

Eldridge/WestOaks Super Neighborhood Houston, TX
www.sneldridgewestoaks.org
Minutes for the meeting of February 12, 2014

- I. Call to Order at 7:06 p.m.
- II. Speakers: None
- III. Announcements: Districts F & G, City, Metro.

District F – Councilman Richard Nguyen brought greetings with a full measure of excitement as a newly elected member. Mr. Nguyen gave us a brief history of his time in Houston. He moved here from Ohio. He lived in Austin for 3 years seeking a degree in Chinese Medicine. Mr. Nguyen was a part of the solid waste division for 9 years. Now he is happy to serve and learn more on the city council. Richard gave us reminders about the March 3rd CIP meeting at Hastings 9th grade center on Cook Road. Richard shared a few humorous anecdotes about casual moments with other council members. His positive attitude was welcomed by the super neighborhood.

District G – Oliver Pennington brought greetings and updated the group on several ongoing topics. There was to be a February 13th CIP meeting at 6:30 at Stratford High School. All were encouraged to attend. He hinted that the Public Works Department may have some good news about the condition of our local streets. Another item, the Terry Hershey/Charting Buffalo survey has been problematic with tempers flaring. He suggested a comprehensive plan be undertaken before any parcels of land are changed in any way. Developing a “big picture” of the region related to water retention and flooding, particularly in the heavy growth and land use period is highly advisable.

On another note, the Mobility study is promulgating the idea that all should make serious consideration as to living near our workplace as well as walking, biking, and using mass transit for transportation as multi-family and other expansions increase the traffic flow adding to the already congested west Houston areas. He feels that crime is first and traffic is second on his highest priorities list. Look to mywesthouston.com to view results.

Mr. Pennington remarked that as far as he is aware, there are no low income housing projects planned for our area.

In our connections to the City of Houston, he remarked that SNAP is basically being phased out as Rebuild Houston is coming on board. Call 311 for immediate needs such as street repair. Currently Judy Thompson and others are doing a super job in reporting these street potholes to COH by way of the 311. Remember, “there is an app for that.” Finally, Oliver suggested that as the SNAP wanes we as a super neighborhood would be wise to begin creating a long range plan with needs of our area by creating a committee. He wants us to “get ahead of the curve” on submissions for work to be done. Earlier is better when submitting to COH for projects.

METRO – Margarita Dunlap brought greetings. She informed us that the Imagineering plan is in the hands of the Metro board right now. Ms. Dunlap thanked all of us for providing input for the process. Most likely a public meeting or meetings will be held to present the findings. When that occurs, please do try to attend as they might be significant changes in plans, routes, and fees. Ms. Dunlap will keep our group informed.

COH – Ronda Sauter brought greetings and information. Ms. Sauter reminded us that if any of us has a flooding issue when there is a flash rain incident, please contact 311 to get your property put on the database as a point of reference for possible future remediation. Billy Long our flooding expert, seconded these suggestions. Ronda will be spearheading 13 CIP meetings in the immediate weeks and will be quite busy with those activities, please email her with any concerns. She will do her best to respond in a timely manner.

QUESTION from group

Regarding the immanent influx of cars due to the 1,000 new apartments near the intersection of Briar Forest and Hwy 6, a traffic study was done in the past. That study verified that TxDot controls Hwy 6 while COH controls Briar Forest. This can make for difficulties. Many were suggesting that Briar Forest turning south onto Hwy 6 should be made into a double left turn so both of the two lanes of traffic could be able to turn left since the back-up clog in traffic is so great in the afternoon and evening. Generally, the public has no input into this process. Additionally, these records are not made public. Oliver Pennington is going to work with the Mayor’s office on finding a way to have some type of public notice process for this to aid local residents.

Representative Jim Murphy – His representative has no report at this time.

