

Quality of Life Council Committee

Meeting Record (DRAFT)

Meeting Date: 9-14-2010

Convened: 12:02 p.m.

Adjourned: 1:52 p.m.

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

Briefing Presenter(s):

- Jerry Killingsworth, Director
Housing & Community Services
- Mike Faenza, President & CEO of
MDHA,
- John Castle, Chairman of MDHA
- Jay Dunn, Managing Director of
The Bridge
- Theresa O'Donnell, Director of
Sustainable Development &
Construction
- Peer Chacko, Assistant Director of
Sustainable Development &
Construction

Special Guests:

MDHA members, Dan Millet, Mike Cramer with Down Town Dallas,
Gerry Worrell and Bob Weiss of the Garland Road Vision Advisory Committee,
Mark Bowers, Lead consultant HOK Planning Group,
Gary Griffith, former City Councilmember, District 9

AGENDA:

1. **Approval of August 10, 2010 minutes**

Presenter(s):

Information Only: _____

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Motion to approve the August 10, 2010 minutes.

Motion made by: Vonciel Jones Hill

Item passed unanimously: __X__

Item failed unanimously: _____

Motion seconded by: Sheffie Kadane

Item passed on a divided vote: _____

Item failed on a divided vote: _____

2. **The Bridge – Dallas' Way Back Home**

Presenter(s): Jerry Killingsworth, John Castle, Mike Faenza & Jay Dunn

Information Only: __X__

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

Quality of Life Council Committee

Meeting Record

(DRAFT)

The purpose of the briefing was to provide a brief history of The Bridge, goals and strategies, partnerships and outcomes, workload, finances, challenges, risks and opportunities for council support.

From 2004 to 2008 the council approved a plan to end chronic homelessness, voters approved a bond proposal to purchase land and construct the Bridge, council designated MDHA as the authority on homelessness, and council established a contract with MDHA to further develop the center plan, start up operation and manage the campus.

The Bridge goals and strategies have been to establish a 24/365 central entry point for homeless, increase Dallas' shelter capacity for chronically and long term homeless, provide health and human services through co-located agencies, prepare homeless individuals for housing, employment and assimilation into the community. Thus far, the crime adjacent to the Bridge has decreased as well as incarcerations and psychiatric emergency visits and hospitalizations. The number of jobs and success in supportive housing placements has increased along with participation in health and mental health-substance abuse services.

Day services are provided for approximately 1,400 people per day which includes: computer lab, educational/recreational activities, kennel, laundry, library, mail, meals, hygiene and storage. 1,600 meals per day are provided through a contract with StewPot-First Presbyterian Church and on-sight and off-sight night shelters are provided for more than 1,200 people per night.

Challenges and risks that are faced include poverty and unemployment, funding strategy for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, support and strategy for supportive housing, sustaining government funding, and sustaining private sector funding. Reinforcing the success of MDHA and the Bridge, supporting efforts to raise and contribute funds for The Bridge, and getting volunteers to support the Bridge are all opportunities that council leadership can support to develop and deliver positive messages.

3. Garland Road Corridor Vision Study

Presenter(s): Theresa O'Donnell & Peer Chacko

Information Only: X

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

The purpose of the briefing was to provide a background of the Garland Road Vision, project focus, goals and objectives, public events and emerging study vision.

The Garland Road Vision Advisory Committee ("GRV") was formed in 2006 made up of individuals who represent neighborhoods and individual stakeholders who abut Garland Road in the designated stretch. The GRV has been the beneficiary of a Sustainable Development Program grant from the North Texas Council of Governments in the amount of \$120,000. The required \$30,000 match was raised by donations from GRV area individuals, companies, and neighborhood associations. A team led by the HOK Planning Group was hired to conduct the planning process and develop the plan.

Quality of Life Council Committee

Meeting Record

(DRAFT)

The corridor focus is from IH-635, to Gaston and East Grand Avenue as it is identified as a multi-modal corridor gateway to the city. A multi-modal corridor facilitates a mixture of transportation choices, including consideration of light rail, streetcars and bus options (express buses, bus rapid transit). The GRV study focuses include: context sensitive design in this case beautification within the right of way of Garland Road, future circulation vision of a multi-modal approach that will consider the pedestrian, cyclists, transit and alternatives to automobile, and land use as well as economic development.

The Garland Road Vision goals and objectives are to enhance operational function and aesthetic character, establish an avenue of accessibility and attractive utility, encourage resident and stakeholder participation in the vision process, achieve a vision based upon the consensus of the communities, and to identify specific implementation projects that will guide the City of Dallas' future bond program projects and private development.

In the year of 2009, two public events took place in the month of October and November. A GRV Community Open House in October focused on introducing the GRV planning project and HOK consulting team area residents and business owners. At the November workshop and public meeting, draft conceptual designs, as well as a listing of initially-known area concerns and issues, were discussed presented to garner initial community feedback. Starting in late March, 2010, there were two open houses held allowing the public to review the Garland Road Vision study progress to-date. Emerging vision of the GRV includes: places, views, or activities that are most distinctive, important to emphasize, and most important to change or diminish, changes that would do the most to encourage people to walk or bike, transportation improvements, and enhancements along the Garland Road corridor.

Next step is currently underway HOK Consulting Team will develop a final Garland Road Vision study draft document for City Plan Commission review and action. November 8th Transportation and Environment Committee presentation, December, 2010 (tentative) City plan commission, and on January, 2011 (tentative) the Dallas City Council. For more information about the Garland Road Vision, you may visit the website at www.garlandroadvision.org.

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