



City of Farmers Branch

Providence Towers - East
1st Floor Meeting Room
5001 Spring Valley Road
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Friday, January 30, 2015

9:00 AM

Providence Towers

City Council Retreat

A. CONVENE OPEN SESSION

Mayor Phelps called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Presiding: 1 - Mayor Bob Phelps

Present: 5 - Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Kirk Connally, Council Member Ben Robinson, Council Member Harold Froehlich, Council Member Ana Reyes and Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Fuller

B. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

B.1 **Welcome and retreat overview**

Mayor Phelps welcomed everyone in attendance and an brief retreat overview was presented.

B.2 **About Providence Towers**

Kim Brooks, from Transwestern, provided information on the Providence Towers building.

B.3 **Review financial information from 1st Quarter of Fiscal Year 2014-15**

Finance Director Charles Cox presented a review from last year and presented an update of the 1st Quarter of Fiscal Year 2014-15.

B.4 **Review 2014 Strategic Plan accomplishments and progress**

City Council reviewed accomplishments and future opportunities/continued efforts:

Accomplishments

Infrastructure investment

Trails

Economic development

Housing opportunities

Aquatic Center

West side development

Attention to Farmers Branch Creek

Dispatch Center

Future Opportunities/Continued Efforts

Moving to 4-year terms for City Council

Curbside recycling

More development on trails
Problem properties continue to get older
Move more quickly to re-develop the area North of Valley View

B.5 Discuss the new Strategic Plan

Management Analyst Shawna Eikenberry presented the 2015 Strategic Plan. Each Guiding Principle was discussed and the order of proposed Guiding Principle #10 was moved up to #1. Guiding Principle #4 was revised to include trails.

B.6 Discuss Policy Priorities for the coming year

Priorities discussed for the coming year included:
Historical Park Welcome Center
Library building
Continuation of infrastructure projects
Promoting the Aquatic Center
Review of the Ethics Policy
Animal Shelter expansion
Mitigate health and workers comp expenses with the new clinic

B.7 Discuss Capital Improvement Project Planning process

Discussion of Capital Improvement Projects included:
Historical Park Welcome Center
Fallen Soldiers Museum (possibly combined with Historical Park Welcome Center)
Fire House Theatre
Residential development
Options for an apartment property deal
Expansion of trails

The general consensus of the City Council was to take on up to \$3.5 million in debt from the Hotel/Motel Fund toward a Welcome Center and see how much that level of investment would allow. Council also voiced their desire to potentially include involvement with other organizations on this project.

B.8 Discuss and take action regarding future Capital Improvement Projects or Council Projects

Discussion of future projects included:
Redevelop warehouse and apartments on the East side
Rezoning of I-635 land
Technical aspects of providing services (update our equipment and technology)
Continue to invest in infrastructure projects, Creek, and trail projects

The general consensus of the City Council was to offer recycling to residents.

B.9 Reference Materials

There was no discussion on this item.

C. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Bob Phelps, Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela Kelly, City Secretary