

NORTH FORT WORTH ALLIANCE  
Minutes of Meeting, 9:00 a.m., September 19, 2015  
Villages of Woodland Springs Amenity Center

President Rusty Fuller called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. A quorum for the meeting was met with 14 neighborhoods represented. A total of 29 people were in attendance. The following special guests were recognized:

Cary Moon, Councilman for District 4  
Charles Edmonds, City of Fort Worth Zoning Commission

President Fuller introduced Sergeant S.R. Lacroix from the City of Fort Worth Police Department, Narcotics Division. Sergeant Lacroix gave an overview of the challenges facing the Narcotics Division and showed a video which showed some of its activities. The scope of the department includes anywhere in Tarrant and the Metroplex – in other words, if it touches Fort Worth, they investigate it. There are three teams in this area, with approximately 25 narcotics officers in Fort Worth, 4 or 5 in the DEA, and 8 or 9 in drug enforcement from other entities.

He then highlighted some facts and statistics concerning drug enforcement in this area including:

- Vice and Narcotics work together as they tend to be linked in most instances.
- Drug usage brings in other types of crime as users turn to theft, prostitution, etc., to support their habit.
- The large majority of violent crime, approximately 85 percent, is drug-related.
- All drug trafficking is money/profit based - dealers will sell to anyone regardless of culture.
- There are primarily four drug cartels which operate in this area, but there are hundreds in Mexico.
- The Mexican drug cartels make an average of \$100 million per day.
- Most drugs come into the United States from Mexico and travel up the I-35 corridor, right through the Dallas/Fort Worth area.
- Texas is the major starting point for drugs being distributed throughout the United States.
- These drugs come in loaded, hidden, in semi-trucks.
- In far north Fort Worth, the drug use is most commonly marijuana and prescription drugs which are most commonly stolen from the medicine cabinets of parents, relatives, etc .
- Sixty percent of these drugs are sold, kept and/or used at school.
- Last year in the USA, there were 1,900,000 drug-related admissions to emergency rooms.
- Marijuana is considered a “gateway” drug, which gets people comfortable with buying illegal substances.
- The average age when drug consumption begins is 12.5 years of age.
- Synthetic drugs are the hardest to catch/prosecute because it takes an act of the legislature, which meets only every two years, to make them illegal. The drug makers just change one ingredient in their formula, and it becomes legal again until the legislature acts.

President Fuller thanked Sergeant Lacroix for his very informative presentation. He restated the fact that we are the eyes and ears for Drug Enforcement in our respective neighborhoods. He encouraged everyone to watch and report suspicious activities to the non-emergency police number. This information will be passed on to Drug Enforcement. The non-emergency number is (817) 335-4222.

President Fuller then introduced Ms. Andria Ellis from Fort Worth Code Compliance Department, Consumer Health Division. Ms. Ellis spoke about the breeding and life cycle (7 to 10 days) of the mosquitoes that carry West Nile Virus. The first cases of West Nile Virus were reported in 1999. She reported that in 2012 Tarrant County had the highest number of cases reported at 85. West Nile Virus infections are cyclical and outbreaks spike every six years. As a result, one can get infected every five or six years. Approximately 19 percent of the population has already been infected, but only one percent actually develops severe symptoms.

Mosquitos lay huge amounts of eggs in stagnant, dirty water, and require as little as a bottle cap of water to breed. Education and prevention are the major “cures,” and are much more effective than spraying. Ms. Ellis encouraged everyone to check their property and general area for possible areas where mosquitoes might breed. She encouraged everyone to take some of the “Mosquito Dunks” home with them to use in breeding areas.

Ms. Ellis also reported that the City of Fort Worth Code Compliance can enter abandoned property without a warrant for health reasons. Swimming pools and other water features located on unoccupied property are major issues. Everyone is encouraged to call Code Compliance to report their concerns.

President Fuller announced that the next NFWA meeting will be on October 17. We will have as our special guest at this meeting a representative from the Texas Health Resources Alliance Hospital to give us an update on their progress since their opening approximately two years ago.

The Alliance meets ten months of each year with no meetings in November and December on the third Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Villages of Woodland Springs Amenity Center, 12209 Timberland Boulevard, Fort Worth. All residents in far north Fort Worth are invited to attend.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Gansser, Secretary