

UTA Retirees Club

Meeting Minutes

<i>Next meeting:</i>	Tuesday, December 13, 2016, Carlisle Suite

Rita Thompson, President, explained that the money we collect is a volunteer donation which is used to buy scholarship bricks each year. The bricks are placed in front of the Library and College Park. She announced the next meeting will be a musical in the Carlisle Suite on December 13, 2016. She then introduced Harley Courtney, Program VP. Harley recognized the Program Committee members (Frank Gault, Larry Heath, and Julie Alexander) and thanked them for a fine job. Post cards were sent to all members with a list of the programs for the year. Harley then introduced our speaker Paul Geisel, Professor Emeritus from the School of Urban and Public Affairs

- **Program: Status of the Metroplex**

Paul opened his presentation by describing how he arrived at UTA. He mentioned several appointments in his career. At the University of Pittsburg he was a victim of the school's financial ruin where 700 people lost their jobs. He was offered a job in Canada where he worked on the Canadian war on poverty. In 1970, he was headed to the University of Chicago when he was asked to stop off in Dallas and visit UTA. He was offered the opportunity to help establish the Institute of Urban Studies (School of Urban and Public Affairs). He accepted the job and with Dr. Del Taebel rounded up 15 students to start their first class. The school is now known nationwide and offers numerous degree programs. One of his objectives was to know the area so he and his son spent many weekends riding bicycles through the streets of the Metroplex. This area has sustained enormous growth and we are suffering from misguided planning and an overcrowding of the infrastructures. His talk was peppered with annotations and statistics. 97% of new jobs are aimed at new population not the existing population and 70% of UTA graduates remain in the area whereas only 40% of other schools such as SMU find jobs here. He stated that UTA's student population could reach over 60,000 and he is proud of the diversity displayed at UTA. He explained that one of the most successful planning areas has been that of water for the region. He also stated that this area is economically strong and we should recognize the importance of the Hispanic and Asian communities because they have moved into the older housing and building spaces vacated by those groups that have migrated west. He said that the center of Arlington (downtown) should embrace ethnic restaurants which would draw more interest to the area. Paul answered questions such as why Arlington did not have mass transit which he thinks is not possible since there are no neighbor centers and money will be funneled to a new stadium.

- **In Closing**

Yvonne from HR stopped by to mention the new Medicare prescription part D that would replace the Blue Cross Blue Shield prescription plan now in place for seniors. New plan goes into effect in January 2017 and everyone will receive new cards and a packet in December.

submitted by Rosanne Minyard, secretary