



# MINUTES – MEETING SUMMARY

**Community Connection Semi-Annual Town Hall Meeting**

**Monday, February 20, 2023**

**Owenwood Farm & Neighbor Space**

1451 John West Road, Dallas, TX 75228

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## FERGUSON ROAD INITIATIVE

*Serving Far East Dallas: Casa Linda/Forest Hills, Greater Casa View, White Rock East, & White Rock Hills Neighborhoods*

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### MEETING PURPOSE

Hear updates on community projects and concerns and learn about new initiatives and programs.

### OUTCOMES

1. Reviewed El Rio Grande Latin Market opening
2. Reviewed volunteer opportunities
3. Reviewed Owenwood Farm & Neighbor programs and benefits
4. Honored Bill Coleman
5. Elected slate of officers for 2023 FRI Board of Directors
6. Reviewed Crime Statistics from Dallas Police Dept.
7. Reviewed reports and announcements from elected officials
8. Reviewed intersection improvements for Ferguson Road
9. Reviewed *forwardDallas!* plans for FRI area
10. Reviewed Lakeland Hills Park improvements

### ROLES

- *Sponsors:* FRI Board of Directors
- *Facilitator:* Vikki Martin
- *Scribe:* Gary Lawler
- *Timekeeper:* Gary Garcia

### GROUND RULES

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

### DECISION MAKING

We strive for consensus at all our meetings and fall back to a majority vote of those present when needed.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

### **MEMBERS**

Ann Bagley, Forest Meade  
Diane Anderson, White Rock Village  
Bridgette Bennett, Claremont  
Jeff Bennett, Claremont  
Ken Boatman, Forest Meade  
Rob Brown, Claremont  
John Van Buskirk, Claremont  
Bill Coleman  
Andie Comini, Forest Hills  
Theresa Daniel, County Commissioner  
Jeremy England, Journey Community Church  
Robin Enriquez, Eastwood Hills  
Carol Garcia  
Gary Garcia, FRI BoD, Claremont  
Carol Gardner, Claremont  
Tyler Gibson, White Rock Village

Harriet Gilman, Mondello  
Susan Harris, Atmos  
John Hopper, Villas @ Ash Creek  
Susan Hopper, Villas @ Ash Creek  
Carl Johnson, Truett CW  
Linda Johnson, Aspire  
Bob Johnstone, Eastwood Hills  
Ellen Johnstone, Eastwood Hills  
Shawn Lovelady  
Gary Lawler, FRI  
Mari Madison, Casa View Oaks  
Vikki Martin, FRI, Claremont  
Dan Micciche, DISD Trustee, Dist. 3, Emerald Isle  
Ken Montgomery  
Mike Nurre, Casa View Oaks  
Daniel Ortman, FRI Board, Forest Hills

Francisco Pataro, White Rock Forest  
Chris Rebuck, FRI BoD, Bishop Lynch HS  
Albert Richard  
Esther Romero, FRI  
Debbie Shaw, Claremont  
Dawn Smith  
Kimberly Smith, Atmos  
Stanley Smith, Lakeland Hills  
Harry Swanson, Claremont  
Desi Tanner, Truett CW  
Eddie Tealer, FRI BoD, Dallas College  
Maria Valenzuela, FRI, Claremont  
Nancy Weber, Lakeland Hills  
Mark Wiseness, Hillridge  
Karl Zavitkovsky, FRI BoD

### **GUESTS**

Theron Aikin, DPD  
Adam Bazaldua, CM, D7  
Paula Blackburn, CM, D9  
Patrick Blaydes,  
*, forwardDallas*  
Barb Brault, Forest Hills  
Toni Bryant  
Ken Cantrell  
Teri Cantrell  
Inez Careaga  
Daniel Clayton  
Ileana Cruz, Casa View Oaks  
Juanita Davis  
Zach DeMoya, Owenwood Farm & Neighbor Space  
Julie Fineman, Forest Hills

Melanie Finn, FRI BoD, WRMC, Enclave @ White Rock  
Kathy Froyd  
Lisa Gardner  
Baldwin Hamilton, It's About the Kids  
Bolden Hamilton, It's About the Kids  
Christopher Hamilton, It's About the Kids  
Benjamin Hines  
Tangela Ingram, ERGLM  
Venton Jones, St. Rep., D100  
Andrew Kolb  
Harold Marshall, Truett CW  
Norma Minnis, Aide, St. Rep.  
John Bryant

Erin Moore, Casa View  
Jesse Moreno, CM, D2  
Elizama Munoz, DPD  
Yessenia Ojeda,  
Public Works  
Gabriel Ortiz, DPD  
Linda Redd  
Mark Schumann, Eastwood Hills  
Francy Tafur  
Judith Tankel, Congressman Colin Allred  
Tabitha Wheeler Reagan, CPC, D7  
Daniel Wood, Park Board, D7

## **MINUTES**

**Vikki Martin** began the meeting at 6:45 pm with thanks to our Founder's Circle members.

### **INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Tangela Ingram** spoke on the opening of El Rio Grande Market at Buckner and John West.

