

Minutes from Eldridge West Oaks Super Neighborhood 17
October 9, 2013

Called to order at 7:03 p.m.

President Doug Parrish welcomed the group.

Announcements from Representatives G F and City of Houston

Mark Kirschke from Councilman Oliver Pennington's office brought greetings and news updates.

1. October 15, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in council chambers next week will be the proclamation for Eagles Trace as the provider of facilities for our SN17. Everyone is encouraged to attend in support of Eagles Trace, their staff, and our SN17.
2. 1801 S. Dairy Ashford property (the one with the large fire a couple of years back) has sold! The new owner has a projected 11 million dollar revamping of the shopping center. Drawings were shown at the meeting with general appearances of the new look slated for the property.
3. Chapter 9 and 13 – Storm Sewer Design. There has been a push to work directly with public works on this project.

Chapter 6, 10, and 12 – Streets. Waiting for information and all participants to prepare for this project.

Chapter 15 – Actual street design. This project has been on hold. Please do offer any ideas or suggestions you may have by November 5 as the engineers will be looking at all ideas. Remember that this is only about once every 5 years. Make your viewpoint known.

4. Early Voting Begins October 21 – Ballots are different in each area as one would expect. There are many propositions on the ballot. It is advisable to print a copy for review before you enter the voting booth.
5. Shelly vs Colder – There are new rules about proper ID required to vote. YOU MUST have photo ID along with your voting registration card. There are acceptable types:
 1. Texas Driver's License from D.P.S.
 2. Texas Election ID certificate from D.P.S.
 3. Texas Personal ID card from D.P.S.
 4. Texas Concealed Handgun License from D.P.S.
 5. U.S. Military ID with photo
 6. U. S. Citizenship Certificate with photo
 7. US passport

There are a few exceptions such as physically disabled persons, but the guidelines can be located at the following site <http://votetexas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/VoteTexas-8.5x11.pdf>. If the id you present is expired you can ask for a provisional ballot. Cast that ballot and you will have a limited number of days to produce receipts verifying your valid id.

6. The meeting for the WEST HOUSTON MOBILITY study will be TUESDAY 15, 2013 at Wolf Elementary from 6 – 8 for forum and informal presentations. 7 p.m. will be the time for the formal presentation. All are encouraged to attend. The sponsoring agency is Houston Galveston Area Council representing 13 counties.
7. Civic Associations are urged to register your association. If you are unsure if your neighborhood association is registered more information will be made available online listed below.

Form

The form to register civic associations can be found

here: http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/Forms/complan/Civic_Assoc_Registration_Form.pdf

List of registered associations

The list (which people can check to make sure they are registered) can be found

here: <http://www.houstontx.gov/cao/civicclubs.pdf>

8. The purported crime wave is not from actual statistics. There seems to be a slight increase in the Briar Villages subdivision. Luckily there was a camera that captured the suspects. Amazingly they were apprehended within 48 hours. Mark commented on how well HPD has daily meetings with maps of the various beats. Officers are quite diligent in spotting trends and keeping the watchful eye out for us.

Jim Murphy – State Representative brought greetings and information.

Jim thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve.

1. Mr. Murphy also reiterated Mark's information on the mobility study. Westchase District is deeply involved in this project that dramatically affects TxDot, County, City, Toll authority, and others. This may take 1 year to organize information and create reporting.
2. Westchase District has agreed to fund for one year a new Farmers Market. The vendors are USDA certified. This will occur every Thursday 3 – 6 p.m. at St. Cyril's Catholic Church. There will be Fruits, Vegetables, The Jam and Jelly Lady, "The Worm Man," as well as a vendor selling Goat Cheeses and many others. Please make plans to take advantage of this great new resource. There are no others in our area.
3. During the recent legislative sessions and special sessions there was much business. The main business of particular interest is the Budget. Good news, there is more in revenue this year. 8 billion is the new figure. 6 billion goes to education. 235 million is slated for mental health (specifically in the jail area as many who are jailed are actually in need of treatment of mental health issues), 80 million is planned for state parks, 31 million for new Texas Drivers license offices, and 1 billion for TxDot.

The “three legged” program is generally summed up as

LEG 1 Education

Less high stakes testing with more learning

Curriculum geared toward non 4 year plans or plans that allow for trade and profession related math and science courses

This has been done to meet the needs and requests of industry for skilled workforce employees creating a better alignment of courses toward industry needs
this will take several years to implement

1. Infrastructure

1 billion from the Rainy Day Fund (current rainy day fund is 9 billion)

This RDF is being refunded at an annual rate of 1 billion per year.

