



Community Connection Semi-Annual Town Hall Meeting

Monday, February 10, 2020, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

White Rock Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall
9220 Ferguson Road, Dallas, TX 75228
(214) 324-5116 FRI Office

FERGUSON ROAD INITIATIVE

Serving Far East Dallas: Casa Linda, Forest Hills, Little Forest Hills, Greater Casa View, White Rock East, and White Rock Hills Neighborhoods

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING OUTCOMES

1. Approved minutes from September 16, 2019.
2. Received "State of City Council Districts 7 and 9" updates.
3. Received "updates from the County and School District.
4. Reviewed area crime stats report.
5. Reviewed importance of the 2020 Census.
6. Received update on Owenwood Farm & Neighbor Space.
7. Reviewed FRI volunteer opportunities.
8. Reviewed Planning for the future of FRI.
9. Reviewed next steps, Action Plan, important dates.

ROLES

- *Sponsor:* FRI Board of Directors
- *Facilitator:* Bill Coleman
- *Scribe:* Gary Lawler
- *Timekeeper:* Susan Hopper

GROUND RULES

- Listen to and respect comments of others.
- Honor time limits.
- Stick to the agenda.
- Share your experience and perspective.

PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS

Evangeline Ayala, Claremont
Patrick Blaydes, Little Forest Hills NA
Robert Brown, Claremont
Daniel Davis Clayton, FRI Board
Jasmine Crockett, Candidate for St. Rep. Dist. 100
Mary Day
Bill Coleman, FRI Secretary
Maranda Diener, Claremont
Linda Downey, Claremont
Josh Esparza, Owenwood
Jonathan Fredi, Atmos Energy, Eastwood Hills
Carmelita Gallo
Carol Gardner, Claremont
Arnulfo Garza, Royce West office
Sam Gillespie
Kerry Goodwin
Anthony Green, Casa View Oaks Oaks
Chandra M. Henson
Andrea Hernandez, FRI
Morela Hernandez, Casa View
Carl Johnson, Truett CW
Mary Kimbrough, Hillridge
Gary Lawler, FRI

Shawn Lovelady-FRI Board, City Hospital
Mari Madison, Casa View Oaks
Vikki Martin, FRI, Claremont
Grace McFerrin
Ernest McMillan, Owenwood
Daniel Micciche, DISD Board. Dist 3
Ken Montgomery, Casa View Haven
Erin Moore, Casa View Haven
Dan Ortman, FRI, Forest Hills NA
Dr. Angela Scheuerle, White Rock Forest
Dolores Sosa-Green, Casa View Oaks
Harry Swanson, Claremont
Desi Tanner, Truett CW
Stephanie Tanner, Truett CW
Maria Valenzuela, FRI, Claremont
John Van Buskirk, Claremont
Nancy Weber, Lakeland Hills
Mark Wisness, Hillridge

VOLUNTEERS

Elise Phillips, Hillridge
Brenda Dunklau, Forest Hills NA
Debbie Shaw, Claremont
Hillary Whitehead

GUESTS

Roberto Arredondo, DPD
Michael Anthony, Globe
Adam Bazaldua, City Council D7
Lorraine Birabil, St. Rep., Dist. 100
Paula Blackmon, City Council D9
Darcy Brown, Casa Linda Forest M. Catsa, DPD
Lorette Clark, Truett CW
Tim Cloward, Claremont
Robert Costello
Mike Cropp,
Andrew Duba, DPD
Jake Geary, White Rock Forest
Ryan Giesecke
Harriet Gilman, Primrose
William Griffin, DPD, DCP
Maria Hasbany, Park Board, Dist. 9
Alan Hoffman, Little Forest Hills NA
Charles Hollingsworth
Regina Imburgia
Ellen Isaly, Eastwood Hills
Pilar Johnson, FRI Board
Bob Johnstone, Eastwood Hills
Ricky Juarez, Claremont
Cassandra Marquez
Paul Maynard, Little Forest Hills NA
Dorothy Moore, Casa View Haven
Janet Morris, White Rock Village

Chris Nguyen
Patrick Parker
Brenda Patterson, Lakeland Hills
Minesha Reese
Alan Sale, 2020 Census
Charles Satterfield, Enclave @ White Rock
Jerry L. Scudder,
Tom Sheshene, Highland on the Creek
Rosemary Simmons, Claremont
Shannon Smith, DPD
Shelby Smith, Little Forest Hills NA
Tushar Solanki, County Public Works
Imelda Speck, Hillridge
Trevor Speck, Hillridge
Susan Stephens, Highland on the Creek
Dwayne Stewart, Claremont
Nathan Terral
Jose Tinajero, DPD
Angela Walker, Lakeland Hills
Mitchell Walker, Lakeland Hills
Bobbie Watson
Daniel Wood, Park Board, Dist. 7

MEETING MINUTES

Bill Coleman started the meeting at 6:50 p.m. with a statement that tonight's meeting would be dedicated to the memory of Nicole Miller for her contributions to the community.

Action Item: Mark Wisness moved and Gary Hasty seconded a motion to approve the minutes of September 16, 2019.

Coleman introduced Lorraine Birabil, new state representative for House District 100. Daniel Clayton and Jasmine Crockett, fellow candidates for the State House District 100 seat, were also introduced.

New Dallas Park Board members Daniel Wood and Maria Hasbany were introduced.

BOARD ELECTIONS

Coleman introduced FRI Board members present and a slate of candidates. The slate was elected by acclamation.

RECENT FUNDING

FRI thanked the Forest Hills Neighborhood Association, David Weekly Homes, and the East Dallas Networking for their recent donations to FRI.

On North Texas Giving Day (September 2019) FRI received \$17,200 in initial challenge funds, raised a total of \$41,148 from a total of 140 donors.

