



MINUTES  
CITIZEN BOND COMMITTEE  
RECREATION CENTER  
FARMERS BRANCH MANSKE LIBRARY  
FARMERS BRANCH, TEXAS 75234  
APRIL 28, 2016  
7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Chairperson Michelle Holmes, Tamara Cleghorn, Bronson Blackson, Colin Eddy, David Merritt, John Speed, Michael Driskill, Martina De Los Santos, Marcus Miller, Meredith MacLeod, Joan O'Shea, Nic Rady, Vincent Montenegro, James Webb, Tim Yarbrough

**Members Absent:** Rodger Cramer, Jorge Gonzalez

**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 7:05 p.m. Ms. Holmes announced the Communications Subcommittee meeting scheduled for May 9, 2016 is moved to Monday, May 23, 2016. She invited the Committee members interested in serving on Farmers Branch community boards to attend the City's Recruiting Event May 10, 2016, 6 pm at City Hall.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Motion made by Bronson Blackson to approve the minutes with corrections from the March 31, 2016 Citizen Bond Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Nic Rady. *Motion approved unanimously.*

**3. DISCUSS PROJECT/PROPOSAL EVALUATION BENCHMARKS**

The committee decided to table discussion of benchmarks until the next meeting after reviewing the progress of the sub-committees.

**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**

Nic Rady reported from the Residential Economic Development sub-committee providing a project outline for data collection and ideas that could be adapted by other sub-committees as well as the larger bond committee to enhance discussion, evaluate benchmarks and provide more benchmark details for the project matrix discussed at the previous meeting.

Marcus Miller reported from the Commercial Economic Development sub-committee including a slide presentation and provided an Excel matrix covering the common benchmarks of the Station Area and surrounding business complexes as well as multi-family housing redevelopment issues. He stated that the sub-committee had narrowed down their list of redevelopment concerns to six areas: the two fore-mentioned areas, Four Corners, Warehouse district, Small business incubator, Valwood/Josey area.

David Merritt reported from the Parks and Recreation sub-committee that they categorized projects as possible bond proposals or to be funded through Certificates of Obligation. The sub-committee reviewed the Master Plan, Farmers Market and realized many projects overlap with other sub-committees requiring collaboration. Mr. Merritt said the sub-committee plans to present a project matrix at the next meeting, focusing on the nature preserve master plan.

Louise Henning reported that the Arts and Culture sub-committee discussed an arts concept woven into the economic development plans throughout the City including markers at City portals, an arts district to include The Firehouse Theatre, a Station area cultural center, park events, the library and animal adoption from the City's no-kill shelter. Ms. Henning stated the library receives 130,000 visitors annually commensurate with the state average but space is needed for technology training and meeting space. The current animal shelter is over-capacity holding 60-80 strays/month and seeking a possible staging area for socializing dogs before adoption. Ms. Henning reported any economic benefit from arts would require a cost outlay in the beginning.

Meredith MacLeod reported from the Public Safety sub-committee and confirmed that the Justice Center can meet future growth needs and has sufficient funds at \$2.6 million to be approved by the City Council at the next Council meeting, therefore no consideration is needed for a bond proposal. Ms. MacLeod also confirmed \$3.5 million is needed for a new Fire Station #2 and reported a need for security cameras and call boxes as part of the master trails plan.

The Committee agreed to finish all sub-committee meetings by August 1, 2016, complete reports by September 15, 2016, wrap up with City Staff, and have a formal bond proposal to be presented to the City Council November 1, 2016 for a May, 2017 election. The Committee determined to include all projects for presentation to Council in tiered options allowing further consideration after the May 2017 bond election in order to keep priorities in front of Council. Chairperson Holmes recommended all sub-committees to submit three or four ideas to the Communications sub-committee to post in the monthly newsletter to residents starting in May 2016. Committee members were charged with creating public support for bond proposal ideas through friends, neighbors, churches, community centers and generating public input by asking the question "What do you think we need as a community?" Ms. Eikenberry agreed to consult with acting city manager Charles Cox about hosting a public information meeting in June or July.

Colin Eddy proposed adding a Sustainability Committee to discuss a plan whereby the City would purchase and install solar panels up to a certain amount for residential homes for free. Mr. Eddy proposed an increase in property value, job creation through installation and

conservation. The idea was rejected because the City cannot use public funds for private property use.

**SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next Committee meeting is May 26, 2016, location to be determined.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn was made by Nic Rady. Motion seconded by Bronson Blackson. *Motion approved unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

  
Chair

Attest:  
  
Secretary