

**Minutes**  
**FERGUSON ROAD INITIATIVE**  
**JOINT *WEED & SEED* STEERING COMMITTEE**  
May 11, 2009 – White Rock Church of Christ, 7-9 p.m.

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*Next FRI Graduated & 2-Points Steering Committee meeting:*  
*Monday, **September 14**, 2009, 7 p.m.*  
*Next FRI 2-Points Steering Committee is July 9, 2009, 6 p.m.*  
*White Rock Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall, 9220 Ferguson Road*

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

**Desired Outcomes:**

1. Approve Minutes from our January 12, 2009 meeting.
2. Understand the services of The Family Place and the FRI/TFP partnership.
3. Understand the status of the WRH Recreation Center.
4. Understanding Park & Recreation Dept. vision for the trail along Ash Creek.
5. Overview of the Katy Trail and what it took to build it.
6. Understanding of Progress Reports and *Weed & Seed* activities.
7. Understand upcoming events.
8. Create a list of next steps and an action plan of who will do what by when.
- 9.

**Roles:**

- *Sponsors:* Councilmembers Carolyn Davis & Sheffie Kadane
- *Facilitator:* Susan Walker, Chair
- *Scribe:* Gary Lawler
- *Timekeeper:* Vikki J. Martin, Executive Director

**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:**

<p><b>FRI Staff/Consultants</b>          Bobbi Bilnoski          Kerry Goodwin          Gary Lawler          Vikki Martin          Gail Washington</p> <p><b>City</b>          Daniel Ryan,          Community Prosecutor          Staci Thetford,          City of Dallas</p> <p><b>Dallas Police Department</b>          Sgt. Keitric Jones          Lt. Alan Bull          Dep. Chief Lawrence</p> <p><b>Government Officials</b>          Councilmember Carolyn Davis          Councilmember Sheffie Kadane          Dist. Attorney J. Whittier          David Clayton,          Office of Sen. Royce West</p> <p><b>Dallas Ind. School Dist.</b>          Cherie McMillan,          S.S. Conner School</p>	<p><b>FRI Board</b>          Mary Brown          Ken Cantrell          Doug Hunt          Susan Walker, Vice Chair</p> <p><b>FRI Advisory Council:</b>          Max Wells</p> <p><b>Community</b>          LaRue &amp; Lefty Adkins          Susan Ayoob,          Hillridge 1198          James Berry,          WRHNA 1177          Douglas Benson,          Enclave at Ash Creek</p> <p>Robert Brown, CANA          Amanda Buckley, Casa View          John &amp; Ellen Childress, Truett          CW          Brian Burton,          Wilkinson Center</p> <p>Debbie Chitsey, Lakeland Hills          CW          Max Davis, LFH          Bea Deen, White Rock Villiage          CW          Don Geiger, Lakeland Hills CW          Kimberly Humphries, Truett CW</p>	<p>Barbara Snyder, Lakeland Hills          CW          Ed Snyder, Lakeland Hills CW          Denise Tyler, LFH</p> <p>Nancy Weber, Lakeland Hills          CW          Danny Williams,          HTNA</p> <p><b>Guests</b>          Brandon Cortez, Edward Jones          Tina Hageman,          The Family Place</p>
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**Minutes**

**Meeting Start Up**

- Susan Walker convened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.
- Walker recognized Sheffie Kadane, Carolyn Davis, Max Wells, Doug Hunt (as a new city councilmember from Ovilla), two new attendees, others.
- **Action Item:** Doug Hunt moved and Nancy Weber seconded a motion to approve the January 12, 2009 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**The Family Place, Tina Hageman, Executive Program Director**

- The Family Place/FRI connection began when Vikki Martin responded to an insert in the November 2008 Dallas Morning News.
- The Family Place provides services to family violence victims.
- There has been an increase in family violence. Bullying behavior in youth may lead to family violence in adulthood. Therefore, TFP has been working with schools.
- Hageman reported that TFP's Safety Campuses include individual rooms, a lobby, a comforting environment, licensed day care, and 18-month residencies.
- TFP provides free counseling for adults and children in several locations.
- TFP has a supervised visitation center, an Incest Recovery Program, and a resale shop at Marsh and Forest Lanes.
- TFP has been working with Gail Washington to provide training in White Rock Hills.

