



**MINUTES
CITIZEN BOND COMMITTEE
FARMERS BRANCH MANSKE LIBRARY
13613 WEBB CHAPEL ROAD
FARMERS BRANCH, TEXAS 75234
AUGUST 11, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Chairperson Michelle Holmes, Tamara Cleghorn, Michael Driskill, Marcus Miller, Joan O'Shea, David Merritt, Vincent Montenegro, James Webb, Tim Yarbrough, Rodger Cramer

Members Absent: Jorge Gonzalez, Colin Eddy, John Speed, Martina de los Santos, Meredith McLeod, Nic Rady, Bronson Blackson

Staff Present: Shawna Eikenberry, Management Analyst, John Roach, Special Projects Manager, Public Works

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Michelle Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion made by Jim Webb to approve the minutes with corrections from the July 28, 2016 Citizen Bond Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Joan O'Shea. *Motion approved unanimously.*

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shawna Eikenberry announced she is taking a new job with the City of Carrollton and introduced John Roach, Special Projects Manager in Public Works, her replacement as the staff liaison on the Committee. John Speed formally resigned from the Committee because of a job transfer to Midland, Texas and he is no longer a resident of Farmers Branch.

4. LISTENING MEETINGS FEEDBACK

Michael Driskill and Louise Henning gave an update on the popular dog park project cost of \$1 million with a requirement of 5 undeveloped acres to be divided in three sections for rotated use. Annual cost of upkeep was not yet available.

5. DISCUSSION OF 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

Chairperson Holmes reviewed the list of projects in order of importance to the Committee so far to be presented to City Council noting the Top 3 projects to be considered, the Next 2 and the remaining six:

Top 3

- *Fire Station #2
- *Master Trails
- *Station Area Development

Next 2

- *Library
- *Housing Renewal

Ms. Holmes agreed to provide equal backup information for all other projects for the Committee to make better-informed decisions and recommendations for City Council. Further discussion ensued regarding the remaining projects for consideration:

- *Animal Shelter \$2 million
- *Dog Park \$1 million
- *Firehouse Theatre \$2 million
- *City Branding \$3 million
- *Nature Preserve \$5 million
- *Hist. Park/Event Ctr \$7 million

Actions taken by the Committee:

Motion made by Marcus Miller to recommend alternative funding rather than bond money be sought for economic development at the Four Corners southwest corner. Motion seconded by Michael Driskill. *Motion approved unanimously.*

Motion made and amended by Vincent Montenegro to recommend the expansion of the existing animal shelter instead of rehabilitating the deteriorating Fire Station #2 for that purpose, and increasing the budget from \$1.8 million to \$2.2 million. Motion seconded by Rodger Cramer. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Further discussion revealed more benefits to improvements of 28 acres at the Historical Park with added event center. It was acknowledged that the event center would not provide a revenue stream but would provide rentable space in the City's largest gathering space. Improvements would expand open space and include better lighting although some green space may be diminished with the added building. David Merritt stated the primary focus of improvements would be to preserve green space. The Committee noted that the Valwood

Improvement Authority and the Westside developers could help with funding the Trails development on the west side of Farmers Branch. More benefits were discussed regarding the Nature Preserve including the canopy observation deck, boardwalks through the wetlands and bird blinds for birdwatchers as well as improved, longer trails through the City's desirable green spaces.

Actions Taken by the Committee:

Motion made by Jim Webb to readdress the approval of minutes from the July 28, 2016 meeting as written, and recommended to change wording for clarification on motions regarding pass or failure of projects for consideration. Motion seconded by Rodger Cramer. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Motion made by Marcus Miller to remove the John Burke Preserve and the City Branding proposals from the Top 5 list but not from later consideration. Motion seconded by Jim Webb. *Motion passed unanimously.*

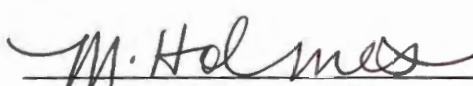
Discussion of Firehouse Theatre resulted in clarification of what types of improvements could be funded for a civic space and improvements for which the Theatre company would be responsible. Discussion of all remaining projects will continue at the next meeting. Ms. Holmes will provide a list of all 40+ projects for a final review by the Committee.

6. SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Citizen Bond Committee meeting is Thursday, August 25, 2016 at 7 p.m. Mr. Roach will notify Committee of meeting location.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Tamara Cleghorn. Motion seconded by Vincent Montenegro. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Chair

Attest:



Secretary