

Minutes from the meeting of January 8, 2014 SN 17

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

II. Speakers: None

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

Mark Kirschke – Representing Councilman Oliver Pennington's office. Mark brought greetings and updates relevant to our area.

The Terry Hershey Survey is a data gathering project only. Many of us have heard a great deal of miss information about detention and construction on the Buffalo Bayou area. He wanted to emphatically state that their office is first to find out about actual construction. Thus far the current survey is just that, a survey. The potential areas of expansion and detention creations that have been vehemently opposed by the save our forest groups and others are not to be feared at this time. He assures us that this is a data gathering only. All aspects such as: hydrology, drainage, natural/native species and other components are now going to be in this comprehensive survey. More information can be found at hcfcd.org/thpsurvey such as maps, timeline and more can be found here. You as a citizen can sign up there to receive email about this project. A hotline is available for questions. Note that this is an answering machine. You will be called with responses. The number is 713-684-4040. More about the recent crime in Terry Hershey will be discussed under Security.

Mandy Chapman Semple is the City of Houston liaison for homeless issues. She is continuing to work on refining ordinances regarding panhandling and homeless topics. She has a new assistant that is coming up to speed on the local information. She will be out to resurvey and fact check in about a month or so. As a follow up on the female veteran that many of us were concerned about – after many attempts, this lady has now agreed to accept services and is well on her way to more utilization of mental health and other much needed services.

Regarding mobility studies – there is an estimated 11,000 new jobs slated for the area as the cranes that hover in our immediate area complete their jobs. Congestion and economic growth will be forthcoming.

Just a note about our area – the Dairy Ashford extensive panel replacement project and its completion is very much to be commended due to the three super neighborhoods that border the street. We should be proud and thankful for these groups.

Memorial Super Neighborhood
Contact: Greg Sergesketter, President
Greg@Sergesketter.com

Briar Forest Super Neighborhood

Contact: Colin Eddington, President
ceddington@metlife.com

Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood
Contact: Doug Parrish, President
Dparrish923@gmail.com

The Houston Tax Credit housing groups – (low income housing). Register your association / group so you can have your voice heard. You want to receive letters and information about upcoming potential projects. Mark can provide you with an extensive list for verification. If you are not on it, you should be. Also, there is an important documents section of the SN17 webpage. Take a look for more important information.

The DART project - Dairy Ashford Revitalization Team is a new group/project. These are not just super neighborhoods; it is more involved as Dairy Ashford borders 3 super neighborhoods. Currently the purview of this group is only on the Tully stadium area yet the domain of the group goes all the way down Dairy Ashford to Westheimer. Look for more information to come regarding this group.

PIP – Be aware that there was no December meeting. The next meeting is January 16, 2014. Positive Interactive Programs meetings are collaborative meetings with City of Houston and your Local Police. This is a great time to meet local law enforcement and speak up about your issues to HPD staff.

Councilpersons for City of Houston

Richard Nguyen
District F
Phone: 832.393.3002

Oliver Pennington
District G
Phone: 832.393.3007

Stephen C. Costello (Engineering is his area of specialty)
At Large 1
Phone: 832.393.3014

David Robinson (architecture and planning is his area of specialty)
At Large 2
Phone: 832.393.3013

Michael Kubosh
At Large 3
Phone: 832.393.3005

C.O. "Brad" Bradford
At Large 4
Phone: 832.393.3012

Jack Christie (Chiropractic and Public Health is his area of specialty)
At Large 5
Phone: 832.393.3017

Remember that you have not only your district councilman but the at large members as well. These gentlemen welcome the opportunity to speak with you on issues of importance to you and our citizenry.

CIP projects will begin February 17 through March.

Stephen Costello – Councilman at large. Stephen brought greetings and gave some information about draining, planning, and detention issues. He discussed the Clodine Ditch. More about this particular flood issued is further discussed in the Flood report later in the meeting. He also remarked that The Gessner corridor is in need of drainage storage as well. Land for purchase is a high priority for those associated with the City and The Flood control district.

Mr. Costello reminded us that all councilmen want to hear from the citizens on any issue. Please do take the time to contact them if you have questions. They can assist or locate the correct person(s) to assist with your needs.

Rebuild Houston program was discussed in more detail. Stephen told us about the questions and issues related to public works versus maintenance and all parties working together for the common good.

He encouraged all to be involved and attend CIP meetings to provide valuable input on projects. We don't really have a direct say so in which projects are done, but if as an example, 5 projects are up for possible completion, public input on the which of 5 were most important if only 3 could be funded. So, make your voice known. The need for political not just factual/scientific input is needed.

Only 25% of Rebuild Houston funds can go toward maintenance. Year 10 is the first year that debt will be retired and real projects begin to overcome the significant neglect our infrastructure has had for the past couple of decades.

