



Meeting Summary

Casa View Community/Ferguson Road Initiative Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, November 10, 2009, 6:30 p.m.
St Pius X Catholic Church
3030 Gus Thomasson

Mark Your Calendars: *The next Ferguson Road Initiative meeting will be on Monday, January 11, 7 p.m., at White Rock Church of Christ, 9220 Ferguson Road.*

Purpose

To introduce the Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI) and Operation Weed & Seed to the Casa View Community and to vote on joining FRI

Desired Outcomes

- Understand purpose, outcomes, roles & responsibilities, ground rules of tonight's meeting
- Meet our sponsors, political supporters, & guests
- Understand mission and vision, Operation *Weed & Seed*, and key accomplishments of the Ferguson Road Initiative
- Understand key challenges and assets of Casa View & proposed Casa View boundaries
- Understand proposal for Casa View to join the Ferguson Road Initiative
- List next steps and create an Action Plan

Roles

Facilitator, Mike Nurre, Harry Stone Crime Watch
Scribe/Recorder, Gary Lawler, FRI
Timekeeper, Marc Valerin, Briarwood NA

Decision Making

- Consensus: everyone can live with it and will support it.
- Fallback to Majority Vote

Rules

- Listen to and respect one another
- Honor time limits
- Share your experience & perspective

Sponsors

- Councilpersons Carolyn Davis (District 7) & Sheffie Kadane (District 9)

Hosts

- Alger Park-Ash Creek Neighborhood Association/Crimewatch 1153, Brad Boling
- Briarwood Neighborhood Association, Marc Valerin
- Braeburn Glen NA/CrimeWatch 1132, Lee Barron & Yvonne Salazar
- Casa View Heights CrimeWatch 1156, Harriet Revier & Carol Hurley
- Casa View Oaks, Steve Bloberger & Amanda Buckley
- Harry Stone CrimeWatch 1155, Jerri Shelvin

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PARTICIPANTS**ADT**

Harold Medack Jr.

Alger Park-Ash Creek Neighborhood Association/Crimewatch 1153

Melissa Gray

Jerry Jensen

Braeburn Glen Neighborhood Association/Crimewatch 1132

Margie Bailey

Lee Barron

Dick Benson

A.J. Brown

Louis Ceballos

Virginia Coalson

Andrien Farquharson

Linda Fisher

Nelida Gonzalez

Bergen Hall

Ben Nieswiadomy

Liz Ocone

Ricardo Ponte

Ramona Rhodes

Ron Rhodes

Yvonne Salazar

Miguel Sanchez

Grover Stanford

Mavis Stanford

Bruce Tyler

Jerry Vaughan

Harold Viaille

Jim Walker

Briarwood Neighborhood Association

Marc Valerin

Marshall Wilkie

Casa Linda Forest NA

Deb Jasky

Casa View Heights Crime Watch 1156

Margaret Curry

Carol Hurley

Grace Munoz

Harriett Revier

Anne Ryan

Crestview Park Crime Watch 1154

Beverly Daniel

Mark Daniel

Suzanne Martin

Rhonda Norman

Casa View Shopping Center

Alex S. Cantrell

Harry Stone Crime Watch 1155

Maria T. Arriaga

Betty Jo Austin

Karla Cole

Ken Crum

Beverly Kosco

Matt Mahaffey

Tony Morales

Lynette Neal

Mike Nurre

Gabriel Padilla

Jerry Pilgrim

Betty Rice

Jerri Shevlin

Margaret Wall

Cathy Webb

Crime Watch Executive Board

Felix Saucedo

Truett Crime Watch

John Childress

Ellen Childress

Gus Garcia

Desi Tanner

Eileen Williams

Casa View - CrimeWatch 1115

Shirley Loftin

Carolyn McCamey

Clifford McCamey

Crime Watch 1129

Zora Burkleo

Nick Robison

Casa View Heights – Crime Watch 1130

Ann Teague

Crime Watch 1135 (Casa View Oaks, Casa View Haven)