ELECTED OFFICIALS UPDATES

Erin Moore, for County Commissioner Theresa Daniel (District 1)

Moore spoke on Commissioner Daniel's success in getting \$5M in funding for Ash Creek Greenbelt Trail.

DISD Trustee Dan Micciche (District 3)

Micciche spoke on Early College program, four additional career institutes coming. G.W. Truett School is to become an ACE campus. School safety and security are being updated, including thumb locks on all interior school doors. DISD is seeking better relations with and between students.

City Councilmember Paula Blackmon (District 9)

- Blackmon spoke on need for White Rock Lake dredging, including what areas of lake need dredging, how to fund project, and can how the State provide funding.
- She spoke on the Trinity Forest Spine Trails update.
- She is looking for community ideas on Samuell Park update.
- The Gus Thomasson/Ferguson Road intersection is now open.
- The Lakeland Bridges are due to be completed by April 20.
- She is working with Dallas Police Department and Code Compliance Department for better security at the Texaco/New World Apartments area, near Ferguson/I-635.
- She has found funding for Highland/Ferguson Roads intersection improvement.
- She is also seeking funds for Ash Creek/Highland Road replacement bridge.

City Councilmember Adam Bazaldua (District 7)

- Bazaldua announced that the irrigation system for White Rock Hills Park has been funded.
- New sidewalks from Bishop Lynch School to Lakeland have been funded.
- He is working with zoning and code compliance for improving the northeast corner of John West and Buckner Boulevard.
- Three large scale gambling sites have been closed.
- The Timberlawn property on Samuell Boulevard will be developed as single-family homes. A new park will be included and plans call for the preservation of old growth trees.
- He spoke on improvements to the Austin Street Shelter for the homeless.
- He spoke on blurring the city council district lines between Districts 7 and 9 so he and Blackmon can support area projects and ideas regardless of district lines.
- In response to a question about getting a grocery store in the area, he referred to an "out of the box" pilot program in The Cedars area as an approach.

Sgt Shannon Smith, Dallas Police Department

Smith spoke on new chief Bill Griffith and Senior Corporal Andrew Duba at Northeast Station. He reviewed 2018 and 2019 crime stats over 4 zones in our area:

<u>ZONE</u>	<u>Greater Casa View Alliance</u>	<u>White Rock East</u>	<u>White Rock Hills</u>	<u>Forest Hills/ Casa Linda</u>	<u>Overall</u>
2018 Violent Crime	248	274	101	15	638
2019 Violent Crime	268	240	103	20	631
2018 Non-Violent Crime	1097	599	332	171	2199
2019 Non-Violent Crime	1031	696	328	174	2229
2018 Grand Total	1345	873	433	186	2837
2019 Grand Total	1299	936	431	194	2850

He said that gang activity was not a big problem in this area.

Crime statistics are available through NPO's.

Smith can be reached at 972-841-4597 and Shannon.smith@dallascityhall.com .

Daniel Wood announced a VIP Training Session on Saturday, March 21 (CANCELLED due to Covid-19)

Alan Sale, 2020 Census

- Sale spoke on the importance of the census, how it helps determine additional seats in the House of Representatives and federal funding allocation.
- Residents can respond by internet, phone, mail or interview. Self-response begins March 12. April 1 is official Census Day.
- Some of FRI area reports only 25% or less of their population. It has been especially difficult to report children under five.
- The Census Bureau is still hiring people to help with the census.

Mitchell Boone and Josh Esparza, Owenwood Farm & Neighbor Space

- They have received a grant to repair the church building with new HVAC , new flooring, and community gardening.
- They are interested in having a nonprofit grocery store, are working with the City Council on this.
- They will have a Freedom School summer camp, and ESL and GED classes are coming.

Andrea Hernandez and Maria Valenzuela, Volunteering

- FRI is seeking volunteers for the Spring Cleanup, for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), for book drive, for Reading Across America, and for Reading Partners.
- Rob Brown and Debbie Shaw spoke on the Reading Partners program at Bayles School and their need for more volunteers. They currently need 72 tutors, but have only 22.

Vikki Martin and Dan Ortman, Planning for the Future

- Vikki Martin spoke on recent positive projects happening in the area include:
 - Working with the City of Dallas on the Ash Creek Greenbelt Trail
 - Reconstructing Highland Road
 - Rehabilitating former Enchanted Hills Apartments
 - Tearing down rundown apartments on Highland for future White Rock Hills Community Recreation CENTER and park expansion
 - Helping with Heroes Housing project on Highland
 - Working with David Weekly Homes on new development on Highland
 - Helping with new Ferguson Town Homes project on Ferguson
 - Securing Ferguson Road intersection improvements
 - Casa View Shopping Center improvements by Greater Casa View Alliance
 - Harry Stone Aquatic Center by Greater Casa View Alliance
 - Estates at Shiloh, affordable Senior Housing via Greater Casa View Alliance
- They showed a slide of the Trinity Forest Spine Trail from Lawnview DART station to Highland Road, how that will connect us to Dallas' trail system.
- Ortman spoke on need for volunteers to help develop our mission and Strategic Plan.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

All upcoming events have been cancelled due to Covid-19 outbreak.



I WANT YOU TO VOLUNTEER!

As you can see from the Community Progress reports, good things are happening in our neighborhoods. The continued success of our area depends on the volunteer efforts of the community. Volunteers often find that by enriching the lives of others, they enrich their lives even more. Imagine the look on a child's face as his reading improves. Imagine turning a littered field into an inviting green landscape. Imagine the pride of knowing that by being part of a Crime Watch or VIP program, you make our neighborhoods and streets safer, encouraging new residents and businesses. If you would like more information on volunteer opportunities shown in these minutes and other volunteer opportunities, please call the FRI office at 214-324-5116.

