

Minutes from the meeting of April 9, 2014 – Super Neighborhood 17

I. Call to Order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Speakers:

A. Margarita Dunlap – with METRO

Ms. Dunlap was going to speak about METRO's re-imagining plan, but METRO's board postponed approval of the plan. The following information is open to the public:

- Approval has been postponed until May 8 - a stakeholder task force meeting will address the plan in the morning and the board will review in the afternoon. Public meetings will be decided at that time;
- Re-imagining was first developed in 2011 to improve transit services, frequency, and reliability. The plan will show the public what METRO is going to do to improve transit;
- The North line rail system has been launched; the Southeast line and Harrisburg will be launched; Once off the rail, people will be able to get around; and it will be done using existing budgets;
- METRO will have a "gridded system, to increase ridership and improve commuting;
- To address reliability, routes will have set times;
- Our area will be impacted (details will be provided after the board approves.

The changes will be phased in because they will be "vast." The changes will only affect the bus system. Light rail being built will be integrated. You can keep track of the Re-imagining plan at www.reimaginingsystem.org.

III. Announcements: Districts F & G, City:

A. District F Councilmember Richard Nguyen attended to hear what was going on with the Super Neighborhood.

B. District G Councilmember Oliver Pennington –

- Gave a C.I.P. update. The draft C.I.P. will go to the Mayor in April and in May it will be approved by City Council. The following roads were recommended to be included: (1) Gessner (paving and drainage) from Buffalo Bayou to Richmond; (2) Dairy Ashford (paving and drainage) from I-10 to Buffalo Bayou (3) Wilcrest from I-10 to Buffalo

Bayou (concrete roadway, sidewalks, street lighting, traffic control and underground utilities); (4) Kirkwood (paving and drainage) from Buffalo Bayou to Westheimer).

- Three additional projects are in “inventory”: (1) Wilcrest from Buffalo Bayou to Westheimer, (2) Dairy Ashford from Buffalo Bayou to Westheimer, and (3) Woodway from Chimney Rock to Memorial Drive. The projects will continue to compete for funding in succeeding CIPs.
 - The 2007 Houston Parks & Recreation Department ("HPARD") Master Plan, last published in 2008, is revisited every 5 years to evaluate and make adjustments based on physical, social, policy and technological changes so that it remains a relevant guidance document. It is currently being re-evaluated. Since 2007, the City of Houston has been divided into 21 Park Sectors and analysis at this level is being done in this Phase II of the Master Plan to assess park needs in the community. The 2007 HPARD Master Plan can be found at <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/2007/2007masterplan-final.pdf>. There is a HPARD survey available now online. 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. You can access it at <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/masterplan.html>.
 - The next PIP meeting is on April 17 at 7:00 pm at the HPD Westside station on Dairy Ashford.
 - On April 24, 2014, Toby Keith’s new bar and grill in West Oaks Mall is having a special event.
 - The rail lines being built – Harrisburg and the one to TSU – do not correspond to population numbers, but Councilmember Pennington is encouraging business development in the area because it is needed and will build up ad valorem revenues.
 - He opposed Councilmember Costello’s proposal to change the budget year because it does not really alleviate uncertainty in the budget and does not involve any significant savings.
- C. Mayor’s Liason – Rhonda Sauter advised there is a “drug take back” on April 26 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Westside Command Station.
- D. Jim Murphy’s representative, DeAnna Harrington, stated that Representative Murphy is available to assist us with anything that he can help with. Just contact his office.
- E. Dylan Osborne, with Councilmember Nguyen’s office advised they are working on safe sidewalk projects at Eldridge and Westpark, by Huffman [Heflin, as corrected in May minutes] Elementary school.

IV. Old Business:

- A. The minutes from the Super Neighborhood’s March meeting were approved.

B. Committee Reports:

1. Beautification: V. Manning asked if the Westchase 380 area were areas where the medians could be improved. Councilmember Pennington said yes, if someone was willing to fund it. She also asked if HPARD included trails and Councilmember Pennington said yes. He encouraged all to look at our areas and see what park facilities might need as well as new park lands in our area. He stated that there are not enough parks in our area. There was discussion regarding the flood control project going on at the levy in Bush Park. It is hindering pursuing trails that the committee is pursuing. Billy Long stated he will check and see how long the flood gate project will take. V. Manning also asked if there could be a trail from Briar Forest to Westheimer along Bush Park. Councilmember Pennington said it was something to request through HPARD.

2. S.N.A.P.: Judy Thompson reported that the Energy Fest was very successful. She raised the issue of widening Eldridge to six lanes, which might be pursued by the Energy Corridor Management District. Please talk to your HOA boards to consider whether widening Eldridge is a wise idea. The proposed widening would involve decreasing the size of the medians starting at Memorial and Briar Forest, as well as narrowing the lanes and cutting sidewalks back. Please try and get the “pulse” of the residents in your neighborhood. Councilmember Pennington stated that the idea is driven by traffic projections, and there is a lot of building going on in the area.

3. PIP/Security: Johnny Lozano reported that police have removed panhandlers at Westheimer and Highway 6, so the Homeless Committee’s efforts are paying off. He asked Councilmember Pennington if a meeting with Mandy Sample regarding the Homeless Committee can happen. Rhonda Sauter will follow up on arranging the meeting. Jack O’Connor stated that burglary of motor vehicles is on the rise but all other crime statistics remain steady. There were two murders on the south side of the Westpark Tollway. Robberies are increasing around the city, as are burglaries of motor vehicles.

4. Homeless: J. Lozano reported the City has hired someone to work with the homeless. That individual works for Mandy Sample. V. Manning wanted to report that there is a group of homeless people camped at Burlington Coat Factory and Floor & Décor. J. Lozano stated that a group of women are working at Briar Forest at Eldridge and Westheimer at Eldridge. They present themselves as working for a charity but they are not.

5. Flooding: Billy Long stated that Harris Flood Control District has resumed surveying the Terry Hershey Park area. It will be finished by the summer.

6. Website: Tom Mikus stated that the SN has 108 registered users:

- 5 executive officers
- 17 other delegates/alternates (ALL should register!)

- 85 other users (after eliminating undeliverable email addresses)
- 1 other webmaster
- Two delegates posted messages on the Message Board in March.
- If you want to get the Daily Digest, you must register.
- We have posted 11 letters appointing delegates and alternates for 2014.
- The [Flooding and Drainage Committee page](#) has Charting Buffalo information.
- Committees can post on their pages documents to view or download.
- No one reported errors or omissions on the SN17 map showing communities.
- Locate your fellow SN17 communities on the [Neighborhood Map page](#).
- Send any questions or comments to webmaster@sneldridgewestoaks.com.

V. New Business

- A. A delegate from HCC will speak at the May meeting regarding plans for the campus on Westheimer, west of Eldridge.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. Next meeting is May 14, 2014.