Uptown Fort Worth Neighborhood Association

January 2026 Meeting Minutes

Setting Goals for 2026

January 7, 2026 - 6:00 P.M-7:00 P.M

FWBlack House- 1105 E Peach St.

1. **Call to Order**
   a. Introduction & Welcome New Neighbors
      i. **BOARD ACTION ITEM**: Approval of Minutes from December 2025 Meeting**(Missed to approve the minutes- Approve at the next meeting)**
      ii. Welcome to all & introductions to new residents/guests

2. **Presentations**
   i. Oscar Ortiz-Executive Director of Strategic Outreach & Educational Access Diocese for Fort Worth- Speaking on School of Choice New Voucher Program
      a. Main Question is "What is a TEFA?"
      b. "Who qualifies?"
         i. Criteria 1: school aged child. 5-21yrs
         ii. Criteria 2: US Citizen, Legal Resident, or US National
      c. "If we qualify, does that guarantee the money?"
         i. There's not enough money. That's where income comes in. disabilities -> low income -> middle income -> high income
         ii. State will use your social security to look up income. Takes 8 minutes to look up a child.
      d. Catholic schools charge 7-10k
      e. Vendor has to be approved for TEFA funds
      f. Application february, awards in april, can confirm school from April to July
      g. Transfers on July 1st, October 1st, then 2 in the spring
      h. 75,000 school children covered. How many children in the state?
         i. Public (2024–25): 5,544,255
         ii. Private (2023–24): ~286,624
         iii. Homeschool (2023–24): ~494,251 (conservative), or 500k–620k (broader estimate)
      i. Who is actually selecting the children?
      j. Funds do roll over. Some parents are planning to only use part of the funds and holding the rest of the funds for focus on high school
      k. What are private school programs for special education?
         i. Depends on the school
      l. Florida has had their program for 20-25 years now. You just apply and are guaranteed the money. They haven't seen families just leave the public school system.

3. **GOAL SETTING 2026-**What are the top priorities that we need accomplished for our residents and neighborhood in 2026. Top 5-10 Goals? Number by priority level based on resident input.
   a. Mail Issue: Mail shows mail is coming in an email but doesn't arrive until days later
   b. Stragglers walking in the neighborhood
   c. Getting ambassadors to come down more?
   d. PID for uptown?

i. Is a tax in the area that is used for the area. Most successful PIDs

e. Traders Oak Park tennis court light should have a timer so people turn it off
f. Neighborhood awards. Includes a lot of workshops. Any city entity is present. Good chance to bounce ideas off of other groups
g. Speeding on samuels
h. An app that can connect residents to each other
i. Having a website by the end of 2026
j. Fundraising

4. Committee & Board Reports

a. Liz Padilla
    i. Issue Tracker
        - Gate at pavilion apartments on samuels. Owners are [Home - Fort Worth Housing SolutionsFort Worth Housing Solutions]
        -
b. Omar Rosales
c. Khyla Jones Make sure to sign-in, provide your email and phone number for communications.
d. Andy Nold - not present
e. Tracey Marks- Safety Committee
f. Allen Cejka- not present
g. Dave Pannell- Real Estate Committee
h. Evan Escher- Infrastructure & Transportation- not present
i. Tim LaPoint- Business & Local Engagement Committee

5. Adjournment 7:00PM– Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 @ 6:00PM-7:00PM @ FWBlack House 1105 E Peach St.

6. New Residents in attendance-

a. Johnny and Mary Maldonado