

Minutes from the meeting of October 8, 2014 – Super Neighborhood 17

I. Call to Order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Announcements: Districts F & G, City:

A. District G Councilmember Representative, Mark Kirschke –

- City's budget and CIPs: The budget is not in good shape. Over the years it will probably get worse and cuts have to be made. The City is looking at the departments' core services to see where cuts can be made. If you want to have some input on the budget issues and cuts that should be made, write Councilmember Costello or go to City Hall when they are holding the core services meetings. Please see the "Core Services Workshop Schedule" posted on the SN's website to see when meetings are occurring. Some councilmembers are suggesting raising cap on tax assessments, so your input is important.

Councilmembers have access to \$1 million for use in their districts to improve services, etc. The money must be used for legitimate services that are not scheduled to be provided through CIP or otherwise. District G is considering using some of the funds for an HPD tact team to work overtime in addressing the panhandler issue. Councilmember Nguyen (District F) is looking at contributing funds to that as well because the districts are both dealing with the issue. District G is also looking at using the funds in the effort to help prune the trees and clean up the beds on the esplanades of Dairy Ashford between Whittington and Westheimer. Mulching this area (the only pending SNAP for District G) would not be effective unless this work is done.

- Neighborhood Matching Grants are still available. It is a program whereby the City will match funds spent by an HOA on improvements within the subdivision. The grant is up to \$5,000. The HOA can get one-half of what it spends matched by the City. October 25 is the deadline to apply for the grant. The improvements must be made by March. You can contact Conya at 832-394-0654 for more information, access the City's website, or get more information from the SN website.
- The Dairy Ashford esplanade is not looking very good. Councilmember Pennington's office contacted Victor Cordova in the City's Forestry section to prune and take away braches. Weather permitting it was done over the weekend (October 11 and 12).
- Judy Thompson reported a very deep and dangerous pothole on Eldridge (northbound lane, right side) in front of Mark Gray's dentistry at 1127 Eldridge.

III. Speakers:

Barbara Gardner, Natalia Oakes and Kay Morgan came and spoke about the improvements they will make if elected as judge to the 234th Civil District Court, the 314th Family Court, and the 55th Civil District Court, respectively.

IV. Old Business:

The meeting minutes from September were approved.

A. Committee Reports:

1. Beautification: V. Manning was absent. Diane Guillerman reported that there is some graffiti in the area; Judy Thompson reported that a shopping cart was reported as a “nuisance” on Eldridge, and the City quickly addressed it so using that word in your report to 311 could be useful. The front of the Starbucks at Briargreen and Westheimer looks shabby. Ms. Guillerman asked for help on the committee because she has little time to properly devote to the committee.

2. Security: Johnny Lozano reported that crime in the City is down overall except for burglaries of motor vehicles.

3. Flooding: Doug Parrish reported there a dam safety program occurring on October 29. Information is on the SN website.

4. Homeless: Jack O’Connor reported that at the last PIP meeting Captain Luis was not responsive to the committee’s comments and was resistant. HPD is not giving out citations to the panhandlers that break the law and the police are not doing a good job of policing the panhandlers. The committee needs City Hall’s help. Mr. Kirschke stated he is willing to arrange a meeting with the committee and Councilmember Pennington’s office to discuss the issue.

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is November 12, 2014.