IV. Old Business

A. Approve Minutes from previous meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

B. Committee Reports:

1. Beautification (Diane & Virgie) – Vergie reported on trail issues in Districts F. and G. The primary concerns seemed to be the sidewalks to connect many of the park projects. She will submit findings and suggestions to the F and G representatives this evening for further resolution.
2. SNAP (Judy Thompson)- Judy emphasized the two upcoming CIP meetings that she will be attending on our behalf. For District G she is primarily concerned with the reconstruction of Eldridge as the traffic is making the status of this road increasingly deteriorated. As for District F she has five main areas of concern:
 1. Widen Synott from Westheimer to Alief Clodine
 2. Park Hollow Place is sinking significantly
 3. Reconstruction of Richmond Avenue from West Houston Center to Eldridge
 4. Reconstruction of Dairy Ashford from Westheimer to Alief Clodine
 5. Panels from Westpark – Dairy Ashford to Eldridge

The truck that has made visual inspection of all roads has made a second pass to review them. Judy made special remarks on the seriously bad conditions in Park Hollow Place.

3. Security (Johnny Lozano) – no report at this time
4. Flooding (Billie Long) – Regarding the survey underway on Terry Hershey of the 150 acres to be surveyed, only 8 acres have been completed. This survey consists of cataloging, recording data, elevations, and more. Currently there are no funds for any construction according to publications made last week. There are no immediate concerns. He will seek to keep us informed. Mr. Long will register our concerns about the Clodine Ditch particularly with the heavy growth in the west Houston metro area.

5. Homeless (Jack O'Connor) – Jack will be working with Alief Independent School District and others to increase awareness and aid in sharing our model in dealing with homeless and pan handlers. There has not been a recent homeless survey as suggested by previous meetings. Mr. Long wanted to offer that we should put out our “letter” on an annual basis to all residents and property owners to “not give handouts” to those on street corners.
6. Webmaster (Tom Mikus) – Though Tom was out of town, he provided the following report electronically. All in the meeting were asked to review the minutes when published to see the report. President Doug Parrish reminded all present that Tom was moving this summer and would no longer be available to service our website. Requests were made to seek a replacement.

“We have 104 registered users:

- 5 of the 5 executive officers
- 2 of the 2 other committee chairs
- 9 of the 13 other known 2013 delegates
- 5 of the 17 known 2013 alternates
- 82 other users
- 1 other webmaster

Letters appointing delegates and alternates for 2014 are posted as received. These documents are linked from the [Council Delegates page](#). This new page is restricted to delegates and alternates.

The pages for the committees are still not actively used.

We could link to those in emails when the committees want to push out new info.

We added a map of SN17 showing some of the member-neighborhood locations. This map is on the new [Neighborhood Map page](#).

We need guidance on where to put neighborhoods on this map.

We can request this guidance from the 2014 delegates and alternates by email...
...but the website can only send email to registered users.

REGISTER!

Send questions or comments to webmaster@sneldridgewestoaks.com. “

V. New Business: - none at this time

A. Announcements – none at this time

B. Adjournment to the Annual Meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Annual Meeting

Meeting called to order at 8:01 p.m.

A. Resolution in support of Briar Forest SN

The group read and discussed various aspects of the two choices provided. A motion was made and seconded to accept the second proposal. The motion was unanimous for the proposal by acclimation. The wording is listed below.

“Super Neighborhood 17 (Eldridge/West Oaks), who’s northern border is Buffalo Bayou, supports the efforts of the Briar Forest SN to save their forest, to the degree that detention basin opportunities for the Buffalo Bayou watershed west of the Sam Houston Tollway are based on the results of the ongoing environmental survey and engineering study being conducted by City of Houston and the County of Harris in conjunction with the engineering study of the Clodine Regional Detention Basin.”

B. Vote on proposed changes to the Bylaws

Brief discussions were made as to the proposed changes in the Bylaws. Note that this is a second reading of the changes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed changes to remove term limits and to correct some simple wording in the Bylaws. The motion passed unanimously by acclimation.

B. Election of VP & Treasure.

Nominations were made for Johnny Lorzano as Vice President and Billy Long as Treasure of SN 17. A motion was made to accept the candidates in the positions as listed. The motion passed unanimously by acclimation.

Adjournment at 8:35 p.m.

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 12, 2014