

Military Transformation Task Force
(in Coordination with the City of San Antonio)

**Fort Sam Neighborhoods
Community Visioning Session Report**

Held
Wednesday, April 30, 2008
6:16 p.m. – 8:20 p.m.
Community Center, St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1018 East Grayson Street

Fort Sam Houston Neighborhoods Community Visioning Session Report

PARTICIPANTS

Participants Representing Surrounding Neighborhood Interests:

Marianna Lujan	Richard Alcoser	Catherine Schneider
Stella Ashley	Dianne Green	Meggan Partain
Wilfred Brassard	Mark Browne	Diane Smilgin
Marie Stout	Adena Williams-Loston	John Alcoces
Cora Johns	Michael Peterson	Marianne Kestenbaum
Rev. Doug Earle	Jody Sherrill	Maria Wharton
Suzy Bettac	Rebecca Waldman	Edith Melendez
Richard Moore	Florence Alcoser	Betsy Pollock
Howard Peak	Beatrice Cortez	Kristen Pelsor

Observers:

There were 21 session observers from City of San Antonio, Bexar County, Fort Sam Houston, and The DiLuzio Group (project consultants)

Visioning Session Facilitator: Bob Ashcroft

COMMUNITY BUILDING IDEAS

Carefully consider your neighborhood and all of the neighborhoods near Fort Sam Houston.

What creative, yet practical, ideas can you suggest for making these neighborhoods stronger?

Discussion Group Reports (6)

- Streets and sidewalk replacement
- Community center and park
- Existing housing rehab and funding

- Safety and code enforcement
 - personal and property
 - property upkeep
 - control absentee landlords
- Traffic/infrastructure
 - -sidewalks

- -lighting
 - -transportation – expand VIA
- Economic development
 - -re-branding
 - -businesses off base
 - -improve schools and workforce development
- Housing
 - zoning and enforcement consistent with character of neighborhood
 - improve housing stock through pride of ownership, affordable renovation assistance and aggressive use of green energy
- Traffic
 - adequate, efficient and effective public transportation
 - flow that connects neighborhoods
 - walkable neighborhoods
 - social and economic integration and interaction between neighborhoods and FSH
- Safety/crime
 - promote resident ownership
 - green space accessible to elderly and youth at sidewalk level
 - infrastructure – lighted and policed
- Master planned community containing:
 - well planned neighborhood with adequate affordable housing, recreational facilities, libraries, education venues (public and private; accessing K-20) and safety (include SAPD and community)
- Safety
 - well lighted streets
 - diverse housing stock
 - SAFE officer who is able to be responsive
 - traffic issues
 - rodent and feral animals
- Recreation
 - pocket parks/community green space
 - sidewalks/walking and biking paths
 - trees/vegetation
- Education
 - good schools
 - community involvement (two-way between community and schools)
 - adult opportunities
- Proper infrastructure
- Security
- Good schools
- Formal, active organization (neighborhood associations recognized by the City)
- Businesses in close proximity

Report themes/messages identified by the large group.

- Safety
- Infrastructure
- Housing
- Education
- Economic development
- Traffic

SUGGESTIONS FOR ACHIEVING COMMUNITY BUILDING IDEAS

Consider the list of ideas for building stronger neighborhoods. What suggestions do you have for the neighborhoods and the larger community to actually achieve those ideas by using or leveraging Fort Sam Houston's growth and expansion over the next several years?

Discussion Group Reports (6)

- Comprehensive area plan and rezoning
- Targeted area for community redevelopment plan
- Coalition group (reps from each neighborhood, city, schools and FSH; develop mission statement; meet monthly; and task with working on themes/messages - see above)
- Modify Historic Department policies
- Agencies formed to facilitate access to funding opportunities for affordable and green housing
- Lobby MPO to use more tax revenue for public transportation
- make parade ground at FSH along Grayson Street a community green space
- Fort Sam Houston Military Police patrol surrounding neighborhoods
- Create opportunity grants for neighborhood improvements to build and enhance existing infrastructure
- Request resources for enhancing neighborhood schools and channel monies to fund teacher certification programs
- Create partnership with City department managers (e.g., police, fire, EMS, code enforcement) in order to increase neighborhood support
- Money: FSH help city improve infrastructure by allocating money in areas adjoining post
- Community involvement: FSH listens to input via meetings, sounding boards, etc
- Guiding principle: keep in mind – would whatever you're doing you allow in the neighborhood/street where you live
- Spirit of co-operation, mutual respect and partnership (neighborhoods, FSH, community-at-large and government)

- Master planning (land use and zoning)
- Encourage infill, both housing and commercial
- Financial support, both public and private

Report themes/messages identified by large group.

- Cooperation among FSH, neighborhoods and City of San Antonio is important
- Funding

CLOSING COMMENTS: SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS

During closing comments, the following ideas/suggestions were offered.

- Develop and use a project map (e.g., showing location of projects on FSH, etc.)
- It is important to directly involve neighborhood association reps in the process
- Add to the list of neighborhoods near Fort Sam Houston the following:
 - Belle Mead
 - Terrell Hills
 - Alamo Heights
 - Tobin Hill
 - Wilshire Terrace and Wilshire Village
 - Holbrook Road Neighborhood, and
 - Others shown on the aerial photograph/map in the session information packet