

NORTH FORT WORTH ALLIANCE
Minutes of Meeting, 9:00 a.m., August 16, 2014
Villages of Woodland Springs Amenity Center

President Rusty Fuller called the meeting to order at 9:12 am. A quorum for the meeting was met with 27 neighborhoods represented. A total of 74 people were in attendance. President Fuller explained the comment card process and encouraged everyone who had a question to submit it.

The following special guests were recognized:

Scott Stier from Representative Matt Krause's office
Charles Edmonds, City of Fort Worth Zoning Commission
Richard Schiller, Tarrant County Precinct 3
Bryan Barth, TXDOT Fort Worth District Engineer
Russell Laughlin, I-35 Coalition
Danny Scarth, Fort Worth City Councilman
Dennis Shingleton, Fort Worth City Councilman
Doug Wiersig, Director of TPW, City of Fort Worth

Bryan Barth presented an outline of TXDOT projects including the status of each project and whether or not each project was funded. A copy of this presentation is available on the website.

President Fuller introduced Russell Laughlin from Hillwood Properties who represents the I-35 Coalition. (The North Fort Worth Alliance has been represented at the I-35 Coalition since its founding in 2006.) Mr. Laughlin gave a brief history of the I-35 Coalition which was started 17 years ago for the purpose of securing funding for transportation by utilizing government and business partnerships. He stated that for every dollar a business spends on transportation there is a 20 fold return as development produces sales tax and property tax. Currently, there are over 100 businesses and economic relationships that are a part of the I-35 Coalition working on transportation issues. When TXDOT and the feds spent \$140 million in the Alliance area, it lead to \$8.1 billion in business investment.

A major transportation issue is how to get money, how to finance major infrastructure projects. The federal government is out of money, the state is out of money, the local government is out of money. The last time the gasoline tax was raised was in 1993, and no increase is now possible. A primary principle in financing road projects has to be if you drive the highway, you pay for the improvement. Political leadership must make this happen.

On the November 4 ballot, the passage of Proposition 1 will provide transportation with \$1.8 billion. "Move Texas Forward" is working to move funds from the "rainy day" fund to transportation. He asked all of us who are concerned with transportation to put our names on this action.

Comments from Councilmen Danny Scarth and Dennis Shingleton included the suggestion that concerned residents need to "put pressure" on their state representatives by indicating to them that "transportation dollars are important to us." A great deal of state and federal money is/will becoming available for transportation, and it is important that this area is granted as much of this money as possible. Further, out of the City of Fort Worth 2014 bond issue for \$292 million which was passed last spring, \$212 million of it is for transportation needs.

Further comments from Councilmen Scarth and Shingleton included that the City of Fort Worth is now operating on a rolling five year budget plan, and currently is in a good position from a cash flow standpoint. Therefore, a major change has occurred in that bonds will be sold in the market after each project is completed. The financing of projects will be done with current funds which will generate additional financial capacity for projects. Also, money will now be spent in the appropriate time frame.

Doug Wiersig was introduced and gave a summary of projects primarily on the north side of Fort Worth. He then answered numerous questions from the attendees and stayed after the meeting was adjourned to answer specific concerns from the attendees.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Gansser, Secretary