

Minutes from the meeting of March 12, 2014 – Super Neighborhood 17

I. Call to Order at 7:05 p.m.

II. Speakers:

A. Clark Martinson – with Energy Corridor Management District

Brought greetings and information about the scope of the Energy Corridor and the upcoming event “Rock the Corridor Energy Fest.” The event is Saturday-April 5, 2014 from noon until 5:00 p.m. on Eldridge Parkway and Briar Forest. For more information see www.houstonenergyfest.com website. This event is family oriented with music and presentations about the Energy Corridor. Please do encourage everyone to attend.

Clark gave us a map of the Energy Corridor with great details regarding the companies represented in the group. There is a tour of the corridor also. Clark provided some statistics that are quite remarkable.

- 12.5 million square feet of construction – most of this is office space
- The above is estimated at 3 Billion Dollars in value
- The Mid-rise apartment/condo facility on the corner of Memorial and Eldridge is reported to be filled even before construction has been completed with future employees of the new energy related companies in the corridor.
- The BP facility nearest I 10 is claiming to be the largest private computer server in the world?
- HCC campus on Westheimer near the corner of Eldridge is slated to have an exploratory energy education program.

The main take away from his presentation is the information that Eldridge needs to be widened. The rapid and large influx of office building structures and multi-family housing is putting a severe strain on the local streets and traffic. The main crux of the discussion focused on the area between Sandfield and Briarforest along Eldridge. He reminded us that it takes approximately 9 feet for a lane. He was suggesting taking some from the sidewalk areas and some from the esplanade areas. Some would be taken more from one area than the other depending upon the particular area. Every step is to be made to save the landscape scenery. He is promoting a Street Scape Plan that may actually in some areas be better than what is currently in place. Of course, this would be paid for by the City of Houston. Clark remarked that there are 3 stages. 1) working with the City of Houston, 2) working with property owners, and 3) working with the Super Neighborhoods

and other stakeholders to make the plans workable for all parties concerned. Mr. Martinson discussed with several members of our group as to the importance of involving the citizens such as us in the SN 17. He also recalled ideas about a Park Row (10 million dollars to date) project involving borrowing the money, doing the work and paying it back to the developers out of the revenue collected from the Rebuild Houston funds. The flyer will be scanned and made available on the SN17 site for access by all.

His personal email is clarkm@chainreactionbikes.org

It is planned that Park Row will be extended through to Eldridge and then connecting to Dairy Ashford.

Memorial Hermann Hospital system is planning on building a facility at Langham Creek and I-10.

III. Announcements: Districts F & G, City, METRO:

- A. Mark Kirschke – Representing Councilman Oliver Pennington’s office. Mark brought greetings from Councilmember Michael Kubosh. Councilmember Kubosh is available to speak.

The Harris County Flood Control District owns right-of-way along Buffalo Bayou between Highway 6 and Beltway 8. They have contracted with a consultant to survey the vegetation and topography regarding storm water detention. The survey is limited to data gathering and is not associated with any imminent construction. More info can be found at <http://www.hcfcd.org/THPSurveyingContract/>.

The annual CIP District G meeting was held on February 13. All CIP requests from residents should be requested through 311 online system (www.houston311.org). Select “Traffic, Streets and Drainage,” ten under Capital Improvement Projects, Streets and Drainage,” select “New Capital Improvement Project Request.” Please send a copy to Councilmember Pennington’s office so they can keep track of it. The public input period for CIP projects is through March 16. In April, the draft CIP goes to Mayor Parker and in May/June City Council reviews and approves CIP. Mark passed out a “2014 Public Input” survey regarding storm drainage and street and traffic. He asked residents to complete and return to Councilmember Pennington’s office.

The following roads were recommended for inclusion in the FY2015-2019 CIP via Rebuild Houston: (1) CIP # N-100017 – Gessner paving and drainage from Buffalo Bayou to Richmond (project will expand it to 6 lanes, construct a bridge along Westheimer, replace traffic signals, etc.); (2) CIP # N-100023 – Dairy Ashford paving and drainage from I-10 to Buffalo Bayou (project will expand it to 6 lanes, construct a bridge along Westheimer, replace traffic signals, etc.); (3) CIP # N-100026 – Wilcrest from I-10 to Buffalo Bayou (project will construct 6 lane concrete roadway with curbs,

sidewalks, driveways, street lighting, traffic control and necessary underground utilities); (4) CIP 3 N-100029 – Kirkwood paving and drainage from Buffalo Bayou to Westheimer (design and reconstruction of the road). Three additional projects are in “inventory,” meaning areas of high need that were examined by pre-engineering but did not qualify for funding; they are Wilcrest from Buffalo Bayou to Westheimer, Dairy Ashford from Buffalo Bayou to Westheimer, and Woodway from Chimney Rock to Memorial Drive. The projects will continue to compete for funding in succeeding CIPs.

The Westheimer Mobility project started about a month ago and will include new sidewalks from Dairy Ashford to Highway 6; signal modifications and improvements and extra lanes from Highway 6 to Fondren; some medians are being eliminated to put in additional lanes. They are not synchronizing lights but Councilmember Pennington’s office is writing a letter to TxDOT to request that on Westheimer.

The Houston Parks & Recreation Department (“HPARD”) continues to work on its 2008 Master Plan. HPARD needs to hear from the residents who use the parks to enhance the assessment and to give them direction on the priority of items that need to be addressed first with the available funding. HPARD will soon be posting dates for the upcoming Master Plan Phase II community meetings at <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/masterplan.html>. You can see which sector you’re in at <http://mycity.houstontx.gov/public/>. (We are in Sector 18).

