



MINUTES – MEETING SUMMARY

Community Connection Semi-Annual Town Hall Meeting

Monday, September 19, 2022

Owenwood Farm & Neighbor Space

1451 John West Road, Dallas, TX 75228

FERGUSON ROAD INITIATIVE

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

MEETING PURPOSE

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

OUTCOMES

1. Heard of volunteers needed for Reading Partners.
2. Heard from City of Dallas Code Compliance.
3. Heard from elected and appointed officials and candidates running for public office.
4. Gave special recognition to Dan Micciche.
5. Reviewed Crime Statistics from Dallas Police Dept.
6. Reviewed reports from elected officials.
7. Reviewed Owenwood Farm & Neighbor Space status.
8. Reviewed upcoming ballot proposition (Proposition A) from Transforming Dallas.
9. Reviewed plans for and status of Trinity Forest Spine Trail.
10. Reviewed FRI as a Backbone Organization.
11. Reviewed North Texas Giving Day event.

ROLES

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

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 of our meetings, and fall back to a majority vote of those present when needed.

PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS

Ann Bagley, Forest Meade NA
Martha Barrios, Forest Oaks NA
Bridgette Bennett, Claremont NA
Jeff Bennett, Claremont NA
Ken Benson, Transform Dallas,
Highland on the Creek
Isobel Bernal, Lakeland Hills
Ken Boatman, Forest Meade NA
Rob Brown, Claremont NA
Bill Coleman, FRI Board
Jorge Colunja, Resource 1 CU
Andie Comini, Forest Hills HOA
Theresa Daniel, Cnty Comm.
Zach DeMoya, Owenwood
Farm
Brenda Dunklau, Forest Hills HOA
Austin Endo, Grove at WRH

Gary Garcia, Claremont NA
Carol Gardner, Claremont NA
Sam Gillespie, Lakewood
Kerry Goodwin
Gary Hasty, FRI Board
Chandra M. Henson
Perro Henson, Buckner Terrace
Chuck Herrick, Hillview Terrace
Susan Hopper, Villas @ Ash Creek
John Hopper, Villas @ Ash Creek
Doug Hunt, Access Self Storage
Carl Johnson, Truett CW
Patricia Johnson, Truett CW
Ellen Isaly, Eastwood Hills
Gary Lawler, FRI
Mari Madison, Casa View Oaks
Vikki Martin, FRI

Dan Micciche, DISD, Trustee
Erin Moore, Casa View
Clarence Nash, Resource 1 CU
Mike Nurre, Greater Casa View A
Daniel Ortman, FRI Board
Carmen Parra, FRI Board
Joseph Roberts, Hillview Terrace
Esther Romero, FRI
Debbie Shaw, Claremont NA
Desi Tanner, Truett CW
Stephanie Tanner, Truett CW
Wayne Trosclair, Villas @ Ash
Creek
Maria Valenzuela, FRI
Nancy Weber, Lakeland Hills
Karl Zavitkovsky, FRI Board

GUESTS

PO Theron Aikin, DPD
Evelyn Amaya, City of Dallas
Feliciano Ayala Jr, Eastwood
Hills
Heidi Bassett, Casa View
Paula Blackburn, CiMI
Emery Blackburn, Code
Compliance
Chris Brashear, Eastwood Hills
Michael Brown, WR Comm. Ch.
Christine Dance, Lakeland Hills
Amy Dyer, Lakeland Hills

Phil Dieke, WRUMC
Robin Enriquez, Eastwood Hills
Mark Enriquez, Eastwood Hills
Viri Gallegos, Uplift Education
Lisa Gardner, Truett CW
Philip Hiatt Haigh, The LOOP
Rudy Hernandez
Georgia Hopkins, Eastwood
Hills
Ben Hopkins, Eastwood Hills
Nicholas Hurst, Lakeland Hills
DCP Osama Ismael, DPD

Nancy Koelling, Casa View
Venton Jones
Diana Martinez, Reading
Partners
Jesse Moreno, CM
PO Dung Nguyen, DPD
PO Gabriel Ortiz, DPD
Sgt. Sammie Robinson, DPD
Holly White, Eastwood Hills

MINUTES

Vikki Martin began the meeting at 6:50 pm with an introduction of staff, including new staff, Esther Romero (Membership/Special Events) and Susan Hopper (Communication/Marketing Director).

Diana Martinez spoke on volunteers needed for Reading Partners program. Contact Diana if you can volunteer: diana.martinez@readingpartners.org

Emery Blackburn spoke on the City of Dallas Code Compliance.

Martin listed Founder's Circle donors and sponsors of our March 5 Beautification Cleanup including **Dan Micciche, Aspire, LIghtChurch, Michael & Janice Walkers, David Weekly Homes.**

Martin and Dan Ortman presented **DISD Trustee Dan Micciche** with an FRI Obelisk Award for his support of FRI and his service of improving the lives of children through education.

DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

DPD Chief Osama Ismaeil, Commander over Northeast Station reported:

- **Greater Casa View:** No changes in Overall Crime, Violent Crime up 17%
- **Forest Hills/Casa Linda:** Overall crime down 2%, Violent crime down 38%
- **White Rock Hills:** Overall crime up 31%, Violent Crime up 42%
- **White Rock East:** No change in Overall Crime, Violent Crime down 17%

Ismael offered the following to reduce crime:

- If you see something, say something.
- Be proactive regarding burglary prevention.
- Don't leave keys in car with motor running for quick convenience store shopping.
- Call the police if you see a suspicious person.
- Shut your garage door if you are going inside your home, even for a short time.

ELECTED OFFICIALS MADE ANNOUNCEMENTS and REPORTS

Kerry Goodwin (for **State Representative Jasmine Crockett, District 100**) spoke on Covid-19 prevention vaccination success outcomes.

County Commissioner Theresa Daniel, District 1, spoke on

- All of FRI community is still in District 1, after redistricting.
- The county tax rate is down slightly (lowest rate since 2011), but evaluations are up.
- Improvements on I-635E.
- Efforts to support trails.
- Purchase of electric county vehicles.
- Jail update, possible new location.

School Board Trustee Dan Micciche, District 3, spoke on:

- New DISD Superintendent.
- State Accountability ratings.
- 90% of DISD students are disadvantaged.
- Early college programs.
- 2020 bond projects at Bryan Adams School.
- Tour of Bryan Adams School at 6 pm on Wednesday, October 12

City Councilmember Paula Blackmon, District 9, spoke on:

- Health center, clinic in District 9.
- More trail connections.
- Dredging of White Rock Lake at \$80M, possibility of intermittent silt removal.
- Ferguson Road Traffic Calming Study, currently in progress
- Highland/Ferguson Roads intersection design.
- 3035 Buckner redo still in progress.

City Councilmember Jesse Moreno, District 2, spoke on:

- Recently took tour of Ferguson Road area.
- His priorities include homelessness and economic development

OWENWOOD FARM & NEIGHBOR SPACE

Zach DeMoya, Executive Director, spoke on:

- Wanting OFNS to become a community center.
- Recently giving 20,000 lbs of food and diapers on one Saturday.
- Working with seniors and schools.
- Working with Creative Art Center on art classes.
- Creating a site for nonprofits.
- Operating a 4 acre urban farm.
- Call to support OFNS during NTGD.
- To learn more about the good work of OFNS, go to: <https://www.owenwood.org/>

TRANSFORMING DALLAS

Ken Benson spoke on:

- Voting for Proposition A on November ballot for 2% hike in hotel occupancy tax to fund Fair Park and Dallas Convention center projects.
 - Deferred maintenance issues regarding above.
 - Prestigious events at risk.
 - Loss of convention business to other cities.
 - New Convention Center will be located in entertainment district in The Cedars area, linking South Dallas and downtown.
 - New Center provides jobs, tax revenue.

TRINITY FOREST SPINE TRAIL

Philip Hiatt Haigh, Executive Director of Circuit Trail Conservancy, spoke on:

- Creating a 50-mile-long loop trail.
- The TFST is one of 4 trail projects.
- The Glen Tenison Park Golf Course will reduce to a 9-hole course, providing room for the trail and a nature preserve area.
- Work with the Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Assn. on establishing mountain bike trails along the TFST.
- Need for a "Friends of Creekside" group. Contact Philip if you are interested: philip@theloopdallas.org
- Working on 501(c)3 nonprofit status.
- Having legal agreement with Dallas Park and Recreation Department to perform supplemental activities.
- Ability to advocate for additional capital improvements.
- TFST work will start by end of 2022, with ribbon cutting in the spring.

Dr. Theresa Daniels added that the County will provide partial funding for Ash Creek Trail, the connection trail linking Highland Road to St. Francis Park.

FRI BACKBONE ORGANIZATION

Susan Hopper, FRI Communications and Marketing Director, spoke on:

- Having a strong Board of Directors and Executive Director.
- Having a strong Mission Statement and Vision Statement.
- Consensus building, relationship building and resources mobilization.
- Measuring impact of efforts with Aspire success measurements.
- Vetting of proposals for the community and bringing public decision makers into the process.

- Communication with constituents.
- Raising funds for FRI and others.
- Having a collective impact.

NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

Vikki Martin said that NTGD is FRI’s annual fundraising event.

Gary Garcia, VP Philanthropic Partnerships, Dallas Foundation, and resident of Claremont NA, spoke on why he and his wife give to FRI:

- Crime reduction through Weed & Seed efforts.
- The new library and park.
- The way FRI works with other groups.
- The fact that many communities have asked how can we get an FRI in our area?
- FRI is looking to raise \$50,000 through NTGD this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Night Out	Tuesday, October 4, evening
Bryan Adams School Tour	Wednesday, October 12, 6 pm
Ribbon Cutting for Trinity Spine Trail	Spring of 2023
Election Day	Tuesday, November 8
FRI Community Connection Town Hall Meeting	Monday, February 13, 2023
Operation Beautification	Saturday, March 4, 2023
Blood Drive	Saturday, July 22, 2023

