

## **ELDRIDGE/WEST OAKS Super Neighborhood Council Meeting Draft Minutes September 12, 2012**

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-** Jorge Ungo of Recyclebank.

RecycleBank is a rewards program that motivates participants to recycle by offering valuable RecycleBank Points for your household recycling efforts.

The link to website is <http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/recyclebank.html>

### **II. Speaker-** Representative Jim Murphy

Mr. Murphy stated that he is running for reelection.

He said that the state economy has been very good, that the tax revenues have increased and have generated 32 billion dollars.

Mr. Murphy also stated that the reserve fund grew by one billion.

He said that workforce training will be a big focus and will make the economy to move forward as well as a focus on 2 year education.

As far as transportation Mr. Murphy stated that state funds are limited because gas tax revenue has decreased.

The legislature is coming up with a study to come out in December.

### **III. Billie Briscoe** – Agent for the city's bond initiative.

Mr. Briscoe talked to us about the bonds, propositions.

City of Houston voters will consider six proposed bond issues, a revised revenue cap measure and a proposal for public safety spending:

Bond issues: To finance city capital improvement projects through 2013 without requiring a property tax increase.

- PROPOSITION A: \$320 million for streets, bridges and drainage
- PROPOSITION B: \$135 million for police and fire equipment and facilities
- PROPOSITION C: \$55 million for parks
- PROPOSITION D: \$60 million for general improvement
- PROPOSITION E: \$37 million for libraries
- PROPOSITION F: \$18 million for housing

#### **OTHER MEASURES**

• PROPOSITION G: To exclude the city's enterprise funds, such as airports and convention facilities, from a revenue cap known as Proposition 2 that voters approved in 2004. Limits on the growth of city property tax revenues and water/sewer rates would remain.

• PROPOSITION H: To allow the city to collect and spend \$90 million over the Proposition 2 revenue cap for police, fire and emergency medical services without increasing the property tax rate.

There is also a metro bond proposition that the board voted 8-1 for a measure that, if approved by voters, would continue the so-called General Mobility Program in its current form, allocating a quarter of Metro's 1-cent sales tax to Harris County, Houston and 14 small cities in Metro's service area. The local governments use these funds for road and bridge projects.

### **IV. James Cargas**

Mr. Cargas is currently the Senior Assistant City Attorney for Energy for Mayor Annise Parker and is running for Texas Congressional District 7.

He stated that the following are issues he is passionate about:

A comprehensive national energy policy  
Protect Social Safety Nets  
Protect Women's Rights  
Increase Federal Funding for Science  
Enact Comprehensive Immigration Reform:  
Support Public Transportation  
Fiscal responsibility.

**Guest Council member Pennington** stated that there are concerns on budget issues and that a financial oversight committee set up 2 years ago found that the city's general fund has been decreasing in revenues.

They have assigned an audit of city departments to reduce costs.  
Dairy Ashford will be redone from Buffalo Bayou to Westheimer.  
Wolff Elementary has about 10 acres that can be put to some kind of good use.  
The widening of Eldridge is continuing.  
No increase in sewer drainage fees.

### **III. Old Business**

No old business

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

##### **1. Security (Billie Long)**

Mr. Long gave the following reports:  
There was 1 rape in a motel in district G  
6 aggravated assaults  
28 thefts  
9 auto thefts.

##### **2. SNAP/Infrastructure (Judy Thompson)**

Ms. Thompson said that the trouble with the trees on the esplanades on Dairy Ashford north of Westheimer continue to be a problem.

Because the city of Houston is stretched they suggest 2 options. Homeowners to adopt or business to adopt.

City will clean the trash that collects there and that when grass gets tall we should call 311.

##### **3. Beautification (Diane Guillerman)** No beautification announcements were made

##### **4. Flooding and Drainage Committee (Billie Long)**

There are 3 projects that affect the area.

To the west is Barker reservoir

To the north is Charting Buffalo

To the south Project Braes.

##### **5. Legislative (Doug Parrish)** No report

**6. Speakers Committee (Maria Galiotos) No report**

Next Meeting – Wednesday, October 10 – at 7:00 pm Briarhills Club House, 14300 Briarhills Parkway, 77077.