**Susan Hopper** spoke on volunteer opportunities:

- More followers on Instagram needed

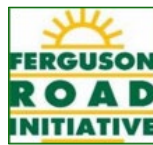
- Monster Yogurt in partnership with Read Across America is collecting children’s book through March 26<sup>th</sup>. Donate books and receive a free 5 oz yogurt!
- Trinity Spine Trail Grand Opening event, April 29, noon, Highland & Ferguson Roads.
- Litter Cleanup event, March 4

**Zach DeMoya** spoke on programs and benefits of Owenwood Farm and Neighbor Space.

**Congressman Colin Allred’s** representatives spoke on help with government issues, town halls.

**Bill Coleman** was honored for his 25 years of service to FRI.

**Chris Rebuck** conducted the election of FRI Board Members.



## 2023-Ferguson Road Initiative General Election

**New Board Members—3 Year Term ends December 2026**

Melanie Flinn

Gary Garcia

### **Previously Elected and Continuing to Serve Until their Term Expires**

Sam Downey

Austin Endo

Jared Greco

Art Hall

Gary Hasty

Christopher Jackson, vice president

Shawn Lovelady

Dan Ortman, president

Carmen Parra

Chris Rebuck

Becky Reed, treasurer

Eddie Tealer

Karl Zavitkovsky

### **DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

#### **DPD Officer Theron Aiken**

- Spoke on a NE Station Meet and Greet event on March 2 at the Assembly of God Church at 11000 E NW Highway.
- He said to call 911 if you see guys with backpacks on bikes in parking lots.

Crime reductions over the past year are:

Greater Casa View: 26%      Forest Hills/Casa Linda: 25%

White Rock Hills: 34%      White Rock East: 23%

He praised Chief Garcia for the crime reductions.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS’ ANNOUNCEMENTS and REPORTS**

- **Norma Minnis** spoke on behalf of **U.S. House member John Bryant**, Dist. 32.

- **St. Representative Venton Jones**, Dist. 100, spoke on incarceration, economic growth, health care access, public education, and equality for all Texans.
- **County Commissioner Theresa Daniel**, Dist. 1, spoke on working with the City of Dallas on cost-sharing on roads, bridges, and trails, including the Ash Creek Green Belt Trail and the Southern White Rock Creek Trail.
- **School Board Trustee Dan Micciche**, Dist. 3, spoke on Occupational Education, Early College program and public education funding.
- **City Councilmember Jesse Moreno**, Dist. 2, spoke on the forthcoming 2024 bond election and the May 5 City Council elections.
- **City Councilmember Adam Bazaldua**, Dist. 7, spoke on park improvements meeting on February 27, Budget Town Hall on March 6, property tax meeting at MLK Center at 6 pm on April 4, traffic lights, Ferguson Road Corridor Study (Buckner to I-635) and 2024 bond program.
- **City Councilmember Paula Blackman**, Dist. 9, spoke on encouraging community involvement, White Rock Lake dredging, trash reduction on streets, Fentanyl education, the Garland Road Project, gun shots and sidewalks.

### **INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS**

**Yessenia Ojeda, Public Works**, spoke on new sidewalks on Ferguson and on intersection improvements at Highland and Ferguson and at Lakeland and Ferguson. Construction at both intersection projects is estimated to start on 9-11-23 and be completed 9-10-24.

### ***forwardDallas!***

**Patrick Blaydes, Senior Planner, forwardDallas!**, spoke on planning for FRI area based on what do we want Dallas to look and feel like over the next 20 years. He will revisit several past plans for possible updates. There will be a Land Use Vision Workshop the last week in March.

### **LAKELAND HILLS PARK**

**Daniel Wood, Park Board Vice President**, spoke on Lakeland Hills Park regarding park utilization, new exercise equipment, tree planting, lighting improvements, tennis courts, parking lot, dog park and upgrading the skate park. The soccer fields are to remain as-is. The Park Board is to meet February 27 on park improvements. FRI will submit a request for \$24M in the 2024 bond election for a recreation/community center.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Lakeland Hills Park Improvements Virtual Meeting	Monday, February 27, 6:30 pm
NE Police Station Meet and Greet	Thursday, March 2
Operation Beautification Litter Cleanup	Saturday, March 4, 9am-Noon
GHD Partnership-Estates @ Ferguson Senior Housing	Tuesday, March 7, 7-8:30 pm

<i>forward</i> Dallas! Workshop	May 11th 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Location TBD
Adam Bazaldua Budget Town Hall	Tuesday, April 4, 6pm MLK Center 2922 MLK Jr Blvd
Truett Area Crime Watch/FRI Quarterly Program	Thursday, April 20, 6-7:30 pm White Rock Hills Library 9150 Ferguson Road
Trinity Forest Spine Trail Grand Opening	Saturday, April 29, 10am-noon Highland/Ferguson Road
Election Day	Saturday, May 6, 7am-7pm
Blood Drive	Saturday, July 22, 9am-3pm Impact @ Bethel 9314 Ferguson Road.