



**MINUTES
CITIZEN BOND COMMITTEE
FIRE STATION 3
13333 HUTTON DRIVE
FARMERS BRANCH, TEXAS 75234**

**February 18, 2016
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Chairperson Michelle Holmes, Tamara Cleghorn, Rodger Cramer, Jorge Gonzalez, David Merritt, Joan O'Shea, John Speed, Michael Driskill, James Webb, Martina De Los Santos, Colin Eddy, Marcus Miller, Meredith McLeod

Members Absent: Bronson Blackman, Nic Rady, Vincent Montenegro, Tim Yarbrough

Staff Present: Shawna Eikenberry Management Analyst, John Land Managing Director of Operations, Allison Cook Economic Development Manager, Andy Gillies Community Services Director, Stephanie Hall, Economic Development Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER –

Chairperson Michelle Holmes called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES –

Motion made by David Merritt to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2016 Citizen Bond Committee meeting. Motion seconded by John Speed. *Motion approved unanimously.*

3. UPDATE ON PUBLIC SAFETY BOND INITIATIVES--

Management Analyst Shawna Eikenberry reported that the City Council had met and decided to divide the public safety initiatives that originally included Justice Center Improvements, relocation of Fire Station #2 and the expansion of the Animal Shelter. Ms. Eikenberry indicated City Council would consider and act on the Justice Center Improvements while deferring Fire Station #2 relocation and Animal Shelter expansion to the Citizen's Bond Committee for consideration. City Staff will present additional information on these issues at a later date specified by Committee.

Ms. Eikenberry reported that Council indicated a November bond election may not be tenable for the Committee to accomplish its goals along with a proposal but they expect a sound deadline communicated from the Committee.

4. OVERVIEW OF INNER RING SUBURBS--

John Land, Managing Director of Operations introduced City Staff presenting the State of the City report and he stated that all presentations would be provided to the Committee in digital format.

Allison Cook presented historical context on inner ring suburbs and provided demographic information for Farmers Branch and Dallas. Ms. Cook said problems facing inner ring suburbs include aging/failing infrastructure, falling tax revenues and schools. Ms. Cook reported that 86% of local revenue comes from property taxes, sales and business taxes. Andy Gillies noted that Farmers Branch is a Dart city indicating that the City keeps only one cent of the two cents of every dollar allowed from collected sales tax, the rest goes to Dart thereby reducing the amount of money available for other city concerns. Ms. Cook outlined solutions to these problems under the headings of Code Enforcement, Development, Regional, State and National Growth, as well as maintaining 80% commercial tax revenues for revitalization of our City. Ms. Cook reported Farmers Branch has two distinct programs for new development and increasing long-term tax revenues: 1) Teardown incentives for homeowners and 2) City purchases old property and oversees teardown before selling to a developer or homebuilder. Ms. Cook stated positive characteristics unique to Farmers Branch are location in the epicenter of the metroplex, excellent emergency response and services.

5. RECEIVE AND DISCUSS A "STATE OF THE CITY" OVERVIEW--

Andy Gillies presented the State of the City covering the 2008 Vision Plan for the Four Corners, the City Sector Plans for the Central, East and West areas as well as a map of the Master Trails Plan. Mr. Gillies stated the Central sector is the largest and most populated with 20 neighborhoods requiring different development and improvement strategies specific to each. Mr. Gillies outlined possible improvements for neighborhood revitalization, walkability, rehabilitation and conservation, including landscape initiatives and naturalization of creeks. Mr. Gillies reported the East sector plan so far includes an "Uptown" urban development with an expansion of the Master Trails plan by converting old railroad lines for public access similar to the Katy Trail however data is still being gathered for this plan and will be completed August 2016. Mr. Gillies reported there is a lot of new development activity in the West sector with plans to include office space, high density residential/multi-family homes, mixed use, employment district and single family homes along with a 50 acre lake and park. Mr. Gillies said there are plans to connect Central and West sectors via trails. The Committee discussed ways to leverage new development already in progress to benefit other city concerns and refine our focus of bond issues.

6. CONSIDER BOND SUB-COMMITTEES AND STRUCTURAL, AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION-

The Committee had discussion regarding subcommittee topics and determined to hold sub-committee formations until after we hear about current and past bonds in Farmers Branch presented at the next meeting by Charles Cox, Director of Finance. Chairperson Holmes assured the committee that subcommittees will be fluid and open for change as needed.

7. CONSIDER AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS—

The Committee added “New Concepts and Ideas” to future meeting agenda topics for discussion.

8. SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS –

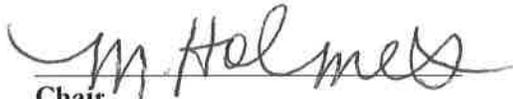
The Citizen Bond Committee will meet Thursday, February 26 at 7 p.m., at the Farmers Branch Recreation Center, unless notified of a change of venue by Ms. Eikenberry.

ADJOURNMENT—

Motion to adjourn made by Michael Driskill. Motion seconded by John Speed.

Motion approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.


Chair

Attest:

Secretary