

Minutes from the meeting of APRIL 12, 2017 – Super Neighborhood 17

- I. Call to Order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was established.
- II. Officer Robinson, from the Westside Command Station, advised the Super Neighborhood attendees as to current crime statistics, since the last SN meeting. There were no murders or sexual assaults. There were twenty-seven burglaries of a habitation, twenty-five of which were at apartment complexes (most occurring in the 13,000-14,500 blocks of Briar Forest). There were fourteen burglaries of a building (on Westheimer mostly). There were fifty-one thefts (only six were of individuals, many were shop lifting). An attendee asked what was going to happen, if anything, with Fantasy Island. Officer Robinson stated it is hard to close those places down. Johnny Lozano mentioned the new ordinance that was passed by City Council regarding panhandlers.

Mr. Huyhn, Council member Le's representative, commented that the Mayor has asked each council member to look for temporary housing for the homeless. They are asking for help from churches and temples because private property owners and apartment owners do not really want to house the homeless. The City is going to use billboards and social media to seek assistance in the endeavor. Officer Robinson noted that as long as the homeless are getting money, they are not going to leave the area. Mr. Huyhn asked that if anyone knows of an appropriate location for temporarily housing the homeless, to please let council members know.

- III. Government Announcements:

Van Huynh – District F representative:

Mr. Huynh advised that the pre-engineering for section 5 (Parkhollow place subdivision) is complete, so it will not have to be re-added to the CIP requests. Council member Le will meet with the Mayor regarding funding for the project. (The streets are being redone.)

J. Lozano asked about speed cushions. Mr. Huyhn said the wait is long, but because Mr. Lozano's subdivision has funds for the speed cushions (and council member Le will match those funds), the project is approved to happen in 2018. He noted that 2018 funding kicks in in July of 2017.

Mr. Huyhn said that there is extra money left over from Representative Costello's "SWAT" project (see February SN minutes). Tanglewild and West Belfort were priorities for the project, but there is additional money left over for flooding issues and they want to address flooding issues on the west side of town.

Mark Kirschke – District G representative:

Mr. Kirschke discussed the search for temporary housing for the homeless. The City is looking for a place that can hold up to seventy-five individuals, has some covering and bathrooms, some place where they can pitch their tents until a residence can be found for them. He noted that the west side has mostly panhandlers rather than homeless. The project is part of an effort to provide meaningful change. And people can give money to organizations that help the homeless rather than giving the money directly to the homeless.

Mr. Kirschke also discussed the new ordinances passed by City council. One is an encampment ordinance (it will not be enforced for thirty days because they are trying to figure out where they will relocate encampments) and the other is a solicitation ordinance. People will no longer be able to solicit from medians. It is a public safety ordinance, found in Chapter forty. There will be a \$500 fine (it is a misdemeanor).

In November, pension obligation bonds will be voted on. General government and park bonds will be voted on as well. The bond funds from 2012 are almost gone, so the bond election in November will be to replace those funds. He noted that, of the \$410 million received from last bond fund, District G received \$1.5 million (a very low amount).

He also noted that it looks like there will be a re-vote on Rebuild Houston, and he noted that Mayor Turner is still insisting on a revenue cap, which can undermine the TIRZs. Mr. Kirschke suggested that the SN might want to get a forum together to discuss the pros/cons regarding the issues coming up in the November election.

A resident asked if there was going to be any action taken regarding the light in front of Eagle's Trace. The only thing they could do would be to put a sign warning of the upcoming light going south, but there are not enough accidents to warrant that action. Mr. Kirchske suggested doing an "alert slip" through HPD (HPD can ticket anyone going through the red light). Eagle's Trace representative stated that Eagle's Trace does do resident education regarding the light and drivers on Highway 6.

Deanna Harrington – Jim Murphy's (State Representative) representative:

Ms. Harrington stated that Texas's legislature is in session. She noted that on May 6, 2017 there will be a vote on HISD's recapture issue (where "rich" school districts in Texas have to share with "poorer" school districts). HISD is now a "rich" district and must contribute to poorer districts. However, previously, Houston voters voted that HISD could not make cash payments to balance out HISD's "wealth." So that means HISD will have to reallocate commercial properties to a poorer district, in this case, Aldine ISD. Aldine ISD will get the tax revenues from those commercial properties and HISD will not be able to re-obtain those commercial properties for its tax rolls. This will result in two commercial properties being taxed at different rates even if they are next door to each other. Also, the value of those properties will rise, but HISD will not get the benefit of the rising property values. Some of the areas of town that are being looked at to reassign commercial properties are the Galleria and Greenway Plaza. In addition, once those commercial properties are reassigned, taxes will have to be raised on residential properties to make up for the lost revenue from the commercial properties. So, she is

asking Houston residents to vote to allow HISD to make cash payments as opposed to reassigning commercial properties. The first “payment” (really reassigning of commercial properties) is already scheduled and cannot be undone. Please vote “yes” on the ballot on May 6th. She noted that the ballot language is confusing, so vote “yes” to purchasing student “credits.”

She also noted that Houston was the first district to vote no on cash payments, so TEA may be forced to reconsider detachment (reassignment of commercial properties).

IV. Old Business:

A. March minutes were approved.

B. Committee Reports:

Beautification/Parks and Trails: Virgie – stated that new master bike plans are looked at every five years, to re-examine use.

SNAP: Judy Thompson – noted that she and Virgie met with Council member Le about CIP requests for District F. She is very appreciative of his efforts.

Security: J. Lozano – noted that Officer Robinson gave crime stats.

Homeless: J. Lozano – noted that the new ordinance should keep the panhandlers off the median. Mark Eisenbaum is responsible for doing a “count” of the homeless in the city. The west side captain is very helpful with the homeless issue, but there is a shortage of officers.

No other committee reports were available.

V. New Business:

An attendee asked what was going on at the corner of West Park and Eldridge. She thinks that a gas station, car wash and convenience store are being planned. She is concerned that it will bring problems.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm. Next meeting is May 10, 2017.