

Minutes from the meeting of February 13, 2019 of Super Neighborhood 17 – Eldridge/West Oaks

- I. Call to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-President Lozano. Quorum was established by 8 delegates or alternates.

II. Guest Speakers

- 1) Commander Faulhaber, from HPD, spoke on current safety matters. While overall crime is down at 30 days, 60 days and YTD there was an uptick in burglary of buildings due to known crew. Two were caught less than a week prior to the meeting. Both were already out on bond and believed to be back committing crimes. He suggested that the community raise awareness politically. The bonds were likely low due to an indigence claim, adjustments to the courts following the recent elections, and a new bond system that may not have “caught up” with repeat offenders.

In January he reported that a warrant on another group led to the recovery of several weapons. This was with the assistance of Federal partner agencies. As such they are able to take advantage of Federal resources to prosecute.

He also reported an uptick in jugging. That is where criminals mark and follow a potential victim from a place of business, especially from businesses where valuables may be identified. They then attempt to rob the victim at home, at an intermediate stop, or even while stopped in traffic.

The Commander also reported that following a recent manpower study he hopes to have additional manpower in the coming months. Due to current staffing levels Westside Command makes few self-initiated calls, as clearly seen in the lack of traffic enforcement. With more manpower, he would also be able to have more officers strategically placed which would improve response time.

In response to a question from the audience about cameras, he noted that while he may know perpetrators from video evidence it may not necessarily be clear enough to convince a court.

- 2) Lisa Cassanovic and Richard MacNamera from the Houston Parks Board spoke about their organization and the Bayou Greenways 2020 project.

They are a non-profit organization, not part of the City Parks & Recreation Dept., but with over a 40 yr history of collaboration with the city. They have a right of entry agreement to all City parks. When outside groups want to work with the city on special projects they are able to function as an entity capable of holding fund accounts as well as hire out engineering, design, and construction teams.

The Bayou Greenways 2020 project is part of a 2012 city bond, city wide initiative to connect land along the bayou system. 100M has been allocated by the city. 10M has been collected by the board, and another 10M is needed to fully fund the project. It will include 150mi of connected trails along the major bayous in the city. It also includes

greenspace for trail amenities, gateway parks, trailhead right of way, and activity green zones along the trails. The project also includes an 80 year follow-up program that includes regular mowing, far above HCFC's thrice per annum, litter cleanup, trail maintenance patrols. Also included in coordination with HPD are 911 distance markers. For more information, check out the website www.bayougreenways.org

This includes the Upper Bray's Bayou Greenway, 8 miles of trail from Archbishop Joseph A Forienza Park to US-59. This will start in the summer and should take about one year. This will connect Arthur Storey and Mike Driscoll parks with the eventual goal of being able to connect from Highway 6 to the Port of Houston on the trail system. An additional gateway park is currently planned on Ashford Point Dr. with land already acquired.

Question as to coordinating with METRO? The current project is geographically defined as they follow the watersheds. There is a next phase plan to include lateral connection.

Question as to whether added concrete have an effect on bayou runoff? That is part of the plan. They must follow the ACE rules, which includes adding detention. Following Harvey there were no washouts of trail or amenities as they are designed to be part of the bayou system. They are upgrading pre-existing facilities to ADA compliant concrete. This includes the trail between Westpark, Richmond, and Synott and a recent bridge replacement.

Question as to what is being doing along Buffalo Bayou? That was accomplished by Steve Raddick and are not included in the current project.

- 3) **Rene Ruiz, Department of Neighborhoods, from the Mayor's Citizens Assistance Office**, spoke briefly. The Council F CIP meeting will be Feb 26 at the Alief Community Center. Council G Mar 18 at Tallowood Baptist Church.
- 4) Mark Kirschke, of Councilman Travis's office then spoke on the Harvey reimbursement effort. The program will cover at a variable 25%-50% of unreimbursed expenses. It includes various priority groups such as disabled and low-income and will be distributed as a no-recourse no-interest forgivable loan.
- 5) Carol Guilleman of the COH Homeowner Assistance Project then followed on Mark's discussion. She directed people who need additional help, or help with rental recovery and other reimbursements to recovery.houstontx.gov. Where FEMA moved to provide interim fixes, the new project is working to make people whole.
- 6) Deanna of State Representative Jim Murphy's office announced the congressman is on the Ways & Means Committee and is Chairman of the Pensions & Financial Services Committee.

III) Approval of January, 2019 minutes

The minutes from the January 2019 minutes were amended to correct the last paragraph which stated the annual meeting concerning the election of officers. The annual meeting was to be held in February and not March. With that, the minutes were approved by voice vote.

IV. Committee Reports

1) Jeff Baker - Public Safety and Security, focused on victimology; that is who the subject of crime might be. Briefly mentioned were people "Walking Impaired", not paying proper attention to their surroundings. An additional suggestion made in light of the Jugging discussion earlier was to stop at the bank first, and not last, on the way home. Another suggestion was to participate in the PIP meetings (3rd Thursday 6:30 pm at Westside Station). Finally to participate in "Ring Neighborhood Watch," that you do not need an actual Ring device to participate.

2) Jeff Baker - Communications - mentioned the SN17 website is going through changes, and to check your user id. He also noted that there are now three webmasters, Bob Andrew, Jeff Baker, and Cindy Yeglin, who have access to add information to the website.

3) Jonny Lozano – Panhandling - No report

4) Cindy Yeglin - Beautification Committee, noted that other Super Neighborhoods have acquired 501(c) non-profit status. This will place the Super Neighborhood in a position to collect donations from businesses that can be used for projects in the area. The first goal is working with SN18 in improving the Dairy Ashford & Briar Forest intersection.

5) Nick Kornuta, Flood and Drainage, noted that the HCFCD final report has been issued on Hurricane Harvey and the studies on the hydrologic impact of bridges will be due in July.

6) Nancy Scott, Infrastructure, reported that a review of the 2017-18 report indicates most or all of the projects by the committee were dropped. Discussion followed concerning the access cut for the Kroger at Eldridge and Briar Forest but was not a CIP project, could be potentially funded from discretionary funds. Linda Borwell, of Ashford Park, asked about sidewalk replacement on Richmond Ave. That project appears to now be funded from discretionary funds from Councilmember's Le office. Jeff Baker, from Shadow Lake, asked about the Dairy Ashford panel replacement and noted that it stops at Westpark Dr. He reports that the replacement needs to continue further to the South and requested that project be placed on the CIP list.

7) Doug Parish, Public Housing Committee, had no report at this time.

8) Diane Guillerman, Non-Profit Committee is working on a speaker and opportunities to raise funds.

V) No Old Business

VI) No New Business

The meeting was then moved to closed session for the purpose of conducting the annual election.

VII) Johnny Lozano was nominated for Vice President by Doug Parish. Diane Guillerman was nominated for Treasurer by Cindy Yeglin. The nominations were seconded by Nick Kornuta and election acclaimed by unanimous consent.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

NEXT SN17 MEETING – MARCH 13, 2019, 7:00 PM. AT EAGLE TRACE