### **White Rock Hills Recreation Center/Development, Bobby Bilnoski**

- Bilnoski stated that she and Doug Hunt make up the Economic Development Committee that has been working on this project.
- White Rock Hills has been working for 11 years for a library and a recreation center. The library is a done deal, has bond funding. FRI is in final negotiations with the City regarding a recreation center.
- There are 18 acres owned by 4 landowners at Ferguson and Highland Roads, the proposed site for the recreation center.
- The Economic Development Committee has looked for retail and/or mixed use development at the site, but the current economy is not good for that type of development. They also looked for a health care facility.
- They found a developer interested in senior housing who might be the master developer of the site.
- The City will hold a hearing on May 13 regarding imminent domain on the Rosewood portion of the proposed site.
- The question being raised by the Economic Development Committee regards whether the Steering Committee supports switching from retail to senior housing. This would be for residents 55 and older, does not include Assisted Living, and would be rental only. It would be very similar in pricing to the Primrose (about \$685 to \$1100.)
- FRI will know the developer's plans before they begin. It could be a mixed use concept, similar to that at Café Lago on Garland Road.
- The development that happens now will affect future development regarding the type of consumers attracted to the site.
- Bilnoski said that the City has \$5 million in bond funds set aside for land, design, and construction for a standard-size recreation center. She asked Steering Committee's feelings about using these funds to parcel together a larger amount of land, then seeking more bond funds for construction. FRI would also have to seek additional funds to expand from a standard-size recreation center of about **18,000** sq. ft. to a larger multi-generational facility of about 50,000 sq. ft. Optimally, 10 acres would be needed for a multi-generational facility, compared to 3 acres for a standard facility.
- Hunt said there were no 50,000 sq. ft. facilities in Dallas, but Lancaster and Cedar Hill have them.
- Michael Hellman of Parks and Recreation Dept. said a large multi-generational facility would cost about \$20-\$30 million. The City usually builds recreation centers on existing park land.
- The director of Parks and Recreation is encouraging FRI to use the existing \$5 million for land and to seek other funds for construction.

- Councilmember Davis spoke on the tight economy and bond proposals expected from the Mayor's South Dallas Task Force as competition for bond funds as factors regarding how much White Rock Hills can expect in bond funds.

### **Dallas Trail Network, Michael Hellman, Parks and Recreation**

- Dallas's Trail Network was adopted in March 2005. The City's Renaissance Plan for parks said that trails were the #1 desire of residents. The Trail Plan was updated in 2008.
- Hellman described the 3 types of trails, including major linear trails, usually 1 mile or more in length, 12' wide, promoting alternative transportation (such as bicycles). Trail right-of-way includes City-owned land, and ONCOR and DART rights-of-way/easements. 30%-40% of major linear trails are in power line corridors.
- The 2003 and 2006 bond packages funded \$31M for trails, leveraged an additional \$29M through grants and partnerships for trails through North Central Texas Council of governments, Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP), Dallas County, others.
- In 2009, Dallas has 35.65 miles of major linear trails. Funded but unbuilt trails add 31.1 miles.
- The City is seeking solutions to the need for 911 service accessibility to trails. They have used signs with identification numbers, such as "KT-100" every 1/8 mile on the Katy Trail. These markers are then coded for foot and vehicular traffic access for 911 responses.
- Hellman showed a slide of the South White Rock Lake Trail that connects the Santa Fe Trail and the East Dallas Veloway (bicycle trail) to St Francis Park.
- Hellman indicated that it was not too late to have a bicycle lane on Highland Road.