LEG 2 Proposition 6 – Water

1,000 new persons arrive in our region daily

No new reservoirs have been built since 1995

We are not meeting our multiyear plan

Plan calls for 2 billion to be set aside for a special bank that will loan to cities and water authorities to build these needed reservoirs for the population growth. These funds are paid back. Thus the money does not go away. This plan offers no tax increase and no fees increases. These funds can best serve building the huge water projects more effectively than the great expense of trying to float bond issues or other expensive methods.

LEG 3 Tax Relief

4 tax cuts

1. on utility bill (complex wording has been eliminated)
2. margins tax (business franchises) oddly worded and implemented plan that now has been clarified and calls for 1 million tax free no matter how much over 1 million is achieved.
3. New tax credit for Research and Development (we are lagging many states) We have industries such as Aerospace, bio medical, and energy that would be significantly impacted with new R and D. This would also attract jobs, and growth.
4. Tax Reform - for Ch. 313 – limit value of real property – promulgating greater revenue and setting the field for growth

Other actions

2 bills of local impact

1 failed – pension plan initiative (complex issue, not making many friends with various worker groups). The good thing about this bill is that has been making cities and other authorities more fully understand what their level of financial burden is actually involved. There is no intention of asking people to not get funds promised to them. 1st responders are vital, we know this and want to fund the pensions. We all have to realize that some things are just unsustainable.

2 passed – allowing for Centerpoint easement corridors to be utilized for hike and bike trails. Savings of 1 million per mile are actualized from this plan. We are all pleased with this arrangement.

The gas tax 20cents per gallon is being consumed for repairs and maintenance. Rarely is there enough to build the roads needed to manage the ever growing population. 5 cents goes to education by state mandate. There has been no increase since 1991. The reason the funds are so large is due to the vast increase in driving, even though cars are much more fuel efficient. Suggestions have been made to fix this program by providing 1 billion so that new road project can be started. Jim noted another suggestion states that a 1 cent increase that would amount to 100 million dollars. Other suggestions are to increase fees from 45 – 60 dollars for registration fees since other states charge 100 – 150 or more for the same fee. We need roads not toll roads.

Oliver Pennington, Houston City Council Member District G, brought greetings and information.

1. Oliver thanked Jim Murphy for his diligence and assistance with projects related to our area and his proactive nature.
2. Mr. Pennington reminded us that the mobility study has important implications with our recent growth and changes in land use.
3. He wanted to share his ideals that he values free enterprise and values efficient government. His goal is to uphold these values.
4. Oliver wanted to make sure that we all vote and encourage our family and friends to vote also.
5. The Kirkwood 22 million dollar project was passed over through the “pay as we go” funds. We are paying off debt service and soon will be active in projects in a short number of years. His office will seek panels be placed in the most “broken” areas of this street until the full “re-do” of Kirkwood can take place.
6. Some from the audience questions how the Memorial project was funded if Kirkwood was not. Oliver provided information that the Memorial project was “state” fund project. The scope of the project is Memorial Drive from Kirkwood to Eldridge.
7. Mr. Pennington wanted to thank SN17 for the work on the homeless issues. He was please with Mandy Samples and HPD involvement. Part of the “drive around” promoted the “bust” of several prostitution rings including “pimps” as well. All seem to notice improvements. We must be diligent in being watchful.
8. Houston Community College is planning a 50 million dollar building near Highway 6.

9. Oliver wants the SN community to discuss ideas to help define and design rules to guide projects. Since we have no zoning, we need to work with agencies, groups, officials to create systems for developing our communities with proper regulations.

Margarite Dunlap from METRO brought greetings and information about the reimagine project. The comment survey is on the attached sheet. The survey should only take about 20 minutes. The answers should appear in reporting next year.

Additionally Ms. Dunlap share the features of the 1 day pass for \$3.00. The program is launching this week. This plan is not usable for park and ride locations. Those are different augmented long distance zoned programs of a different nature. See attached handout.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes were approved as read

Committee Reports

Beautification – Vergie has done an awesome job in keeping all alerted to the graffiti and homeless areas. She is going out of the country for a while and Diane will be handling the committee items during her absence.

SNAP – Judy Thompson is working on our snap and cip items that are in the works and report at a later meeting.

Security – John Lozano offered information regarding the crime wave that was reported was “politically” motivated and seems to be not really true.

Flood – Billie Long had no new items at this time.

Homeless – Jack O’Connor offered his suggestions that he is working on a couple of radio programming spots to high light the facts to the public to “NOT GIVE” to the homeless on the local street corners. If we don’t give they won’t show up plan.

Website – Tom has really increased the great information on the site. It is working well. Everyone is excited about the changes and improvements.

Other – Next door... web presence... the listed website has useful information www.nextdoor.com

Respectfully Submitted,
Sherry Lamb, Co-Secretary
Delegate from John Paul II Catholic