



MINUTES
CITIZEN BOND COMMITTEE
RECREATION CENTER
FARMERS BRANCH MANSKE LIBRARY
FARMERS BRANCH, TEXAS 75234
MAY 26, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairperson Michelle Holmes, Tamara Cleghorn, Rodger Cramer, Colin Eddy, John Speed, Michael Driskill, Martina De Los Santos, Marcus Miller, Meredith McLeod, Joan O'Shea, Vincent Montenegro, James Webb, Tim Yarbrough

Members Absent: Bronson Blackman, Jorge Gonzalez, David Merritt, Nic Rady

Staff Present: Shawna Eikenberry, Management Analyst,

Guests Present: Louise Henning, Arts & Culture Sub-committee Vice-Chair

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Michelle Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion made by Rodger Cramer to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2016 Citizen Bond Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Michael Driskill. *Motion approved unanimously.*

3. DISCUSS PROJECT/PROPOSAL EVALUATION BENCHMARKS

Ms. Holmes announced she would be giving a progress report from the Citizen Bond Committee to the City Council during their study session Tuesday, June 21 at 3 pm. Ms. Holmes requested brief written reports from each subcommittee that will include benchmarks, costs and a value proposition statement she will present to the City Council. Committee members were invited to attend the study session.

4. DISCUSS PROGRESS OF THE CITIZEN BOND SUB-COMMITTEES DESIGNATED TO CONSIDER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-RESIDENTIAL, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-COMMERCIAL, PARKS & RECREATION, ART & CULTURE, PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS AND PROPOSALS

Colin Eddy reported from the Communications subcommittee several ways to reach the Farmers Branch community through direct contact at city events, all city facilities, flyers, the city website and other social media. A signup sheet was passed to all committee members asking for volunteers to attend Liberty Fest, May 28, 2016 and Farmers Market each Saturday through June 30, 2016 to man information booths at those events. Recommendations from the larger committee included collecting contact information from citizens sharing input and keeping a logbook of feedback at event booths to disseminate among subcommittees for consideration at subsequent meetings. T-shirts are being made for all committee members to wear and create more awareness within the community as well as invite conversation from citizens. Mr. Eddy proposed two public "listening events" to be held in mid-July at the Recreation and Senior Centers allowing citizens to poll

their opinions on potential bond proposal ideas while generating grassroots community support. The larger committee agreed and was reminded to enlist neighbors and friends into "Friends of..." groups to gather community support momentum up to the May 2017 election.

Michael Driskill reported from the Parks & Recreation subcommittee that they are working with city staff to determine line item needs and costs for improvements to trails, the John Burke Nature Preserve, the Grove (Farmers Market location), infrastructure, lighting and restrooms. Rodger Cramer reported from the Master Trails planning meeting that the consensus from citizens regarding the Nature Preserve included a combination of soft trails with selective use of boardwalks, raised trails where erosion is a problem and limited bicycle access. Mr. Cramer stated that the design firm Dunaway & Associates would use community input to formalize a proposal that will be included in final presentation to the larger committee in August.

John Speed reported the Arts & Culture subcommittee is focused on four global topics: Arts & Culture (centered around Mustang Station Area, Firehouse Theatre), Library Expansion (ideas from 2009 proposal without demolishing current building), Animal Adoption Center "Right-Sizing" (lower cost options) and Entry Portals to Farmers Branch (addressing trails and culture). Mr. Speed presented a detailed decision matrix based on subjective and objective criteria, expenses and constraints to be used for each project that would be measured and ranked against other projects using uniform weights to determine priority and public benefit.

Marcus Miller reported that the Commercial Economic Development subcommittee has narrowed its topics of focus to Mustang Station Area, the southwest quadrant of the Four Corners and small business incubator opportunities in the warehouse district on the east side of Farmers Branch. Mr. Miller reported the subcommittee deferred apartment redevelopment and the Josey/Valwood area suggesting current market conditions will draw private development in multi-family housing as well as development of the warehouse district which is already being addressed through the Eastside development program.

Martina De Los Santos reported for Nic Rady from the Residential Economic Development subcommittee that the Dangerous and Distressed Property Fund which the city used to purchase property for redevelopment has been depleted and while changes in state law do not allow this type of funding now, the subcommittee is focusing on senior housing and possible house swap opportunities.

Meredith McLeod reported from the Public Safety subcommittee that they are working with city staff procuring costs of security boxes for master trails and continuing to focus on Fire Station 2.

5. NEXT STEPS FOR SUBCOMMITTEES

Chairperson Holmes reported the 2014 Citizens Satisfaction Survey results reflect our committee focus is on track and will help us generate questions for citizens to respond to at the July Listening Meetings, using the polling devices. John Speed will share the Decision Matrix as a template for other subcommittees. All committee members must provide shirt sizes to Shawna Eikenberry by Friday, May 28, 2016.

6. SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Committee meeting is June 23, 2016, location to be determined.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Michael Driskill. Motion seconded by Joan O'Shea. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Attest:

Chair

Secretary