

Mayor's Southern Dallas Task Force Pleasant Grove Area #1

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2009

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Mayor's Southern Dallas Task Force Pleasant Grove Area #1 was called to order at 6:00 pm on 4/20/2009 at the Pleasant Grove Branch of the Dallas Public Library facilitated by Dr. Shirley King.

Present: Dr. Shirley King, Keith Brown, Annelda Crawford, Carolyn McInnis, Anthony Washington, Keith McKeague, Monica Velazquez, Karina Velazquez, Marcie Himes, Azlee Baker, Kevin Payne

City Staff: Ron Patterson, Sergio Garza, Jr., Phyllis Sparks, Sean Johnson, Joy Johnson

Absent: Barry Bowens, Pastor Derrick Bowman Sr., Jessie Diaz, Mia Lowe, Antonio Montanez, Rechelle Nettles, Carl Raines, Don Robinson, Felix Vasquez, Corey Morgan, Robert Milligan, Keith McKeague, Javier Olguin, Chris Johnson, Marcie Himes, Hector Garzo, Teri Benavides, Azlee Baker, Bhavin Parekh, Brenda Cotton, Rev. L. Smith, Ralph Castro, Imelda Aguilera, Derrick Shead

A. Introduction to Meeting

We began the meeting with a quick overview of all the April 6, 2009 minutes to bring everyone up to speed with what's been going on. There were several changes made to the minutes. It was suggested we include the ideas the group envisions for a destination location for Pleasant Grove once the master plan and the market study are complete (i.e. restaurants, stores using the Bishop Arts prototype, etc.) Names were added to sub-committee groups that were missing. Any name misspellings were corrected.

We were introduced to Sean Johnson and Sergio Garza from the Parks and Recreation Department with the City of Dallas. They joined us to assist with questions we had regarding Crawford Park as well as surrounding parks in the area.

B. Open Issues

Phyllis Sparks contacted TX-Dot (Gary Hennig) and confirmed that Buckner/Loop 12 is state property. In previous meetings, we discussed adding themed post signs and light improvements, and street improvements. Any ideas we have dealing with Buckner/Loop 12 have to go through the State. However, Phyllis informed the group that Buckner/Loop 12 will be striped in the near future according to TX-Dot.

Kevin Payne spoke with BRW architects who have previously worked with the City on various projects. BRW said they are willing to meet with us to discuss costs on our plans and help us scope out what's possible (i.e. gateways, banner constraints, changes in the

near future to Crawford Park that we can recommend, etc.) We anticipate the assistance from BRW will give foundational structure towards our presentation. Sean Johnson from Parks and Recreation said he would provide specs on the park to present to BRW. The following members from the economic development and beautification sub-committees will be meeting with BRW:

Kevin Payne- 214-789-2174- pkevinpayne@sbcglobal.net

Anthony Washington- 214-882-0059- awash@swbell.net

Annelda Crawford- 214-299-3310- pastor@pmupumc.org

Keith Brown- 469-834-5453- keithbrow4@aol.com

Keith McKeague- 214-476-2081- kmckeague1@mac.com

Sean Johnson- 214-671-0916- sean.johnson@dallascityhall.com

According to Sean Johnson, Crawford Park is a regional park, which means it's designed specifically for the South East area of the city. He informed us that Crawford Park is under two council districts. Sean stated that the park will be improved and enhanced in the near future. There will be a water park added to the park (similar to Bahama Beachin Oak Cliff), extra parking spaces, and the trail will be expanded. Water misters, that lightly spray water to cool people off will be added, in addition to more lighting, portable restrooms (a permanent restroom structure will be added in the future), and a camera system will be added in maintenance.

An amphitheatre was brought into question and Sean said it would be in discussion but as of right now, no plans have been implemented. Sean reminded us that capital improvements do take time, but the City has not forgotten about Crawford Park and change is coming. When discussing Crawford Park some ideas to enhance and improve the park were mentioned:

- Lack of signage (add signage that leads to the park)
- Drinking fountains need to be added
- Emergency phones throughout the trail
- Community "cork" board to post community events
- Bicycle police patrolling the park

Sean mentioned although we will be seeing changes in the park, we need to change the culture of the park (etiquette). When asked about programs and events in the park, Sean said that Parks and Recreation hosts events in the park and welcome partnerships with community groups.

C. New Business

As a group, we decided to reprioritize our short term goals. In discovering all the changes Parks and Recreation will be making to Crawford Park, it would be best if we put our focus on other short term goals at this time.

We anticipate having a newsletter (print and electronic) along with the website and logo by the end of the 3rd quarter. We would distribute the newsletters quarterly and it would include community calendar, sponsors (advertising) and a multitude of community oriented information.

Another short term goal we discussed was a piece of art work for the Eastfield College Pleasant Grove campus. The iconic piece/sculpture would have to incorporate the themes that make up Pleasant Grove (i.e. trees, community, family, etc.) We need to create a piece that incorporates what this area is all about and make it a tangible object.

Although Crawford Park is being improved by the City, it was suggested that maybe some minor beautification like landscaping (flowers, mowing, etc.), hosting events at the park would be something to add to our short term goals.

Eastfield College will be meeting with the steering committee in July and will open on August 24, 2009. *We can use the newsletter as a way to enhance Eastfield*

Our presentation to council will be June 9, 2009. It was agreed Shirley King would be the presenter. We discussed having a power point presentation with voice over. Also, each sub-committee needs to assign a chair person for that group by 4/27/09. Each chair needs to set up a Google group. A communication mechanism already exists under the auspices of the Mayor's Southern Dallas Task Force. Subcommittees should use it as a means of communicating amongst each other. Check the following websites for more information on that process:

http://www.southerndallas.org/documents/worksheets/Google_Groups_Setup.pdf

http://www.southerndallas.org/documents/worksheets/Google_Groups_Members.pdf

D. Agenda for Next Meeting

We are scheduled to meet again on 4/27/09 at 6:00 pm. The purpose of that meeting will be for each subcommittee to work on the specific near term outcomes to be presented to the citywide Task Force. Documentation in terms of specific goals, costs, people needing to be involved to make it happen and timelines should be defined. We also expect to conclude the meeting a firmer idea about what should be included in it and how the presentation will look.

Success is dependent on each and everyone giving their best.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm by Shirley King. The next general meeting will be at 6:00 pm on 4/27/2009 at the **Pleasant Grove Branch of the Dallas Public Library**.

Minutes submitted by:

Joy Johnson

Approved by:

Dr. Shirley King