

Minutes of Meeting June 8, 2011 – DRAFT  
From: Sherry Lamb – Secretary Protem  
SN#17 Eldridge/West Oaks

**Called to Order** 7:05 p.m. at Eagle's Trace location

**Announcements**

From City of Houston representing Oliver Pennington's office as well as other Super Neighborhood Mid-West was brought to us by Mark Kirschke, Esq.

- Soft go live on 311. Please go to the site, try it, and give feedback. This is phase one. The new portal has logos and is touted to be user friendly.
- New Houston Permitting Center (all under one roof) 1002 Washington Avenue. The average business has 18 permits required. This center should streamline the process considerably.
- Redistricting plan has area G split. Westheimer Road is the new dividing line. Those living south of Westheimer will be moved to F. These changes dramatically change the demographics to include ethnic populations.
- The last dates to register as a candidate are August – 8 – September 7. Watch, participate and know the issues.
- Rebuild Houston has received voluminous negative responses to the new rates. The promised 5.00 per household is looking more like 8.25. There is some talk about lowering rate and borrowing the difference for the first year (this is not final, just talk). Go to the City of Houston site to verify your property. Burden of proof is on the property owner to protest the fee within 60 days.
- Budget Workshops are continuing. The most recent development is the attempt to keep all firefighters on the job with some future promises. The City is looking for more effective health benefits so that they operate more like business regarding benefits. There have been 747 layoffs to date. Cuts will have the following effects: public pools closing, community centers closing, health clinics closing (not all, there are still 4 left), and athletic leagues are gone. The only league remaining is baseball as the Houston

Astros stepped up to the plate to save the program. Other major concerns are the police pension which may cause the city to dip into reserves. If too much dipping is done, it will dramatically change our debt ability. We will have to pay much more for loans if our city borrows too much.

- Ashford Village Shopping Center on Dairy Ashford has been cited with 4 citations to correct the eyesore and dangerous nature of the property. The owner seems willing to work to remedy the property.
- Metro community Workshops – the New Metro is seeking public input as to the desires of the community for public transport, rail, bus, park and ride, light rail, and more. The next meeting is June 16 in our area at the Courtyard Marriott on the Katy Freeway. There should be a link in Oliver Pennington’s newsletter for more information.
- The North Eldridge project to make it 6 lanes from Memorial Drive to Interstate 10 is progressing. This will involve complete overhaul of the intersection and changes at adjacent Turkey Creek.
- Bills moving toward passage – See attached information and further information online.

### **Committee Reports**

**Safety** – Bob Sumicek – Crime is down a bit, but that will change. Traditionally the summertime presents more vandalism and general crime as teens are out of school. Be mindful, watch, lock, look, and especially be a good neighbor stay in contact with your neighbors. Most of the crime statistics reflect that 75% of the crime is located in apartment complex areas. Parking lots are another area of concern. Lock your car. Put items in trunk so they are not visible.

Homeless issues are a continuing concern. Search.com is a site promoted by a group seeking to positively impact the homeless community. More information will be available soon.

**Beautification** – Doug Parrish reporting for Diane Guillerman – Catherine Flowers is our new contact person. We have (our SN#17) has identified 5 – 7 areas of concern regarding graffiti, homeless, excessive trash etc.

**Flooding** – Billie Long – Not a great deal of information has been presented due to the extreme drought. One item of note, The Corp. of Engineers is working on the flood gates and improving these areas. As Hurricane season commences, more information will be presented. The Corp. of Engineers have their own projects as does Harris County Flood Control. These two entities do work together as needed.

**Legislative** – Doug Parrish - The City of Houston has been reorganizing with the budget issues. This is bringing a change. Donald Perkins will no longer attend our meetings. Xavier Herrera (has been attending on occasion) will be our liaison. This new area will be known as the “chips” department. The general tasks are “citizen” oriented.

#### **Delayed old Business**

Minutes were accepted and voted upon with motion passing reflecting a unanimous vote.

#### **No announcements**

#### **Adjournment at approximately 8:30**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sherry Lamb – Delegate from John Paul II Catholic School