

## ELDRIDGE/WEST OAKS Super Neighborhood Council Meeting Draft Minutes May 11, 2011

The meeting of the Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood Council (EWOSNC) was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

- I. **Speakers** – Council Member Costello and Council Member Pennington. Council Member Costello spoke to the group about the Rebuild Houston project (pay as you go) program for the infrastructure of the city to be redone. He reminded us that “sample” bills are being sent to show citizens what to expect, what it looks like, and how to request changes. The City of Houston website has a link “Blue icon” with My drainage charge and CIP buttons. Select the My Drainage Charge and use your address to find further information.

Notes on the bill:

Right of way is not billed

There are tools to help you calculate your footage on the C.O.H. website

Seems user friendly but some kinks are being worked out

You can dispute the fee annually.

How do we as the public know what projects will be first or at all? There is a 9 member oversight committee that has been created to take this function. There is a 36 page document detailing the process and project. There will be a shorter more user friendly version to aid consumers. Look for drainage ordinance – guidelines for more information.

We are the 8<sup>th</sup> city in Texas to go with this type of funding (the user fee in the water/sanitation bill).

This law was enacted by popular vote in the last election representing a “charter change.”

Exemptions are still being studied as many groups and Dan Patrick’s bill may represent a change to those exemptions. Cities within cities such as Bellaire, West U., and the Villages will work with City of Houston with these projects as we all want our infrastructure to work alongside/with/not hindrances to each other.

Harris County Flood Control does sign off on all of the projects so it seems that all appropriate entities are working together and are vitally aware of the entire picture.

Property owners can petition the annual fee if they replace concrete around their homes for more porous products.

Institutions that are partially exempt from this tax are state owned properties, educational, religious, and government. However, if they improve new land then that will be taxed.

**Council Member Pennington** spoke about Redistricting Houston- There is a 44% Hispanic increase so they have to be represented accordingly.

There has been a reproposal for more Hispanics in district K.

The plan is on the website.

Our Super Neighborhood will be split now from District G.

There is an ordinance submitted to the Justice Department for approval.

General Fund Budget: Each department head meets. The Mayor has requested an 8-10 % reduction on expenses.

The date of the hearing is on city website.

There is no proposal to cut the police department budget.

Council member Pennington said that 3 snap requests have not been granted. The Dairy Ashford overlay is not feasible however, they will do concrete sections and it will probably be done sometime in 2012.

At this time Doug Parrish asked if the library funding will affect Kendall Library and Mr. Pennington said that he does not think that it will other than what has been proposed earlier.

## II. **Old Business**

**A. Approve April minutes**— Minutes were approved.

### **B. Committee reports:**

**1. Security (Bob Sumicek)** Bob Sumicek. Mr. Sumicek reported that there were about 70 to 80 thefts last month in our super neighborhood. He said that as the summer is approaching announcements should be made to residents to make sure that cars and houses are locked properly and good security systems should be taken into consideration.

There were no murders to report.

There was one rape in an apartment.

There has been a shift of crime towards Synott in businesses mostly.

At this time John Lazano asked Mr. Pettington if a company wants to install private camera which feed into the west side police department is feasible and he said, yes.

**2. SNAP/Infrastructure (Judy Thompson)** Judy Thompson announced that the sidewalk by Barbara Bush Elementary has been fixed by the city.

**3. Beautification (Virgie Manning)** Virgie announced that Jack O'Connor has persuaded Exxon Mobil to bring down the structure by Hwy 6 and Westheimer.

She also said that Catherine Flowers has our attention as far as the homeless people in our area.

**4. Flooding and Drainage Committee (Billie Long)** as discussed by Council Member Costello above.

**5. Legislative (Doug Parrish)** Mr. Parrish said that he will put out information on Bills as he receives them from Mark Kirschke.

**6. Speakers Committee (Maria Galitos)** No speakers announced.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 8, 2011 – at 7:00 pm (AC Classroom of Eagle's Trace Retirement Community).