

## Minutes for the meeting of November 13, 2013

- I. Call to Order – 7:08 P.M.
- II. Speakers: None
- III. Announcements: Districts F & G, City, Metro.

**Oliver Pennington** brought greetings and offered many thanks to everyone's support in the recent election. He is happy and thankful for the opportunity to work with the group in "getting many things accomplished." He looks forward to 2 years of more successes. He is currently working on priorities such as crime, homeless, and other ongoing issues.

The Eagles Trace Proclamation at the City of Houston was a nice affair. Eagles Trace has provided our SN#17 with lovely meeting space and refreshments for our monthly gatherings. He noted that this community at Eagles Trace and its residents do really support the greater community with volunteerism and outreach too.

Regarding revision of streets repair and design, he would like input. Please email his office or call Mark Kirschke.

Chronic Homeless issues – 3,500 resident spots are slated for homeless. Mandy Sample is our liaison. She has been working hard along with our homeless committee to identify and create a realistic census of homeless. There is a need to identify those who have only lost a job, from those who have substance abuse issues, from those who have mental health issues so facilities and help can be found for the particular needs. \$750,000 in grants from Wells Fargo has been awarded. Some of this aid can be used for veterans and programs for vets in need.

Property on Dairy Ashford between Briar Forest and Whittington has been sold. COH/Pennington office is still waiting for plans for the facility. The information that has been received suggests that a refurbishing of the space in to "nice" retail shops is the plan for the land.

PIP meetings – this is a cooperative program where Police and citizens can get to know the community and identify the problems while working on solutions. The next meeting is Thursday November 21, 2013 at 3203 S. Dairy Ashford.

Ordinances

No texting while driving is in the process of formation.

Resident buffer ordinance was pulled, though many feel it is step in the right direction. Property owners would need to have 25 feet mowed and free of trash on the street sides of property. As more information is known, it will be shared.

Mobile Food Units – This is being evaluated. City of Houston wants to reserve the use of these “food trucks” for special events only. There are several reasons for this thinking. The city streets need to be clear and free flowing for traffic purposes. An additional factor is a more permanent “street scape” is desired with shops and eateries. A suggestion was presented about turning the ground floor of the George R Brown into shops and food establishments. In a related item - there is a new hotel also slated for the Northern end of the George R. Brown complex. This hotel is upscale as is the Hilton Americas on the Southern end.

A plan for additional bayou detention areas is being considered in the Wilcrest to Eldridge portion of Buffalo Bayou. The current plan is not being well received. One reason is that the amount of detention is far smaller than the total square feet needed. More on this will follow.

Budget for City of Houston – Mayor Parker presents a 5 year plan each year when she submits a budget. There are public projected estimates for an 80 million budget deficit is expected next year. A primary concerns with this large shortfall is pension disbursements. This is mandated by law. Representative Jim Murphy offered legislation on this matter but it did not receive much “traction.” Perhaps more may be submitted in the future as this is an ongoing issue.

**Rhonda Sauter** from Mayor’s Citizen’s Assistance Office brought information to the group. She responded to questions regarding vacant lots. These need to identified and cleaned. Our Beautification Committee members have noted several lots in our SN #17 area to Ms. Sauter’s attention. Rhonda suggested a new program that allows for the City to id, clean, and turn over the maintenance to SN or other citizens. The Super Neighborhoods would be the main contact for these lots and the maintenance, to maintain uniformity and connections.

Ms. Sauter reminded us to fully utilize the 311 phone app. This is very effective with a GPS locator build into the app. That makes identifying property without street signs much easier.

There is some discussion at City of Houston as to the 311 or capital nature of public works projects as well as parks and recreation projects. This will impact

311 and SNAP significantly. We need more information before we can present projects for COH approval and completion. As she receives details on this status she will forward it to the SN.

#### IV. Old Business

##### A. Approve Minutes from previous meeting.

Minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

##### B. Committee Reports:

1. Beautification (Diane & Virgie) – One tract of land has been identified with graffiti and homeless being on site. 14884 Westheimer was the location. This is an old “ Shell Station.”
2. SNAP (Judy Thompson) – nothing at this time, also waiting on the COH status on the 311 SNAP issue.
3. Security (Johnny Lozano) – generally crime is down due to school being back in session. A group of prostitution rings were found to be located on Westheimer in our SN area. HPD was notified and those have been quickly remedied.
4. Flooding (Billie Long) – none at this time
5. Homeless (Jack O’Connor) – most covered by Oliver Pennington, Jack O’Connor was not present to offer a report.
6. Webmaster (Tom Mikus) – none at this time

#### V. New Business:

##### A. Announcements

A motion and a second were offered to cancel the meeting for December due to lack of attendance during the holidays. Regular meetings will return in January 2014.

##### B. Adjournment – 8:20 p.m.

Next meeting **JANUARY 8, 2014** at Eagles Trace