Be proud as a super neighborhood for the impact you make as a volunteer. This is a vital and essential group of folks. We should be proud of the good work being done by many tireless volunteers within our SN for our greater community good.

John Gibbs – Representing Michael Kubosh, Councilman at large, brought greetings and gave us contact information. He offered willingness to us that councilmen want to

stay in contact and assist the citizenry. They wish to work to problem solve all issues. They are willing to be guest speakers anytime. Please contact him at 832-393-3005.

Ronda Sauter with City of Houston brought greetings and information. There were no SNAP updates. There will be a shredding event January 25 at the Southwest Station off Beechnut. CIP projects, as the Mayor gives the word, emails will be sent. Look for more information soon.

Nghi Ho – Currently an ALIEF School District Board member is seeking the office of Texas State Representative of District 149. He gave us a short biography of his public commitments and positions that provided us with reasons that he feels he is qualified to run and represent us. Highlights of his career are as follows.

5 terms as and Alief ISD Board Member

They have cut taxes 3 years in a row “thus proving the ability to provide more with less”

36 year resident

AliefElsik Graduate

5 years in the NAVY

Officer in SN Alief

President of his local HOA

He is looking for your support.

Margarita Dunlap – Metro Public Affairs, brought greetings and information. December 21 was the launch of the North Line, which was deemed a success as a profitable route. Southeast and East end routes are slated for later in the year most likely September to November. The *Reimagine* is moving forward in the first quarter. Thank you for supporting METRO. Please do ride the routes and give feedback and ideas to Metro. Contact her for any questions you may have now or in the future.

Representative Jim Murphy’s staff brought greetings to the group. The Farmers Market at St. Cyril’s Church is a success. Please do take the time to visit and purchase if you have not taken the time to do so. There are many great vendors that are now depending on you to keep the project a success.

IV. Old Business

A. Approve Minutes from previous meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to accept the minutes from the previous meeting.

B. Committee Reports:

1. Beautification (Diane & Virgie) – None at this time

2. SNAP (Judy Thompson) - Nothing to report at this time

3. Security (Johnny Lozano) – Praises were made to local law enforcement regarding the crime rash at Terry Hershey Park. Clever undercover work resulted in arrests being

made. Do remember to continue to use caution when in open public areas. Be mindful of your surroundings. You can glean further information at crimereports.com for HPD and Constable reports. You can even tag your areas such as your child's day care or schools.

4. Flooding (Billie Long) - Billie provided a robust report using google maps to define the "Clodine" ditch and the overall flood control plan for our area. This was fascinating and powerful presentation.

5. Homeless (Jack O'Connor) – Jack gave us information on the proposed new ordinance for panhandlers to remain only on the sidewalks. We need to keep up the pressure with HPD and let them know we have no tolerance for these folks and want action. If needed, he can help us with "resource" sheets to give to panhandlers. WE are all encouraged NOT TO GIVE to panhandlers. Please share that with every neighbor you encounter. Giving is actually against the law. We want them to get services not money to keep up their addictions. A survey/count is coming soon.

6. Webmaster (Tom Mikus)

Tom provided a valuable report on the particulars of our website and ways to fully utilize all the features.

People can now access the website by typing sn17.org(or the old name). Thanks to Doug for paying to register the domain name.

We have 99 registered users:

- all 5 executive officers
- 1 of the 2 other committee chairs
- 9 of the 13 other known delegates
- 5 of the 17 known alternates
- 78 other users
- 1 other webmaster

The list of delegates and alternates may need updating for 2014.

Very few users log in, but...

We use the Calendar and the Message Board to generate Daily Digest emails. Emails about the meetings contain a link to the agenda (and other documents).

Very few users do not get these emails (by opting out).

I have emailed Security Alerts to all users.

I cannot determine how many users and others visit the website without a login. Those people can see the Calendar and other info, but not the Message Board.

The pages for the committees are not really active.

We could link to those in emails when the committees want to push out new info.

I would like to add a map of SN17 showing the member-neighborhood locations. The city maps use section numbers, not organization names, and are hard to read. How can we locate all the neighborhoods on a map?

V. New Business:

A. Announcements:

Please check the website and download the delegate letter and bring your signed letter to the next meeting to be a properly accepted delegate for your association.

1. Proposed changes to the By Laws – **Please visit the website and view these changes and be ready to vote for next meeting.**

2. Proposed resolution for Briar Forest SN Detention Ponds. – **Please visit the website and CAREFULLY read the resolution. Be ready to discuss and offer suggestions as to the specific wording for this resolution and vote on the final version of the resolution.**

3. Annual Meeting agenda:

Vote on proposed By Law changes & election of VP \$ Treasure.

Adjournment

Next meeting is Wednesday, February 12, 2014
at Eagles Trace

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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