

The Forest of Friendswood Homeowners Association
Safety & Security Committee
Strategic Plan and Key Tasks
(Created 15 Oct 07; updated 16 Jan 08)

1. The Forest at Friendswood Safety and Security Committee held their first two meetings on October 3rd and 17th at the Friendswood Public Library. Committee members include:

Phil Bossert (281) 996-1019 (bossertpab@aol.com)
David Randall
Nancy Farries
Bob Hein
Dave Folts

2. During these meetings:

- There was a consensus on the safety and security issues we face listed in “situation” below, and all agreed that there is a direct relationship between high levels of safety and security, quality of life, and rising property values.
- The association is only 7 years old, and the average time a member of our committee has lived in FoF is 4 years. All members were very familiar with the challenges our neighborhood faces, especially as Friendswood grows.
- Members agreed that this is a good time to restart this committee, and we have an opportunity to make a very positive difference for all 642 families in FoF.

3. We created the following strategic plan for our committee:

- Mission Statement: to recommend policies and specific actions to the Forest of Friendswood Homeowners Association Board that will ensure the safest and most secure environment for all residents.
- Current Situation: the following problems have existed since the association was established and, if not mitigated, will lead to additional problems including a deterioration in the quality of life and declining property values:
 - Continued violation of motor vehicle laws, especially regarding minors driving golf carts, parking in the streets, use of motorized vehicles on the hike and bike trails, speeding, and running of stop signs
 - There has been minor vandalism
 - Some dog owners are not cleaning up after their pets while walking in the neighborhood and some are letting their pets run off-leash in public/common areas.
 - Lingering safety issues from the developer including live utility outlets in common areas.

- The new street access through the Northfield Estates has increased traffic in nearby streets.
- Many joggers, walkers, and cyclists need to follow basic safety precautions including using reflective clothing and lights at night and using the correct side of the street.
- There are areas that may need additional public lighting, but affected homeowners must be consulted before plans for new lighting are made
- There is hazardous wildlife, including snakes and coyotes (which have attacked small dogs and cats). In addition, a FoF resident was killed by domestic dogs earlier this year.
- In 2003 the FoF community experienced several house invasions and car break-ins. In July 07 a home was broken into, but the alarm prevented any theft. Cars left unlocked continue to be burglarized.
- We should get more information to all homeowners regarding natural disasters, especially preparation for hurricanes, tornadoes, and flooding.
- Life Flight helicopters have made 11 landings in FoF since 2000, and have made some landings in areas with minimal clearance.

Various solutions to these problems have been implemented in the past year including letters to all homeowners, postings on the association web site, increased engagement by the Friendswood police, and discussions at the monthly homeowners meetings.

These problems continue to exist despite previous mitigation efforts.

- Goals and Objectives:
 - Goal 1: To improve the safety of our neighborhood
 - Objective 1: Host two meetings annually for all homeowners with the following guest speakers: a fireman, representatives from the Friendswood public works and animal control departments, and the county sheriff to discuss disaster preparation
 - Objective 2: Mail four safety and security updates to all residents annually with updates on any problems and proposed solutions
 - Objective 3: Develop a method to quickly notify all residents of urgent safety and security concerns, such as posting a “Security Alert” sign by the gazebo and placing specific info on the association web site.
 - Objective 4: Determine the best way of ensuring that dog owners clean up after their pets and keep them on leashes
 - Objective 5: Continue working with the Friendswood Police to report traffic vehicle violations
 - Objective 6: Conduct periodic safety inspections of the association common areas and make recommendations to the board
 - Objective 7: Work with the Friendswood Fire Department and Life Flight to conduct site surveys for 2-4 helicopter landing zones

- Objective 8: Work with the Fire and Police Department to ensure all emergency vehicle drivers are familiar with the association's roads, especially cul-de-sacs
- Goal 2: To improve the security of our neighborhood
 - Objective 1: Include a Friendswood police officer and an alarm technician as guest speakers during the two annual meetings mentioned above
 - Objective 2: Revitalize the neighborhood watch committee and distribute information to all homeowners on a regular basis
 - Objective 3: Register as many homeowners' e-mail addresses as possible with the management company in order to speed notification of any crime problems
 - Monitor the Friendswood Police Department website in order to track and publicize local crime trends to residents
 - Objective 4: Assist the Friendswood Police Department in identifying and resolving criminal issues
 - Ensure residents have access to the sex offender web site
 - Objective 5: Conduct periodic security assessments of the association
 - Objective 6: Develop a plan to monitor vacant homes to ensure they are not vandalized
- Goal 3: Publicize the direct relationship between enhanced neighborhood safety and security with high quality of life and rising property values
 - Objective 1: During the two annual meetings mentioned in Goals 1 & 2 above, include a real estate professional, economic forecaster, and a Friendswood City Council member to discuss the economic outlook for Friendswood and the Gulf Region
 - Objective 2: Ensure all real estate professionals buying, selling, and managing property in our association are fully aware of our initiatives to enhance safety and security
 - Objective 3: Make the FoF HOA a model association regarding safety and security

4. Key tasks required to begin implementing this plan (Updated on 6 Jan 07):

	KEY TASK	COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER	SUSPENSE
1.	Present our final plan and key tasks for approval to board	Phil	12 Nov 07 Complete
2.	Attend monthly board meetings to provide SSC updates	Phil	Monthly
3.	Schedule periodic meetings of the SSC	Phil	Quarterly or as required
4.	Schedule and plan bi-annual homeowners meetings with key guest speakers (Feb: Police Chief, Animal Control, Neighborhood Watch)	Phil	April & Oct
5.	Write and distribute SSC e-newsletters to homeowners	Dave Folts	Quarterly
6.	Research a cost-effective rapid notification system to alert all residents of urgent safety & security issues	Dave Randall	Jan
7.	Create a SSC section to the FoF website	Dave Folts	Dec
8.	Develop options to encourage pet owners to leash and clean up after their dogs	Dave Folts (with the Landscaping Committee)	Jan
9.	Liaise with the FPD	Bob	Continuous
10.	Liaise with the FVFD	Bob	Continuous
11.	Liaise with the Friendswood Animal Control & City Council	Dave Randall/Phil	Continuous
12.	Create an association safety checklist and complete it periodically	Dave Folts	Dec
13.	Coordinate a site survey to determine 2-4 Life Flight Landing Zones	Bob	Dec
14.	Create an association security checklist and complete it periodically	Bob	Jan
15.	Revitalize the Neighborhood Watch Program	Nancy/Dave Randall	May
16.	Develop and implement a plan to monitor vacant homes	Nancy (with the Architectural Control Committee)	Jan
17.	Ensure all real estate professionals are aware of the FoF SSC efforts	Nancy	Dec
18.	Update the SSC plan annually	Phil	Oct

5. The Way Ahead:

- Secure the FoF HOA board's approval for this plan, way ahead, and specific tasks at the 5 November board meeting
- Publicize the final, board-approved mission statement, goals, objectives, way ahead, and key tasks on the association web site.
- Committee members begin implementing the assigned tasks
 - The committee will never obligate the FoF HOA for funding obligations without the board's written approval
- Plan the first of two annual meetings mentioned above for April and include a maximum of three guest speakers.
- The Safety and Security Committee reports at the monthly homeowners meetings on the status of the goals, objectives, and key tasks and recommends specific policy changes for the board's approval

RECOMMENDATION:

6. The FoF Safety & Security Committee recommends the FoF HOA board approve this strategic plan and key tasks.

V/r

Phil Bossert
Committee Chair

Cc:
All FoF SSC committee members
FoF HOA Board of Directors