

Quorum present

Called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Announcements from City of Houston COH

Oliver Pennington

- Rebuild Houston is continuing as proposed
- Hire Houston Ordinance is designed to promote Houston Businesses. Basically, an organization, vendor, company submits a bid for city projects, if the entity bid is within 3 – 5 % (depending on the size of the job...\$50,000,\$100,000 etc.) of the lowest bid and is a Houston business they can be given the contract as part of this ordinance.
- Long Range Planning Committee (Mr. Costello's (at large member) representative reported that meetings are being held every other Monday at 1:30 to continue discussions on why we are spending more than we take in. Every effort will be made to identify spending issued and try to make changes. This is a mirror of similar issues at State and Federal levels as we are all aware. Mr. Pennington reported that our liability for pensions was 100 million dollars in 2001 and now our same pension expenditures are 300 million. This long range committee is trying to come up with a variety of options and will present to COH for their vote.
- COH is doing some cutting...they cut 500 jobs in one swoop and have deleted 2500 jobs in total in recent months. This is only one step needed in overall budget reforms that will be needed.
- Xavier Herrera is the COH representative that will be the neighborhood representative. He brought greetings and provided additional information on "community U" Flyers were available for this program. October 15 from 8 until 1:15 at the United Way office. This is a program for becoming a more active citizen and advocate. Additionally, Ms. Flowers can also be our advocate for COH issues.
- Water leaks and drought conditions are a major concern and COH is stretched thin to meet the demand for services to stop and repair water main leaks.
- Michael Skillern is the new police chief for our area. Former chief is now in special crimes area. She will be missed. Mr. Skillern has a degree from Baylor, seems very proactive. Additionally his wife is also an officer.
- Camera project on Briarforest at Wilcrest is of great interest to the new police chief. Other organizations such as homeowners groups or businesses are encouraged to use cameras and other security measures to protect property from vandalism and other crimes. The stated camera project feed goes directly to HPD.
- High Density Ordinance is now in effect. This is designed to keep high-rise condo/apartments away from valuable single family areas. It is aimed at buildings of 6 stories or more. Additional information is available on the COH website.
- Eldridge at Memorial intersection is the center stone of the Eldridge Memorial to I 10 project. This is slated to redo Turkey Creek and now has bids being submitted. Construction begins in 2012.
- Dairy Ashford shopping center that caught fire last year has been partially boarded up. This is helpful. The COH has levied 6,500.00 in fines and fees to the owner. More information will be given as to what more can be done to enforce and clean up this area.

Business

Motion was made and seconded to approve July minutes ---motion carried

Motion was made and seconded to approve August minutes –motion carried

Committee Reports

Security Bob Sumicek – reporting on G70 and G80 areas of COH HPD crime map

- Bush park fire is contained but not gone, still has teams present working remaining hot spots with possible wind changes and value in area.
- No murders
- 1 rape – (apartments)

- Aggravated assault down some
- Robbery way down....possibly due to school in session and excessive heat wave
- Burglary 30 in g 70 27 in g80
- Theft 31 in G 70 50 in g80...most of these in businesses
- Auto theft 12...10 in apts 3 in g80

SNAP Judy Thompson –

- Eldridge at Memorial to I 10 is slated for 2012 construction beginning
- Safe sidewalks project on Whittington to the village school area should be beginning and expected completion is planned for may 2012
- Repairs made of asphalt are not working except as an emergency measure. 2 areas of concern...Synott and Enclave Parkway

Beautification – Diane G. and Vergie

Judy Thompson reported that graffiti is gone, dumping is pretty much stopped and there seems to be only one area with high grass and that when Vergie returns from Louisiana, she and Diane will be continuing their vigilance. Diane is looking for a co-chair.

Flood – Billie Long

- Reservoir was build after WWII. It has yet to be more than ½ full. Many seem concerned that with all the Katy and western development, this will significantly impact this area. It is a high priority for Corp of Engineers and all relevant agencies.
- Flood insurance should be a purchase made by all who live in COH as urged by COH. The Fema map can help a citizen to determine their rates. Insurance companies can assist also.

Legislative – Doug Parrish

Potential candidates are asking to speak to our group...we **voted** as a group to allow this if they ask, we won't seek them. We will try to limit these speeches **to 5 minutes per candidate**.

We made a motion and seconded to amend the bylaws to allow for 2 meetings in the summer to be "dark" as many are out of town and attendance is very low (not always even a quorum) to be voted upon at next meeting

Several suggestions were made for guest speakers

New Police Chief - all

Judge Emmett's office of emergency management and homeland security – Sherry Lamb

Adjournment at 8:30

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Lamb

Delegate representing John Paul II Catholic School