh Village Apartments, have been formed. Youth gang-playing is being addressed.

Crime Prevention Services, Ben Williams

- Williams spoke on 60 kids in DEFY (Drug Education for Youth) program going to Joint Reserve Base in Fort Worth for a week, learning how to deal with anger and conflicts, learning about drugs and alcohol, etc. He mentioned recent DEFY article in "Neighbors" section in Dallas Morning News. FRI again helped support children from all 7 Weed & Seed communities through grants from Ronald McDonald House Charities and the N.Texas Crime Commission.

Law Enforcement Report, Sgt. Keitric Jones, DPD

- Jones reported that overall crime between July 1 and September, 2008 was down compared to the same period for 2007, with a 7% reduction in the Graduated Site and a 22% reduction in 2-Points.
- DPD worked on 17 narcotic operations, 80 traffic stops, 5 prostitution arrests
- DPD is doing apartment walks in high-crime apartment complexes.
- DPD is adding swing shift officers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Upcoming Dates:

October 7: National Night Out.

November 13: 2-Points Steering Committee meeting, White Rock Church of Christ, 6 pm.

November: Fall newsletter published.

December 2-3: CPTED Training Conference, White Rock Church of Christ

January 12: Annual Meeting and Officer Elections, White Rock Church of Christ, 7 pm.

There was one Action Plan item:

What	By Whom	By When	Completed
I-30 Traffic Study	Rev. White from Dallas Central Church of the Nazarene	As soon as possible	Done