

Minutes from the meeting of March 11, 2015 – Super Neighborhood 17

- I. Call to Order at 7:02 p.m.
- II. Speakers:
 - A. Susan Alleman (with Black Sheep Co.) – Ms. Alleman informed the SN group about Houston’s General Plan for future growth. The Plan will address people, places, culture, education, economy, environment, and public services. One million more residents are expected to move to Houston in the next 20 years. To prepare for the growth, the City of Houston is creating a general Plan called Plan Houston. The Plan will address neighborhood enhancement and community development over the coming years, to help agencies coordinate efforts to make positive changes in anticipation of accommodating the growth. The City wants the input of its residents. To provide feedback to the City, go to PlanHouston.org.
 - B. Hillary Roy (Briar Village resident) – Ms. Roy spoke to the group regarding the proposed rezoning of various elementary schools in the western district, proposed by HISD. Ms. Roy gave a history regarding the rezoning plan and the efforts of residents in the western district to address proposed rezoning with HISD. HISD advised the parents that the TEA asked HISD to address class size waivers. Bush Elementary parents were notified in September 2014 of the possibility of rezoning. Briar Village parents and other neighborhood parents began organizing and trying to communicate with HISD about rezoning. HISD promised information by January, 2015; however, it wasn’t until February that a proposed rezoning map was released by HISD, which essentially rezoned Briar Village and other, most-southern portions of the district to Shadowbriar, an under-utilized school in the district. The parents have been meeting with HISD board trustees to come up with a solution other than rezoning. The proposed rezoning map was based on economic data developed in October, 2014, when the oil and gas industry was doing better than more recently. One of the ideas proposed by the parents’ group was to make Shadowbriar a magnet school and make Ashford a neighborhood school (rather than k-2). Just a few days before the scheduled vote on the proposed rezoning (throughout HISD, including the west district) a new map was released by HISD which incorporated the ideas of the parents’ group, with the exception of rezoning Briar Village. HISD’s new map proposed rezoning Briar Village to Daily Elementary. Briar Village was the only single-family subdivision proposed to be rezoned.

Ms. Roy asked the group to help support an amendment to the proposal, hopefully to be proposed by Trustee Greg Meyers. The HISD board was scheduled to meet the following day, March 12, 2015, at 5:00 pm.
 - C. Mickey Elder (with Texas Community Management Services) – Ms. Elder has established a new property management company that strives to provide more personalized service than other property management companies. (She used to work

for Cindy Yeglin prior to the sale of Cindy's company to Real Manage). Ms. Elder has been in the industry for 14 years. It is a full-service management company. Her company strives to see people and their needs, not money signs. The company has dedicated personnel for maintenance, to meet with vendors, for deed restrictions, and capital improvements. All calls are returned within one day. They also provide detailed reports for board meetings, at least one week prior to the meeting so the board does not have to hear, "I'll get back with you on that."

The company also offers free board member orientation classes for individuals newly elected to the position to inform new members of their fiduciary duties, their role, and changing laws, among other topics. Their contact information is 281-399-7741 (tel.); melder@txcommgmtsvcs.com. They are located at 23010 Gabriel Dr., Ste. 205, New Caney. Although they are located in New Caney, they will accommodate any requests in Houston as they do manage properties in Houston.

III. Announcements: District F, City & State:

A. District F Representative, Richard Nguyen –

- Please call or email councilmember Nguyen's office if any problems/questions were not answered at the CIP meeting recently held. Addressed SNAP projects – mulch program should be completed; north of Westpark should be completed in 30 days. There is some available money for parks and greenspace in the area. Dylan Osbourne, Councilmember Nguyen's chief of staff state that he has not heard anything yet regarding the new SNAPs submitted.

B. District G Representative, Oliver Pennington –

- Councilmember Pennington has been term limited out and he is running for mayor; he endorsed Sandie Mullins Moger, who is running for District G position on City Council. Ms. Moger lives in the District and has been an HCC trustee.
- All CIP requests can now be reported all year long through 311 system. If you
- Don't get results from 311 (on any issues), please let Councilmember Pennington's office and he or his staff will look into it. The City has now provided recycling buckets to all who are using City trash services.
- Both District G and District F have contributed \$25,000 to address the vagrant and panhandler problem in those districts. They are hoping for long-term results. District G allocated \$50,000 to SNAP requests that have not been previously addressed. They will be choosing projects to pursue on April 1, 2015. District G has \$200,000 for asphalt projects. Councilmember Pennington asked for Judy Thompson's input on that matter. Lakes of Parkway received \$2100 in matching funds program.

- Councilmember Pennington addressed the pension plan issues facing the City with regards to HFD, HPD, and regular city employees. He gave an overview of the issue, stating that the pensions are controlled by the State Legislature rather than the City of Houston. HPD and the regular employees have gone through a meet-and-confer and agreed they can deviate from the State Legislature's requirements regarding pensions. Mayor Parker recently met with HFD and reached an agreement that pension payments by the City can be reduced for a period of time (3 years). Although it does not address the pension plan problems facing the City, it gives the City some relief for a period of time. He noted that some cities pay 12 to 16% a year to the pension plans, but Houston is currently paying 35%. Councilmember Pennington believes the city should be required to pay market rate, but not more.
- State representative Jim Murphy is introducing a Bill, HB2608 that will authorize city councils whose pension plans are governed by state law to overrule the state plans and get back local control of the matter.

C. Jim Murphy's representative, Deanna Harrington (in attendance but did not speak). –

IV. Old Business:

A. Minutes:

1. Approved the minutes from February.

B. Committee Reports:

1. Beautification: V. Manning talked about CIP projects and three parks in the area.

2. S.N.A.P.: J. Thompson stated the 311 app is very useful; if you don't get results from 311 right away, just keep calling. Lots of trees are being planted around the City; several millions of dollars have been spent on it. V. Manning suggested telling her if more trees are needed on medians.

3. Flooding: B. Long reported there are no major flooding problems; but there are ponding issues on Richmond, at Meadway and Ashford Park. Even the slightest of rain causes ponding there. There is no upcoming Army Corp. of Engineers meetings. There is a new commander in that organization who may be interested in re-routing the Alief Clodine ditch to behind the existing dam.

4. Security: Johnny Lozano reported that crime in the City is generally down. The new captain is very nice and seems more interested in willing to work with the homeless committee than the last chief. Maddie Provost and Oliver Pennington are contributing a great deal to the homeless issue. Good things are happening because of the efforts of

those two individuals. Other divisions are listening to the homeless committee as there is an effort underway in another part of Houston to educate people to not give to panhandlers and there is help for the truly homeless. The SN needs you reach out to other neighborhoods – we need more members to help out and continue to do more positive things.

V. New Business:

1. A SN delegate made a motion that the SN would support an amendment to the HISD rezoning proposal to not rezone Briar Village. The motion was carried. D. Parrish will contact all HISD trustees to advise them of SN 17's support of the proposed rezoning with an amendment. [As a follow-up, HISD cancelled the proposed vote].

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is April 8, 2015.