There have been no submissions to the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (low income housing) for the District G area. But the criterion for determining funding has changed. City council now has a bigger voice in the process.

The second annual “Rock the Corridor Energyfest” will be held on Saturday April 5, from noon to 5:00 pm at Eldridge Parkway and Briar Forest. There are exhibits between Enclave and Briar Forest. For more information go to www.houstonenergyfest.com.

HPD’s PIP meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Westside Police Station, 3203 S. Dairy Ashford. PIP contact: Officer Charles Stern, 713-773-7000.

METRO – The METRO spokeswoman, Margarita Dunlop stated that METRO does not have the funds to build a rail out on the west side of town. They have a 1,250 bus fleet. The Re-Imagine project is continuing. There will be a meeting on April 9, 2014 to address proposed improvements to the METRO system. The plan then goes to the board on April 11.

MAYOR’S LIAISON – Rhonda Sauter advised the group that there is free shredding for Houston residents on March 22 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at HPD’s North Station, 9455 West Montgomery. It is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please put your shredding in a box or flip container as they can’t take plastic bags and will have to manually empty the bags.

IV. Old Business:

A. The minutes from the Super Neighborhood's February meeting were approved.

B. Committee Reports:

1. Beautification: V. Manning asked Rhonda the progress regarding a lot that is being cleaned/cleared by the City and its progress. Rhonda noted that the Mayor's office has started a program regarding overgrown or abandoned lots. HOA groups or other organizations can adopt these lots and mow them. The City will reimburse the group that mows (the lots must be lots specified by the City). It's called the Mow-Down program. The City is not adding lots at this point.

2. S.N.A.P.: V. Manning discussed the CIPs for District F. The requests submitted by the SN included: (1) the reconstruction (widening) of Synott between Westheimer and Alief Clodine; (2) reconstruction of the streets in the Parkhollow Place subdivision; (3) reconstruction of Richmond from West Houston Center to Eldridge; (4) reconstruction of Dairy Ashford from Westheimer to Alief Clodine; (5) extensive concrete repair of Westpark from Dairy Ashford to Eldridge; (6) traffic light at Eldridge Parkway and Westpark; (7) trees along Westside Trail from Eldridge to Westpark; and (8) extending Brays Bayou Trail from Eldridge Parkway to West Houston Center along Brays Bayou.

Eldridge Parkway at Memorial will be completed soon.

3. PIP/Security: Jack O'Connor stated that burglary of motor vehicles is on the rise but all other crime statistics remain steady.

4. Homeless: The County may begin enforcing panhandler laws; however, it is still unknown for sure. The homeless committee is considering sending a letter to Councilmember Pennington's office concerning panhandlers and is considering seeking the signature of the Energy Corridor also. Jack noted that there are less homeless in our area than there was one year ago, but they are beginning to return. Jack suggested that residents attend the PIP meetings held at HPD's Westside Command Station to continue to ask that panhandler laws be enforced. He noted that panhandlers do not get aid, but the truly homeless do get aid.

5. Flooding: Billy Long Harris Flood Control District is still studying area of Hershey Park. The HFCD gave an update regarding the Corp. of Engineers project on the flood gates at Barker dam (Hwy 6). The gates will be rebuilt in 2015.

Website: Tom Mikus stated that the SN has 106 registered users:

- 5 executive officers
- 16 other delegates/alternates (ALL should register!)
- 83 other users (after eliminating undeliverable email addresses)
- 1 unverified user (no reply to email)

- 1 other webmaster

The Daily Digest email with upcoming events and new messages sends out every day. The default for the Daily Digest is now YES.

He has posted the 9 letters received appointing delegates and alternates for 2014. These documents are linked from the [Council Delegates page](#). This page is restricted to delegates and alternates.

The [SNAP/Infrastructure Committee page](#) has two new documents.

The pages for the other committees are still not actively used. We could link to those in emails when the committees want to push out new info.

He has done all that he can on the map of SN17 showing member-neighborhood locations. This map is on the new [Neighborhood Map page](#). Please check the map for errors and omissions.

Send any questions or comments to webmaster@sneldridgewestoaks.com.

V. New Business

- A. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves and note the neighborhood or organization they represent. The attendees included: Mark Batterson (new Eagle's Trace representative), Nick Kornuta (Terraces on Memorial), Maria Galigotos (Briarhills POA), John Lozano – Vice President of SN/member of Homeless Committee (Westhollow Village), Billy Long - Treasurer, Chairman of Flooding and Drainage Committee (Parkridge), Diane Guillerman (Briar Village), Jack O'Connor - Chairman of Homeless Committee (Lakes of Stonehenge), Dianne Williams – member of Homeless Committee, Greg Daniel (Pres. Of Briar Forest SN), Connie Reed (Westhollow Village), Tom Mikus – SN Webmaster, Chaka Jones (visitor for Nextdoor.com), Sharon Mosby (Ashford Hills), and Lynn Gaines (Ashford Hills), Doug Parrish – SN President (Briarhills HOA), Rhonda Sauter (Mayor's Office), Mark Kirschke (Councilmember Pennington's office).
- B. Johnny Lozano suggested we get a speaker from the IRS to discuss 501s so the SN can pursue that becoming a 501.
- C. Margarita Dunlop is speaking on behalf of METRO at the next SN meeting, on April 9.
- D. Jack O'Connor volunteered to canvass HOA's about getting additional/new representatives to the SN meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Next meeting is April 9, 2014.