

Memo to: Doug Parrish – President of SN#17
From: Sherry Lamb – Delegate JP11
Date: October 11, 2012
Re: Minutes from meeting last evening

SN#17 Monthly Meeting – Location Briarhills Clubhouse

7:07 Meeting called to order

Guest Speaker - Roland Delacerda from the City of Houston Parking Management Department

Mr. Delacerda provided a PowerPoint presentation with aid of his assistant. This presentation described the main functions of his department and how it relates to the public.

Main points are below:

- Hopper passes may be purchased – driver may purchase one and “hop” from one location to another. Note that there are specific requirements to follow, follow all directions.
- RED meters: these are for commercial use only. \$300.00 fines are assessed for those who break the rules. PLEASE do not park at these or the hefty fine will be given.
- Other FACTS and citation infractions
 - Illegal to block a sidewalk (handicap cannot wheelchair past a car)
 - No parking on the wrong side of the street
 - No parking on “islands”
 - No parking on bridges
 - No parking within 50 feet of railroad crossings
 - No parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
 - No double parking
 - No parking within 20 feet of a crosswalk
 - 3 citations will get the driver a “boot” placed on their car forcing them to respond
 - Drivers can contest their citations
 - Contesting and paying of fines can be done by mail, online or in person
 - Pay stations (new ones) are replacing the 20 year old ones that cannot be repaired (lack of parts)
 - Pay stations are flexible – cash, coin, credit cards, or phone payments
 - Pay stations have multiple language screens
 - Use 311 to report downed signage or the need for enforcement
 - 713-837-0311 is one contact number
 - 832-393-8664 is the other contact number for information and enforcement

Guest Speaker – Save Thicket Lake Coalition

Two representatives from the Coalition provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the issues with the property surrounding Thicket Lake. The area map with 2009 flooding and ponding model delineated the ongoing threats of local flooding. As good neighbors and

partners the coalition wants to gather community support to send to Skanska the current property owner. Thicket subdivision had previously made a contract with past owner ARCO to preserve the lake and the surrounding habitat. The area is surrounded by Mayde Creek, Langham Creek, and Buffalo Bayou. Skanska is proposing 2 office buildings, 2 parking garages, filling in the lake, and providing and allowing for the additional owner on the southern section of the property (Grayco) with 314 apartments and 68 Townhouse condo units. Demolition of the ARCO building is complete. Building should be starting soon. The concerns of the group focus on several points: Flooding, traffic issues, animal habitats, and the need to be cooperative neighbors as their strategy to gather support and point these details to the new owners. Community members can contact the group at www.savelakethicket.org.

Guest Speaker – George Grenias: President and CEO of Metro for 2 years.

Mr. Grenias outlined the history of his term at Metro. He described the praise that Metro has received for lowest fares and highest transparency while reminding us that the area served is approximately the size of 10 large cities.

Metro has 3 priorities

1. Provide a 1st class transit system
2. Improve transit infrastructure
3. Become a trusted community partner

Facts provided about Metro

- o 1200 busses
- o 10,000 stops
- o 29 park and ride lots, adding 3 more
- o 19,000 metro lift riders for the disabled
- o Van pools
- o HOV lanes
- o MAP vehicles
- o 7.5 miles of light rail
- o Fares are 1.25 on average
- o Fares at park and rides and other long routes max out at 4.50

Rail – 3 new extensions are in construction (60% completed now)

North, SE toward U of H, and SE toward Harrisburg

Upon completion the total length of routes will be 22 miles

Voting on the Ballot in November

¼ of 1¢ collected in sales tax is given to City of Houston, Harris County, and 14 other jurisdictions. These funds are used for street construction and maintenance generally speaking. Voters on the ballot will vote yes to extend the above policy or no to allow Metro to keep all of the 1¢.

Guest Speaker – Oliver Pennington, Councilman for City of Houston

Oliver brought greetings and gave us his ideas on Metro proposal. He strongly suggests that voters say YES to the issue. Significant funds to the street construction alone are a valid reason to vote positive on the proposal.

Updates on construction projects in our area

- o Dairy Ashford concrete refurbishing is slated to begin in October and completion in 2013
- o Eldridge project portion to I 10 is slated to finish in 2012
- o Homeless issues are continuing to be discussed (more discussion with Mr. O'Connor later in meeting)
- o Rebuild Houston can be discussed with the City of Houston on October 18 at the regular meeting held downtown
- o PIP meetings are beginning now
- o Crime dialogs should be expressed by the community
- o SNAP 311 items are on the docket for January (Judy Thompson is our contact)

Guest Speaker – representative of Diane Williams asked for support against H. Vo in the upcoming election.

Return to regular portion of the meeting

Security – all crime is down now that school is back in session

Snap – nothing at this time

Beautification –

Wolf Elementary auxiliary land is possible location for farmers market

Thanks to City of Houston and others for keeping clean up on homeless areas as an ongoing issue

Tagging is nearly gone

Flooding –

Thicket Lake issue has implications to all of us – ponding model is excellent evidence

Excavation of Braes project near Westpark is slated to finish in 2012

Homeless –

Jack O'Connor in his new position over homeless issues met through his contact with Oliver Pennington a coalition mainly comprised of Area churches regarding the issues of panhandling and homeless. The churches have about a 90% rate of success with returning these persons to productive lives. They help subsidize rent yet remove those without serious intent out of the program in 9 months. We see the homeless and panhandling issue as far more serious than the police or others seem to think.

Goals

Clearly define the two groups

Gather information on actual wording of violations, disseminate that information

Contact police when safety is an issue

Become more involved with the coalition church group as they are so successful

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned

NEXT meeting will RETURN to Eagle's Trace on Second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sherry Lamb – Delegate from John Paul II Catholic School
Secretary Protem