Emily Anderson
 Justine Barina
 Steve Bloberger
 Amanda Buckley
 Clay Buckley
 Pat Copeland

Roger Copeland
 Ryan Cox
 Robert Curry
 Bob Ennis
 Zora Ennis
 Dan Hatzenbuehler

Blaine Hilliard
 David Jackson
 A.E. Morale
 Ritz Tamez

Crime Watch 1136

Robby Baxley
 Tami Beck
 Suzanne Chostor
 Juanita Frost

Jimmie La Lumia
 Shirley Melton
 Flo Phillips

Ferguson Road Initiative

Edna Foster, OVAG Coordinator
 Kerry Goodwin, FRI *W & S* Coordinator
 Gary Lawler, Scribe

Vikki J. Martin, FRI Board Member
 Betty Swinners, Executive Director

City of Dallas

Bob Curry, City of Dallas, Code Compliance
 Daniel Ryan, White Rock Hills Community Prosecutor

Dallas Police Department

Lt. Alan Bull
 Kimberly Nann, Community Affairs
 Officer A.J. Serratos

DISD

Janie Baker, NELC Office
 Jane Didear, DISD Communications
 Leigh Ann Ellis, DISD Trustee
 Sylvia Ervin, Larry Smith Elementary
 Karen Scott, Reinhardt Elementary
 Brenda Armour, Charles Gill Elementary

Political Officials & Dignitaries

Sarah Hauser, for State Representative Allen Vaught
 Annette Ratliff, for State Senator John Carona

White Rock Lake Weekly

Barbara Johnson

Other Participants

Beatrice Martinez, DISD Trustee candidate
 Terry Fearing – Biomat USA
 Ben N. Jerry
 Bruce Parrott – DISD Trustee Candidate

Meeting Summary

MEETING PURPOSE

The meeting was convened by Mike Nurre at 6:45 p.m. He reminded folks that FRI was introduced officially to the CV community on June 29, 2009 at Casa Emanu-El United Methodist Church where they talked about their neighborhood restoration efforts and helped lead Casa View residents through a 3 hour workshop that identified neighborhood Challenges and Assets. He said, “tonight, we decide whether to join FRI”. Casa View has an opportunity to become part of a continuing solution; can combine officially with FRI while retaining individual Crime Watch and neighborhood association identities. He said that basically the attendants would be asked to listen, participate, question, and vote.

Nurre reviewed the meeting rules, then introduced attendants by their group names. He mentioned that the Casa View Oaks group had changed to “Casa View Haven”. DISD, school principals, code enforcement, DPD, FRI, and state officials were also introduced.

Lee Barron of Braeburn Glen NA/CW told of having about 6 neighborhoods represented at a June meeting, tonight we have about 12. FRI has the experience and expertise to help. Casa View needs to work with businesses, apartments, get crime under control. We are in the initial step – Organizing.

FRI BACKGROUND

Vikki J. Martin, FRI, said she was amazed at the amount of work that has taken place in Casa View since June. She felt that one cannot say that far East Dallas has been revitalized if Casa View is not included.

Martin spoke on the history of FRI. She saw her neighborhood, the Claremont Addition, as a nice area surrounded by blight. Her neighborhood was concerned about students at Bayles Elementary with no places to play after school. Decent schools are important, and communities must be involved with school improvement.

FRI was born in 1998 after the completion of an Urban Design Land Use Study was conducted for Ferguson Road. A small group of stakeholders decided to become a 501(c)3 nonprofit. Martin reviewed FRI’s Vision, Mission, Core Values, Goals, and Objectives.

There was a review of maps showing the current FRI area made up of the following; FRI Forest Hills, FRI Graduated *Weed & Seed*, and 2-Points *Weed & Seed* area. The CV area, the area to the NE of the current FRI boundaries was identified as an area targeted for expansion.

