

Roakes, Raymond A. - PDR

From: Ford, Travis M. - Fire
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2023 3:20 PM
To: Roakes, Raymond A. - PDR
Subject: UDC Committee

Fire Department response to some of the action items for UDC consideration:

How this site was selected:

In December 2020 I started looking into why the training facility was located outside the city. I started reviewing a list of 924 city owned properties and eventually selected 20 to ride by, look over, and ask questions about. During this time, I also reached out and met with the Virginia Port Authority in October 2021. In November 2021 I met with Phillip Morris about property that was currently vacant and unused. In December 2021, I shared and discussed all of the properties with the fire department Executive Team. After several discussions, the list was narrowed down to five for further consideration. Hickory Hill Community Center was chosen as the most viable and workable option after several walk troughs with Recreation and Park Director Chris Freilke and his Executive Team. Based on the city's future plans and the fire department's needs, this site allows the city agencies to be the best stewards of city resources.

The following properties were under consideration: 4200 Deepwater Terminal Road, 4400 Deepwater Terminal Road, 5000 Deepwater Terminal Road, 2728 Hermitage, 3401 East Belt Boulevard, 2900 Maury Street, 3060 Maury Street, 2100 Whitcomb Street, 3800 East Richmond Road, 500 Forest Lawn Road, and 2032 Jennie Scher Road to name a few.

How often will the training facility be used:

As an actual burn building, using straw and wood, up to six days a year based on fire recruit training. Using the fire training facility for conducting basic practical drill scenarios, is dependent upon the type of required federal, state, and Insurance Services Office requirements for that particular year. The Training Academy operates from Monday through Friday 7 AM till 5 PM. Although some weekends are required in order to meet the amount of mandated training.

Community outreach:

Chief Carter attended the Cherry Gardens, Cullenwood Civic Association, and Deebourne Civic Association on December 1, 2022 to discuss the proposal. Fire companies canvassed all three neighborhoods and handed out/placed flyers December 3rd and 4th. The following week, Decemebr 8th, Chief Carter and I attended the Southside District meeting to also discuss the project with other Southside residents.

Follow-up Community outreach:

We tried reaching out to the Southside Joint Civic Association Team who addressed a letter December 5th to the UDC committee. However, there is no Southside Joint Association Team. Three individuals signed the letter and only, Mechelle Esparza, actually lives in the community. LaToya Gray-Sparks also sent a letter on December 9th. She does not live in either one of the neighborhoods either. Neither Forestry nor Sustainability are aware of any requirements for the urban wildlife sanctuary site outlined in the letter.

The fire department did send out an email to the Deebourne Civic Association president, Cherry Gardens president, and Cullenwood Civic Association president about attending their next community meeting to answer any specific questions about the fire training facility.

The fire department also reached out to the Eight District about attending the next District wide meeting. We were told that that meeting will not occur until April.

Travis