

## **Minutes from the meeting of June 11, 2014 – Super Neighborhood 17**

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

II. Announcements: Districts F & G, City:

A. District G Councilmember, Oliver Pennington –

- Advised there was a budget discussion at City Council. The City is required to have a balanced budget. The budget for next year is expected to increase, and there is a projected deficit.
- Goober and other similar services are proposing unregulated taxicab and limo service. The issue was put off by council for 45 days.
- 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. Councilmember Pennington's office is actively looking for people who can give input on the need for parks in District G. If you are interested, contact D. Parrish, president of SN17. The 2007 HPARD Master Plan can be found at <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/2007/2007masterplan-final.pdf>. 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>.
- There are new single stream recycling customers out in this area; 62,000 homes using the service. Recycling in Houston actually pays for itself.
- Burlington Coat Factory homeless is an issue again. His office is trying to work on the problem. The homeless are an issue all over the City. Jack O'Connor, chairman of the SN Homeless Committee stated that the new Westside Command captain, Captain Luis, is not happy in his position at Westside and is not communicative with the community. Councilman Pennington suggested that Mr. O'Connor send an email to Captain Luis regarding the homeless every week and an email to Councilmember Pennington's office to stimulate action. He also suggested the SN Homeless Committee make a list of the problem areas and furnish it to his office and HPD.
- District F's representative, Dylan Osborne, stated that District F's councilman is also working on the issue of the homeless, particularly the encampments on the bayou and the car traffic on the pathways at night.

B. Mayor's Liaison, Rhonda Sauter –

- Ms. Sauter advised that she has been working on the City's website regarding super neighborhoods and is working on reflecting the overlay in SN17 of District F and District G.
- She advised there is a hurricane preparedness program and emphasized how important it is to be prepared.

C. District F Representative, Dylan Osborne –

- He went over the CIP projects in District F, including the improvements to the libraries and community centers.
- District F is trying to improve their website.
- District F has been contacted about flooding in some areas but when Mr. Osborne contacts Public Works, they say there have been no complaints on 311. Mr. Osborne stated that it is a data-driven issue so residents must call 311 and report flooding problems to get attention to the issue.
- Johnny Lozano noted the problem of people parking their cars on both sides of the street and making it very difficult for cars to get through the street, particularly safety vehicles. Mr. Osborne stated that you can report it to 311 when there are multiple families living in single-family homes.

III. Tom Mikus – SN Webmaster

- Gave a presentation of the SN17 website. He has updated the website and added an additional web address – sn17.org – in addition to sneldridgewestoaks.org. Can download the monthly meeting agenda from the calendar. You have to log in to see all pages; it is very easy to register as a user. Mr. Mikus went through all the pages that you can see if you are not a registered user. He also went through the pages that you can see as a user. The website has a lot of great features such as the daily digest and the neighborhood club. You can access all of the meeting minutes on the website, as well as contact the committees directly. The website is an important tool.

IV. METRO Representative –Margarita Dunlap

- Ms. Dunlap handed out maps reflecting the changes that the Reimagining project will accomplish (the map is available on the SN17 website). METRO is sponsoring public meetings to discuss the proposed changes and the meetings are open to the public. The meetings are in various parts of the City, beginning on May 31<sup>st</sup> and running through July 31. You can get more information at transitsystemreimagining.com. That website also has an interactive map. Overall, the changes are proposing simple routes, better connections, weekend service, and the routes are planned trips to key activity centers.

V. Old Business:

- A. There was a discussion regarding corrections to the minutes. After the discussion, the previous minutes from May were approved with corrections.

B. Committee Reports:

1. Beautification: V. Manning discussed the west side trail. She also noted there are sinkholes at South Barryknoll and it is a continuing problem and usually happens after a heavy rain, and it affects drainage. When the issue is fixed, Public Works has damaged pieces

of the new trial, so it's an issue that needs to be fixed permanently. It was noted that the "Tiger project" is federal money for trails and Brays Bayou will tentatively be addressed. Ms. Manning noted there is graffiti on Westheimer and the homeless are still an issue.

2. S.N.A.P.: Doug Parrish state that he and Judy Thompson met with Clark Martinson regarding the proposed widening of Eldridge to six lanes. Mr. Martinson stated that the idea is very much conceptual and there is no money approved for the project. Mr. Martinson agreed that he will advise the SN17 if things move forward. It will possibly revamp current intersections, new landscaping, more safety walk ways and wider sidewalks. There has been no coordination with the City regarding the project. Also, Doug noted that he has suggested changes to Briar Forest because of all the apartments being added, and the Memorial project (from Kirkwood to Eldridge) has been delayed because apparently the Memorial residents are opposing it.

3. Homeless: Jack O'Connor reported that they are planning on speaking to area HOAs about the homeless and will include information on the SN to increase interest in the SN.

4. Flooding: Billy Long stated that there was a lot of rain in April and May and there were no apparent flooding issues so the measures being implemented to address flooding in the area appear to be working.

## VI. New Business

A. Doug Parrish advised the METRO representative that there is a bus stopping in front of McDonalds on Eldridge (in Kroger strip center) because he is ahead of schedule. He is blocking a lane of traffic. She will address it.

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is July 9, 2014. There is no meeting in August.