FRI applies a holistic method towards neighborhood revitalization that provide programs that address violence, gangs, after-school, field trips, tax assistance, housing, economic development, crime. FRI is good at identifying and developing leaders.

FRI Executive Director Betty Swinners spoke on FRI accomplishments since 1998, how they received *Weed & Seed* grant funds, reduced violent crime, united neighborhoods, ran cleanup and beautification programs, provided tutoring and field trips, established a Safe Haven at Bayles School, expanded programs to other schools, facilitated new housing, and garnered capital improvements.

WEED & SEED STRATEGY

Kerry Goodwin, FRI *Weed & Seed* Coordinator, spoke on how he works with local and federal law enforcement, the importance of volunteers in FRI success, the success in reducing crime in 2-Points community, working with children to keep them away from crime, and the Volunteers in Tax Assistance (VITA) program being coupled with financial literacy in 2010. Goodwin explained the 4 parts of *Weed & Seed*; Law Enforcement, Community Policing, Prevention, Intervention, Treatment and Neighborhood Restoration.

CASA VIEW EFFORTS SINCE JUNE 29 MEETING

Barron reviewed the five key challenges identified by the CV community at the June 29 meeting:

Casa View Challenges	Casa View Assets
Crime	Good Location
Shopping Center Revitalization	Casa View Shopping Center
Harry Stone Rec. Center Deterioration	Harry Stone Rec. Center
Beautification/Graffiti	Trees/Green Space/Parks
Drug House Eradication	Dallas Athletic Club

Barron spoke on defining Casa View area relative to FRI area, showed how Casa View had been broken down into 3 subareas. Residents then did a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis by subareas. They collected information on businesses, schools, faith community, apartments, green space, etc.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Has the youth curfew cut down on crime during the day? *Yes said DPD Officer A.J. Serratos.*

Gabriel Padilla said there was a lack of free park usage in area. Conners, Casa View, and Truett Elementary Schools; along with Harry Stone Rec. Center; require registration and \$50/hour fees to use soccer fields. His youth soccer team has been run off by DISD police and Harry Stone security officers for not registering and paying. How can these facilities be listed as “assets”? Why should we be paying for what should be free? *School Board Trustee Leigh Ann Ellis spoke to Padilla after the meeting on vandalism problems, need to register.*

It was mentioned that some kids may have graduated but still wear their school uniforms when burglarizing.

Where is the FRI 2-Points area? *Centered at Peavy/Buckner, shown on newsletter map.*

Where will the White Rock Hills Library be built? *Near Ferguson and Buckner, behind the White Rock Church of Christ, 9220 Ferguson Road, along the creek.*

Where will FRI emails (minutes, etc.) come from, to prevent being shown as Spam? *Not yet decided. However, FRI will be in the subject heading.*

Beatrice Martinez said this room is not reflective of the Casa View community. How did information about meeting get out? *Through known groups, St. Pius X Church advertised meeting in their bulletin, St. Bernard Church advertised meeting, and neighborhood groups placed notice in newsletters.*

It was noted by one community member that these meetings represent the beginning of the Casa View community working together to collectively improve their neighborhood.

Was notice in Spanish? *Several neighborhood groups do English/Spanish newsletters.*

Need stronger communication efforts to non-CrimeWatch areas. *Cannot contact all homes due to cost.*

There was a concern about dog walkers at Reinhardt School not picking up after pets.

THE VOTE

Action Item: Ken Crum moved and Yvonne Salazar seconded a motion that Casa View join FRI. The motion passed unanimously.

WRAP UP

There were gifts for the group with the greatest attendance, including Starbuck gift cards.

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The community was invited to the next FRI Steering Committee meeting on Monday, January 11, 2010, 7 p.m. at White Rock Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall, 9220 Ferguson Road. All are invited to attend. This will be FRI's Annual Election of Officers and Directors and will include a presentation about the Garland Road Vision and FRI Development Projects.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m..