

Observation Assessment #4

Date: 2/10-11/2021

Subject: Frisco City Council Winter Work Session 2022

Assessment:

For this week's assessment, I am writing over the 2022 Frisco City Winter Work Session. I was lucky enough to get the opportunity to sit in and observe the two-day meeting with my mentor Dr. Cooley. Twice a year the City of Frisco's city council members, department leads, and staff members gather together to give project updates, informational presentations, proposals, and city policy updates to city officials and leaders as well as civilian participants. This is what the winter work session was, these meetings happen once in the beginning of the year, the winter work session, and then another around June and July, which is the summer work session. Since these two meetings are so far apart and they touch on a series of different topics and projects they are very lengthy and jam-packed with agenda items and information. This session's agenda list already included over forty five items and ended up adding several more to address additional concerns brought up by council members and civilians. I was unfortunately unable to stay for the whole meeting on the first day but was able to make most of it, but for the second day I was able to meet for nearly the entire meeting. It was held at The Grove senior center in Frisco in The Commons Park.

To start out the meeting the meeting mediator set up some time to do a team building exercise for the members of the city council. This included them taking a personality quiz and then splitting off into groups based on their results of the quiz and writing out the things they want to see in Frisco by the end of 2022, and the things they are afraid of happening in Frisco. The biggest thing all city council members wanted to see was just more communication and cooperation between council, staff, and citizens and then the biggest fear the council had was finding a new city manager. The current city manager, George Purefoy announced that he would be retiring on July 1st 2022. Mr. Purefoy has been working for the city for thirty two years and has been the only city manager Frisco has ever known. He is a huge part of why Frisco has been able to grow so rapidly and be so successful so the council is really hunting down someone who they feel can live up the George Purefoy legacy.

Next up they covered municipal project updates which included the new PGA headquarters, UNT Frisco, the Fisd Performing Arts Center, the repercussions of the winter storm and more. Dr. Cooley presented the portion of the performing arts center and just provided a brief breakdown of the time like and budget for the project which is projected to last up to three and a half years. Next we discussed a highly contested topic which was making Frisco "pet friendly". This included public comment and a numbers breakdown of how police and animal control report, transport, and manage any lost pets or animals that are found in the city. Citizens believe that Frisco has a history of mismanaging and taking care of lost pets but Frisco actually has a decent track record. What citizens are tending to ask for is an ASPCA care facility within city limits that would be a holding place for any lost animals and would be able to alert

owners if their pets are found here. The only issue is that the city does not have enough of a pet problem to justify the millions of dollars in construction, zoning, and minting of the facility. One proposed solution to this is to open a facility between different cities like Plano, Mckenny, Frisco, Prosper, etc. which would allow each city to have access to its services as well as share the cost. The only issue wirth this is that it would strain the ASPCA facility's ability to successfully service all those different areas at the same time.

Next they talked in detail about downtown remodeling and the creation of new parks like the gigantic Grand Park and new main district. One of the most interesting things I learned about from the session was how Dr. Cooley's department is working to implement 5G poles throughout the city. It has been in the works since 2018 but was put on hold due to covid. Now the project is back on the rise. A lot of progress has been made with their implementation with dozens having been set up along Legacy and Lebanon, and the city is working with AT&T and T Mobile to set up another eighty-one poles by the end of 2022. The rest of the meeting was mostly basic and generic government minutia and details.

Overall I found the entire session really interesting and learned a lot about not only Dr. Cooley's job but a lot about the city of Frisco and how its council operates with its staff and departments.