

Memo to: Doug Parrish and SN17
From: Co-Secretary – Sherry Lamb
Date: January 10, 2013
Re: Minutes from meeting

January meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m. at Eagles Trace Location

Mr. Nelson Espitia is our new contact from City of Houston COH. Mr. Hererra has moved to Harris County government. Fortunately, we will have a “friend” to assist us with county issues.

Nelson gave us several updates.

- CIP and SNAP deadlines. SNAP items are due by 5 p.m. on February 15, 2013
- New COH program for hearing impaired citizens – Visual Fire alarms for the home for those with hearing difficulties. Additional information may be found on the attached handout from the meeting.
- Homeless Issues – law enforcement, COH, and other stakeholders are working with groups to “obtain a good official count of the homeless” and to better understand and cope with this group of our population. All are encouraged to register on Citizens net to receive email news on this and many topics.
- Shredding – this occurs once a month at various substations; this information should be provided on the COH website.
- Trash pick-up – remember that holidays interrupt regular pick up, be aware.
- Christmas Tree Recycling – This is still available Hwy 59 at Beltway; more on the COH website
- Chemical disposal – COH facility on S. Main near the Reliant stadium area; more on the COH website
- Recycling – Westpark near Hwy 59 at Toll way; also more on the COH website General hours 8 – 5 M-Sat

Oliver Pennington – Councilman to COH also provided us with some updates.

- Civic groups should register with the COH; a form is attached with these minutes
- Super neighborhood officer lists and changes due to elections should also be forwarded to COH
- Dairy Ashford construction has begun. Hopefully, most are excited about these changes while not being too inconvenienced by the traffic changes.
- Homeless at Burlington Coat Factory is an ongoing problem; to date no changes have occurred.
- In this general area there is a positive note, the owner of West Oaks Mall has happily agreed to sign the document so that HPD can enforce removal of improper persons.
- Rebuild Houston meetings are the 4th Tuesday of the month at City Hall
- CIP hearings will be in late February or early March, dates will be posted in late January.
- PIP meetings are held on 3rd Thursday of the month. Captain Skelling of HPD is quite responsive

Oliver has an e-newsletter. He is always looking for newsworthy items. Please submit any news, happenings, excitement, etc. so that these can be shared with the greater community.

Population projections are in the thoughts of COH. With this in mind considerations are being made to have developers carry more of the costs. Predictions of a 40% increase in occupancies in the Energy Corridor are expected.

Rep. of Texas Murphy sent greetings through his assistant. There will be a town hall meeting Saturday, January 26th at 10:30 a.m. at Memorial High School. All are welcome.

Committee Reports

Beautification – Vergie presented information about the proposed expansion of the rules governing food trucks. Requests have been made for 40 not 20 pound propane tanks, the ability to have tables and chairs and for multiple trucks at one location. Many of our group lodged some serious reservations about this expansion as there are only 3 persons in the task force for that purpose (suggested by Oliver Pennington). There are about 900 trucks with permits at this time. Nelson Espitia from COH offered to gather more information on the rules and regulations and forward it to us so that we can make a more informed decision as to whether or not we write a letter from the group to the COH recommending that expansion not occur.

HPD has been very responsive in working to reduce the homeless problems in our area. Many were gone but now seem to be returning. The homeless committee is very active and seeking more to aid them to resolve these issues.

Security – John Lozano stated that there was no report this evening

Snap – Judy Thompson reminded us of the February 15th deadling. We all need to check with our respective groups to list problems for the SN Eldridge Westoaks list for Snap submission. Please prepare a list before next meeting. Contact Judy if you have questions about these type of projects as these have significantly changed since Rebuild Houston has been implemented. Mulch on Dairy Ashford is already on the list. Clearing the Railroad Tracks on Synott is a possible addition. Mr. Espitia is also gong to forward more information on the railroad track issue to our SN.

Call 311 for the following items: Signals out and abandon cars – this might be HPD depending on location. Please be aware of your individual neighborhoods and make lists and locations, even photos.

CIP will be later this spring – these are the capital projects (extensive and expensive projects)

Flooding – Billy Long followed the local water systems and noted that there was no major flooding in our recent heavy rain.

Homeless- Jack O'Connor aided the group by verifying the general definitions of homeless, chronic homeless, and pan handling. The Faith based groups are showing a 80% success rate with genuine homeless. The Westside Homeless Initiative and SBISD are very involved with this portion of our population. There are rules that state that citizens not give food, water, or money to these persons. This defeats the purpose of obtaining good counseling, aid, and assistance. Please encourage your neighbors in this area. HPD has a task force of 3 and could be a guest speaker for our group in the future.

No New Business

Adjournment at 8:00 p.m.

Next meeting is beginning for the purpose of electing new officers for the position of President and Secretary.

John Lorzano as V.P. ran the meeting from this point.

Nominations were provided for President. Doug Parrish was nominated and unanimously elected as President.

Nominations were proved for Secretary. After discussion, Co-Secretaries was agreed upon. Diane Guillerman and Sherry Lamb were nominated and unanimously elected as Co-Secretaries.

Discussions of the general duties, purposes, and liabilities of the SN were discussed. Congratulations were in order followed by adjournment until the February Meeting to be held in the Eagles Trace location at the same time of 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Lamb Co-Secretary and Delegate from John Paul II Catholic School