

Mayor South Dallas Task Force- Region 9

Task Force Meeting Minutes – January 29, 2009

Annotated Minutes

The meeting of the Area 9 Mayor South Dallas Task Force was called to order at 4:05 p.m. on January 29, 2009 at Dallas City Hall, 500 Marilla, Cafeteria South; by Jim Slaughter, Chair.

Task Force Members Present: Jim Slaughter, Liz Head (V. Chair), Joe Atkins, Rev. Gerald Britt, Lucile Dade, Robert Edison, Eva Jones, Neil Kirchhofer, Dr. Paul McCarthy, James Mitchell, John Radovich, Clay Wallace, Telemachus Evans, Clark Dorcy, and Jerry Gonzales, Jr.

Guests Present: None

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: N/A

Introductions: Jim Slaughter, Chair welcomed the task force members to the first full meeting of the Area 9 Task Force, and reviewed the agenda and overall objectives of the first meeting. Each member present would be asked their opinion of the strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats (SWOT's) of the Area 9 defined boundaries. Afterwards, members present would be asked to join one of the following task force subcommittee, based on their primary interest: 1) Housing, Infrastructure, Quality of Life, 2)Economic Development, 3) Crime and Safety, 4) Health, 5) Education and Youth, and 6) Planning, Zoning, and Code Enforcement.

Discussion: Members went around the table and expressed their SWOT's of the area. The Vice Chair, Ms. Head was putting their opinions on the flip chart. Listed below is a summary of the SWOT's discussed at the meeting:

Strengths

- Proximity to Fair Park Complex
- Proximity to Down town area
- Vacant developable land
- Dart Accessibility
- Historic Significance
- City View
- Education Initiatives in certain areas
- Current Task Force Initiative

Weaknesses

- Lack of job opportunities in the area
- Appalling lack of local imagination and effort
- Crime (Real or Perceived)
- Lack of pride and motivation of residents
- Lack of adequate housing
- Drug trafficking
- Homeless population and lack of services
- Cleanliness of area (looks dirty)

Opportunities

- Cultural improvements
- Trinity River Project proximity
- Self Sufficiency
- Role Models
- Empowering of neighborhoods
- Educate the youth and elderly
- Dart Transit opportunities
- Elimination of elements that attract nonproductive people
- Introduce elements that attract productive people
- City's priority on drug houses and homeless
- Current task force projects (once conceived and developed)

Threats

- Homeless Population and Needs
- Lack of imagination
- City's governmental requirements
- Security for the area
- Lack of role models
- Crime against property in the area
- Lack of community involvement

- Complacency of residents
- Area proximity to Downtown development
- Current Development efforts threats to existing residents

Subcommittee Assignment: Discussion was held on what subcommittees need to be established. Due to time allotments, the assignment of all members to subcommittees was postponed to the next meeting. Members were asked to sign their name to the subcommittee they would like to serve on. Listed below is the progress made on subcommittee assignment, at this meeting:

<u>Subcommittee</u>	<u>Members</u>
1. Housing and Homeless	Rev. Gerald Britt, Joe Atkins
2. Economic Development/Planning/Zoning	
3. Crime/Safety/Code Enforcement	
4. Education/Youth/Culture	Lucile Dade, Robert Edison
5. Health	

Wrap-Up/Adjourn: The members voted to have another meeting in two weeks, at the same time and location. Thus, the next meeting of the full committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 12th, 4:00 p.m. at City Hall, Cafeteria South. The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m., by the Chair.