

Quality of Life Council Committee

Meeting Record

(DRAFT)

Meeting Date: 2-22-2010

Convened: 12:01 p.m.

Adjourned: 1:58 p.m.

Pauline Medrano, Chair
Vonciel Jones Hill, Vice-Chair
Sheffie Kadane
Dave Neumann
Steve Salazar
Carolyn R. Davis
Angela Hunt

Briefing Presenters:

- Daniel Huerta, Executive General Manager of Fair Park
- Mitchell Glieber, Senior Vice President of Sponsorships/Exhibits with the State Fair of Texas
- James Childers, Assistant Director of Code Compliance

Special Guests:

Craig Holcomb, Executive Director of Friends of Fair Park

AGENDA:

1. **Approval of February 8, 2010 minutes**

Presenter(s):

Information Only: _____

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Motion to approve the February 8, 2010 minutes.

Motion made by: Vonciel Jones Hill

Item passed unanimously: X

Item failed unanimously: _____

Motion seconded by: Carolyn R. Davis

Item passed on a divided vote: _____

Item failed on a divided vote: _____

2. **Fair Park, TX One Fun Thing Leads to Another**

Presenter(s): Daniel Huerta & Mitchell Glieber

Information Only: X

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

The purpose of the briefing was to present different projects and events going on at Fair Park. The Texas Skyway has eight person gondolas that seat approximately 5,000 people per hour and is open during the State Fair of Texas and Park special events. The Cottonbowl renovation and expansion added media/conference centers, expanded seating capacity to 92,158, expanded team locker rooms and added concessions, restrooms, concourses and signage. The Dart Light Rail increased visitors to Fair Park by connecting to downtown, the I-75 corridor and the metroplex. The Texas Discovery Gardens has a world class Rosine Smith Sammons Butterfly House and Insectarium and is the only year round butterfly house in the DFW area. The Esplanade Fountain of Lights is a choreographed light, water and music show that is a re-creation of the Contralto and Countertenor sculpture. The Parry Avenue entrance is DART's Fair Park station that is a recreated historic main gate. The Hall of State restoration replaced mechanical systems, fire and electrical, as well as a partial part of the floor slab in the basement. The Top of Texas Centennial Tower is projected to open in Fall 2011 and will hold the Kavanaugh collection of

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1963 Texas Centennial memorabilia. The Summer Place Park is scheduled to open in summer 2012 with 30 amusement rides, shows and attractions, air conditioned suites with internet access, cool pools and job opportunities. The Children's Aquarium at Fair Park has had \$8 million of renovations including the Sting Ray Bay exhibit.

Events and programming for Fair Park include: Fair Park Holiday Lights, Cirque Du Soleil, Dog Bowl, State Fair of Texas, Kwanza Fest, Mardi Gras Texas Style, North Texas Irish Festival, Fair Park Fourth, City Arts, Cinco de Mayo, football games, and sporting events

Motion made by:

Item passed unanimously:

Item failed unanimously:

Motion seconded by:

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

3. Bexar Street Corridor Quality of Life Initiative

Presenter(s): James Childers

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

The purpose of the briefing was to provide an overview on the City of Dallas' major investment in the Bexar Street Corridor and the planned Quality of Life Initiative to help the sustainability of the project. This is being implemented under the Housing and Community Services Department's South Dallas Ideal/Rochester Park Neighborhood Investment Program target area. Redevelopment efforts include: new infrastructure and pedestrian amenities, residential and mixed-use office/retail development, home repairs, housing development, street improvements, and targeted code enforcement within the neighborhoods.

Phase I includes the neighborhood located north of CF Hawn Freeway and Phase II includes the Rochester Park Neighborhood located south of CF Hawn Freeway. Currently, the streetscape improvements are 99% complete, Phase I is complete with eight units (7 out of the 8 have been sold and filled), Phase II construction is expected to start in spring 2010 with seven additional units, and Phase III and IV will start shortly after completion of Phase II with 16 units constructed.

Building A and B will be mixed-use office/retail spaces with nine rental units on the second floor, construction is expected to start in the spring of 2010. Building C will be the Bexar Street Police Satellite Station, negotiations are still taking place for a developer and the construction start date. Building D and E will be mixed-use office/retail spaces as well, construction start date will be determined in the future. Building F will be a renovated grocery store expected to start renovation in the winter of 2010. Senior housing will also be included. To date, the City has committed approximately \$10.8 million to the redevelopment.

Numerous City Departments have collaborated to implement specific projects and initiatives. Dallas Police Department and Code Compliance play a critical role. The area of South Dallas that surrounds Bexar Street has high crime and blight that can threaten the long-term

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sustainability of the development project. The increased police presence should help mitigate any theft from the construction sites. Since January 2010, DPD has worked on addressing the sale of narcotics on Garden Drive and adjacent streets. DPD has also engaged property owners to fill out criminal trespass affidavits to make it easier to remove people from loitering on private property. Code Compliance has also performed extensive work to address code issues such as securing vacant structures, performing heavy cleans on vacant lots, and placing fencing behind vacant properties to help lessen the amount of pedestrian traffic. Additionally, DPD and Code are coordinating the placement of “red tags” on applicable properties to facilitate removal of people loitering on substandard properties. Code and Housing are assisting the CHDO’s in providing infill housing. The Service Area Coordinator is promoting the formation of more formal neighborhood associations and increased participation by key stakeholders in the neighborhood. The South Dallas Community Prosecutor is also helping facilitate voluntary compliance from Code violators and entering into civil litigation when necessary.

Motion made by:

Item passed unanimously:

Item failed unanimously:

Motion seconded by:

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Pauline Medrano, Chair
Quality of Life Committee