

MINUTES for the meeting of July 9, 2014

I. Call to Order at 7:04 p.m.

II. Speakers: Johnny Lozano re: Long Range Planning Committee

Johnny Lozano recommended reaching out to the local HOA (homeowner association) and POA (property owner association) groups for our super neighborhood both directly and by way of the management companies. Rita Haven was a management company representative who was asked to attend our meeting for informational purposes. We seek to improve our meeting attendance and general participation by local residents. The creation of additional committees is also a goal of the long range planning committee and the delegates in general of our SN17. Several committee chairs gave some general information as to what their goals and accomplishments have been to date. Issues of graffiti, homelessness, panhandlers, crime, traffic, etc. were briefly described for the general attendees. Mr. Lozano requested that any and all who wish to give input please do so. We want to have a “kick off” of sorts. A letter of introduction and purposes will be in the works to present to homeowner association groups as a first point of contact. This important letter will describe issues of great concern to all residents such as the widening of Eldridge and panhandlers. We will seek to present at local HOA group meetings. Hopefully, this will provide impetus to increase our numbers at meetings while furthering our goals.

The additional goal of becoming a not for profit group was offered by Johnny. Information will be obtained as to the specifics on becoming a 5013c or 504? The reason for this status is for fundraising for projects and more involvement with local businesses too. Mark Kirschke, of Oliver Pennington’s office, stated that the Memorial Super Neighborhood 16 is seeking this status as well, and may be a valuable source of information.

GENERAL COMMENTS From group

Regarding damage to esplanade sprinkler systems – please let help make our COH contacts be made aware of the areas affected so that those doing grass mowing will be more careful with areas that are services with automatic sprinkler systems. Ms. Rhonda Sauter, the Mayor’s liaison representative, reassured us that she would pass along this information and would verify any details on this issue that we needed to be made aware.

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

District G - Mark Kirschke, of Oliver Pennington’s office

Mark brought greetings and stated that a budget was approved for the City. Sadly, it is predicted that there is a projected 143 million dollar shortfall for next year. He reported that Oliver recommended a 3.5% reduction in all expenses to aid in accomplishing a more balanced budget. That was not accepted. Other significant issues included the CIP projects. It is rumored that there neighborhood grant program may be revitalized. A brief recap of this is as follows: grants are approx. \$500.00 – \$3,000.00 for projects within the communities in the COH. The group would make the expenditures and COH would (after a process) remit about half of the funds back to the community making the expenditures. This has

not been funded and is only in the debate stages at this time. Reportedly these would be one per year per district. This might come out of the individual council persons funding.

There will be a West Houston Mobility Study public meeting at Houston Community College at Interstate 10 to be held on July 22, 2014 with comments period from 6 – 8 p.m.

Mr. Kirschke will be sending a URL for a MAP 21 performance based needs survey.

Regarding Chapter 42 regarding smaller lots and density of housing issues, citizens do still have time to make applications. The cutoff date was extended until the “fall.” If you have questions about this issue, Mark can give some insight as to the particulars.

The “Park” survey is not yet complete. This survey was designed to aid in the space usage with an average of 65 square feet per person. As many would agree some areas have much in the way of parks and green spaces while others do not. This survey is a good way to make your voice heard.

The Memorial Project is ongoing. Members can go to the Memorial Super Neighborhood website to gain additional information.

District F – Dylan Osborne, of Richard Nguyen

Mr. Osborne gave greetings and information stating that the funding for drainage is opening up. The Richmond project and other CIP projects and the details of these can be found in the District F newsletter along with information about the Alief area. IF you are interested in seeking a meeting with Councilman Nguyen, please do not hesitate to contact Dylan or Councilman Nguyen’s office.

Margarita Dunlap of METRO

Ms. Dunlap brought greetings. She stated that the Reimagineering Comments must be completed by the end of July 2014. Implementation is expected to be next year. It will take approximately 6 months to digest the information and formulate changes for implementation.

Jim Murphy’s representative brought greetings and briefly discussed his recent appointment to the chair position of the education policy and effects of skills labor committee. Please do forward any comments and questions to his office.

IV. Old Business

A. Approve Minutes from previous meeting.

Much discussion ensued by one of the delegates as to the correctness of meeting minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and accepted to formulate a path for minutes to be corrected in a different way than currently utilized. This will be accomplished within the executive session to be completed before the next meeting in September to be made public to the group most probably by way of the web.

B. Committee Reports:

1. Beautification (Diane & Virgie)

Virgie spoke at length about the various “hot spots” in our F and G areas. Comments and concerns were directed to Dylan Osborne and Rhonda Sauter. A suggestion was made for sake of time that she continue these lengthy conversations with those representatives after the formal meeting.

2. SNAP (Judy Thompson)

Judy Thompson made us aware that actually “SNAP” no longer exists. We should probably rename this committee 311 for future reference. She wanted to inquire of COH what the correct path would be to have pot holes corrected with concrete panels instead of just a asphalt quick repair that does not last. Rhonda Sauter will be happy to check into this matter and report back to our group.

3. Security (Johnny Lozano)

Mr. Lozano will be attending the PIP meeting. The general crime statistics seem up for the most recent period particularly in the Alief area. He restated our common goal to rid the community of panhandlers due to the crime associated with this group. Johnny seemed to feel that there is a conflict within HPD as to how things are handled. We believe that there has been a change of leadership that may be one influence in this issue. Rhonda Sauter will gather information and present it back to the group. Additionally, she will locate information on the personal meetings with the Chief of Police so that we may more directly route our questions.

4. Flooding (Billie Long)

We have had some locally heavy rain with no ill effects at this time.

5. Homeless (Jack O'Connor)

Jack O'Connor affirmed the basic issues of homeless vs panhandling and the need to add this information or our previous letter to the homeowner groups to that we may have more involvement in this important matter.

6. Webmaster (Tom Mikus)

Tom Mikus wanted to clarify some issues regarding web use and status of delegates and members. He was seeking to obtain who is a delegate, what is the process, why some are list by not registered, and some are registered by not on the list. It was agreed that in executive session those clarifications would be me discussed and solutions prepared before Tom leaves us for his future endeavors.

V. New Business:

None

A. Announcements

None

B. Adjournment at 9:00 p.m.

Next Meeting is Wednesday, September 10, 2014. No August meeting

Respectfully Submitted,
Sherry Lamb – Delegate from John Paul II Catholic School
Co-Secretary SN 17