### **Executive Director Report, Vikki Martin**

- Martin reported that the #1 priority of the FRI Board is to build capacity and sustain it, related this to the need for a paid full-time Executive Director. The Communities Foundation of Texas has given FRI \$40,000 and Citibank has committed \$10,000 for an Executive Director. FRI has been working with a fund development person and a grant writer.
- FRI feels a need to help the Casa View area, wants to develop leadership in that area to see if there is interest in a *Weed & Seed* program for Casa View.
- An FRI Advisory Council has been formed, with 3-year terms, quarterly updates, and event attendance.
- Martin spoke on DonorBridge, a program through the Communities Foundation of Texas and the Dallas Foundation that allows nonprofits to receive matching funds for contributions of \$25 to \$2,500. FRI is hoping to receive \$25,000 in base donations which would become \$50,000 with the matching funds.
- Ken Cantrell said that this area has improved over the years due to FRI, encouraged those in attendance to approach their friends to give, so FRI can have a paid Executive Director, other needs.
- Don Geiger spoke on having lived here 20 years and seeing the crime reduction, economic development, infrastructure improvements, and the library and recreation center as reasons to help FRI. He suggested donating early on May 20 while funds are still available.

### **Weed & Seed Report, Kerry Goodwin**

- Goodwin reported that the 2008 *Weed & Seed* grant expired on May 1, and that the new grant funds have not yet been received, and that it may be August 1 before the legislature passes *Weed & Seed* funding. Goodwin suggested contacting legislators and encouraging them to pass *Weed & Seed* funding.
- Due to lack of funds, overtime police patrols have been suspended. Goodwin said there has been an uptake in crime since patrols slowed. This is the first time in 10 years that 2-Points crime has risen.
- Goodwin has requested funds for Graduated Site and Casa View, as well as overtime police patrols through Burns Grant request. If funded, this could provide \$166,000 over 2 years. He also spoke on \$50,000/year for a victims outreach program.
- The North Texas Crime Commission is giving \$5,000 for our Drug Education For Youth (DEFY) program. An additional \$15,000 is needed or we will need to reduce the number of children taking part.

### Crime and Gang Prevention, Gail Washington

- Washington spoke on the successful Bayles Cultural Field Trip to the Dallas World Aquarium.
- She spoke on Thriving Minds-Big Thoughts no longer being in our community due to lack of funds.
- She is working on a summer program for kids through White Rock Townhomes, The Villas of White Rock, and Treymore. She is also seeking activities for 13 to 25 year-olds.
- Regarding DEFY, she is sending out invitations to potential participants this week. There will be a DEFY graduation ceremony for the 2008-2009 participants, including 10 from the FRI area, this week at the White Rock Church of Christ.
- She presented summer crime prevention tips (such as watching out for gang members by seeing groups of 1 youth wearing similar colors), asked that they be circulated through Crime Watch groups.

### Crime Stats, Sgt. Keitric Jones, DPD

- Jones said that if you call 911 and are referred to 311 on a crime matter, ask for a supervisor, that they can usually relate this back to a police response.
- Jones spoke of police efforts in 2-Points, including 454 calls, 219 arrests, 188 hazardous citations, 884 regular citations, 1354 traffic stops in the past year.
- They have had 175 hours beyond those funded by *Weed & Seed*, in community contacts, DEFY, etc.
- He encouraged residents to come to the May 30 Safety Fair, 10 am to 2 pm, at the NE Police Station.

**Action Item:** Doug Hunt moved and Debbie Chitsey seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm.

### **Upcoming Dates:**

**May 19: Bond Committee meeting**, Good Samaritan Church, 1522 Highland Road, 6:30 pm. Groups should bring their bond needs to the meeting.

**May 21: Pastors' Luncheon.** Gail Washington will work with participants to meet with area school principals for resource needs.

**May 30: Kids Safety Fair**, Northeast Station, 9915 E. Northwest Highway, 10 am to 2 pm. Free hot dogs, K-9 unit, bicycle rodeo, helicopter, face painting, bounce house, other.

**July 14:** FRI 2-Points Steering Committee meeting, White Rock Church of Christ, 7 p.m.

**Sept 14:** FRI Joint Steering Committee meeting, White Rock Church of Christ, 7 p.m.