

ELDRIDGE/WEST OAKS Super Neighborhood Council Meeting Draft Minutes March 9, 2011

The meeting of the Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood Council (EWOSNC) was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Doug Parish.

I. Speaker –Catherine Flowers of the Mayor’s Office for Neighborhood Services.

Ms. Flowers informed us that the Mayor is committed to neighborhoods and that is the reason she is creating this new department. Participating with community is of outmost importance to Ms. Flowers.

Wants to improve systems as to how her deptment works and wants to do the following:

This department wants to change Neighborhood Protection and that city attorneys have looked as to how to enforce the ordinance. She wants to look at dilapidated buildings, start a registry of vacant properties, change the ordinance to be able to foreclose easier. She said that with the old ordinance out of town violators could not be forced to comply. Wants to demolish about 300 barren and dangerous buildings.

Coordinate with fire department as to how to communicate together.

Mayor is creating a collections department.

There will be a web site and as soon as it is running Donald Perkins will forward it to sn council.

Her email is Catherine.flowers@houstontx.gov

II. Guest Introductions

Susan Castro –Director Communities and Public Relations for Alief School District.

Ms. Castro announced that Alief School District has to cut their budget and that the cuts will affect the band, athletics departments and the after school programs.

They are also setting the budget for next year.

She wants parents and members of the community to contact their legislators because funding is not equal all across the state and that some areas get more funding than others.

She stated that 76% of Alief students are at risk, that it is a good school district and that Alief students receive large amounts of scholarships.

III. Announcements from the City Representative(s)

Donald Perkins from the City of Houston Planning and Development Department stated that whenever the Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood Council changes committee members to always update contact info.

IV. Old Business

A. Approve January minutes— Minutes were approved.

B. Committee reports:

1. Security (Bob Sumicek) Bob reported that crime in the area is down. The hot areas are the malls and that business theft is prevalent.

He said that there were no murders reported, there was one rape at an apartment complex and that 60-70 percent of crime is at apartment complexes. He suggested that we invite apartment complex managers to come to our meetings to address the problem.

At this time Donald Perkins added that the SN committee should establish a relationship with the west side police department in order to receive updated crime reports so that they can be email blasted to associations and all concerned.

Doug Parish then asked Catherine Flowers about security camera positioning by the city. She said there is no funding but that neighborhoods can receive private support. She also, strongly suggests that citizens should call 311 or council member Pennington's office to voice their opinions as to what issues are important to them so that the city will become aware and designate resources appropriately.

2. SNAP/Infrastructure (Judy Thompson) Ms. Thompson announced that she made a 311 request for a sewer leak repair by Barbara Bush Elementary School and it was fixed, however, the side walk was not because the city said that it was a property owner's responsibility. She said that she will communicate this problem to Council Member Pennington's office.

Judy also has asked for a 4 way stop sign in Westhollow Village and the city informed her it will investigate.

Again Ms. Thompson wants to stress that citizens should call 311 for any SNAP issues.

Doug Parish said that the study being conducted in the Briar Hills subdivision was stalled because of disconnected counters.

3. Beautification (Virgie Manning) Judy Thompson reported for Ms. Manning. Ms. Manning has talked to and handed list of issues to Mr. Pennington at the CIP meeting.

4. Flooding and Drainage Committee (Billie Long) no report

5. Legislative (Doug Parrish) Mark Kishke from Mr. Pennington's office will send a new legislation list and Doug will forward it the sn council.

6. Speakers Committee (Maria Galitos) No speaker next month.

V. New Business

Mr. Perkins informed the SN council that due to 2010 Census report, Houston has to redistrict and 2 more districts have to be added. He encourages citizens to attend meetings on the redistricting by the city of Houston in order to voice an opinion.

Bob Sumicek said that he is not a delegate of his neighborhood association anymore but he is with the Knights of Columbus, so he will look to see if he can be a member of the sn council as stated in the Bylaws Section 5.5 of at large positions.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, April 13, 2011 - at 7:00 pm (AC Classroom of Eagle's Trace Retirement Community).