

Minutes from the meeting of February 10, 2016 – Super Neighborhood 17

- I. Call to Order at 7:03 p.m.
- II. David Mark Koogler and Zach Cavender with Mark-Dana Corporation came and gave a presentation regarding West Oaks Crossing, the proposed development on Highway 6, across the street from the Dam Ice House and just north of the Le Fisherman strip center. The development is an “affordable housing” project. Twenty percent of the units will be rented at market rate while the rest of the units will be at reduced rents depending on the income of the applicants as compared to the annual average income in the area.

There were numerous questions from attendees regarding the project. City Council Member Travis stated that he would support/not support the development depending on how the SN (constituents) voted. It was noted that Doug Parrish, the SN president, and Bill Schwind the Lakes of Parkway delegate had previously met with the developers and reviewed the presentation. One delegate called for a vote on the proposed development and the webmaster stated a survey would be sent to the delegates.

- III. Representatives’ Announcements:

- A. District G Constituent Services & Communications, Mark Kirschke

Mr. Kirschke appeared on behalf of City Council Member Travis. He noted the Annual District G CIP meeting will be held on March 3, 2016 at 6:30 pm at Stratford High School Auditorium, 14555 Fern Dr., Houston, Texas 77079. He also had a hand-out with additional information, which is available on the SN website at www.SN17.org. Capital Improvement Plan meetings are held every year to inform citizens of upcoming projects in their area and citizens can voice their concerns and address City council Members regarding projects and needs. CIP requests should be requested through 311 (by phone or www.houston311.org) select “Traffic Streets & Drainage,” then under Capital Improvement Projects, Streets and Drainage,” select “New Capital Improvement Project Request.” Send a request to City Council Member Travis’s office. To view current Adopted FY2016-2020 CIP, visit: <http://www.houstontx.gov/cip/16cipadopt/index.html>.

Mr. Kirschke noted that after a number of residents opposed the project to widen Gessner from four to six lanes, Public Works & Engineering was asked to come up with an alternative. The final configuration of Gessner has not been determined. PWE was asked to look at alternatives that would not widen Gessner north of Westheimer and look solely at intersection improvements. PWE will these discuss alternatives at a public engagement meeting, to be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr., Houston, Texas 77042. At 6:00 pm, the exhibits will be available for preview by the public, the presentation begins at 6:15 pm, Q&A begins at 6:45, and the meeting will adjourn at 7:30 pm. The meeting also seeks additional comment from the community.

Mr. Kirschke also discussed the Memorial Drive Reconstruction Project Public Engagement Meeting scheduled for March 24, 2016, at BridgePointe Bible Church youth activity room, 13277 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas 77079. The meeting begins at 6:30 pm. The project (reconstructing Memorial from Kirkwood to Eldridge) will begin soon and will start at Kirkwood rather than Eldridge. The State of Texas will refund the City 80% of the construction costs up to \$12,647,308.00. For more information, go to the SN website www.sn17.org.

B. District F Council Member, Dr. Steve Le

Dr. Le noted that the District F CIP meeting will be held on March 7, 2016. The location is to be announced. He discussed the panhandler issue with the delegates; particularly J. Lozano, who is on the Homeless Committee. Mr. Lozano expressed a desire to have Dr. Le's Council Administrative Assistant, Van Huyhh, ride along with him to observe the panhandler issues. Mr. Huyhh agreed to do so. Dr. Le stated he is working with Public Works to replace pot holes in various areas with panels rather than continually repairing the holes. He also wants to evaluate street lights in District F, in neighborhoods and along thoroughfares, so if anyone notices areas where more lighting is needed, please contact his office.

Dr. Le is vice chair of public safety. He stated the first thing City Council needs to do is get crime down. He indicated that although Houston Police Department reports that crime is down, citizens are not seeing that result. One safety issue is the panhandlers.

An attendee noted the panhandlers around the Target store at Eldridge and Westheimer, but Dr. Le stated that property is in Harris County, not the City of Houston.

C. State Rep Jim Murphy's Staff Member, Deanna Harrington

Ms. Harrington stated she had attended the meeting to see what the attendees felt about the proposed West Oaks crossing development. Again, the issue was discussed. An informal vote was taken with one delegate voting "no" and another voting "yes." The webmaster stated he will send the survey and ask various questions regarding the development.

IV. Old Business:

A. Approved minutes from January, 2016.

B. Committee Reports:

Beautification: Virgie reported that she met with Van Huyhh from Dr. Le's office on February 4, 2016, to discuss two beautification/homeless problems. The two locations are: (1) 13100 Meadowbriar at Synott, where there is dumping going on, and (2) 12289 West Houston Center, where there is an unsecured building that needs to be demolished. In both locations, homeless have been seen.

Regarding 13100 Meadowbriar, numerous requests have been made to the City for clean-up as this area is a breeding ground for mosquitos and rats, creating a

health hazard. As to 12289 West Houston Center, it was requested to be demolished two years ago.

311/SNAP: Judy Thompson provided a report regarding unresolved infrastructure issues for District F. She rode along with Virgie and Mr. Huyhh. The purpose was to meet and do a driving tour of unresolved issues: (1) SNAP #7620 – request for a concrete panel replacement for an asphalt section at 131 Block of Westpark. This SNAP was requested in 2011 and approved by the city. The estimated start date for the concrete panel replacement was 12/31/13, but it was never done; (2) Replacement of the storm sewer pipes on both sides of the Westside Hike and Bike Trail at 3402 ½ Briar Knoll. This was a 2015 CIP request (reference #101001672636). The project was approved and though repairs began a few months ago, work was stopped. We are requesting work resume until repair is done; (3) Repair of the sinking sewer on both sides of the 3401-3455 block of Eldridge Parkway. The repair of the sewer was requested on our 2015 SNAP, but no number was assigned. The city continues to asphalt over this section of road instead of repairing the underground sewer pipes that are causing this cave-in; (4) 3143 Skypark Drive - A SNAP request for a concrete panel replacement.

Security: J. Lozano reported crime statistics for districts 19 and 20 (HPD) from Houston Police Department.

Homeless/Panhandler: J. Lozano reported that Maddie Provost has been working with him and Jack O'Connor regarding panhandlers. It was stated that City Council needs to tell HPD to begin to enforce the laws and public safety.

Flooding: Billie Long stated all is well regarding flooding. There are retention ponds that are being constructed.

- C. Doug Parrish stated that the Department of Neighborhoods is having a coffee for the Super Neighborhoods at some date in the future.
- D. Bill Schwind noted that HPD had a special enforcement project at Briarbrook and Whittington, off of Eldridge, just north of Westheimer because drivers are not observing the right turn lane only marker (a traffic light at that intersection has been requested). HPD was positioned in the Ashford church parking lot and issued over 350 tickets – 170 for speeding and failure to stop.
- E. Meeting was adjourned at 9:16pm. Next meeting is March 9, 2016.