

Eldridge/WestOaks Super Neighborhood Houston, TX

www.sneldridgewestoaks.org

Minutes from meeting May 14, 2014

I. Call to Order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Speakers: Sandie Mullins Moger, Trustee of HCC for District VI

Sandie Mullins Moger gave us some personal background information also describing how trustees are elected. The primary role of the trustees is of a fiscal nature. Her current area of coverage is generally the same as the G district though it extends to the Galleria area. Areas that she serves are Katy, Alief, and Westside, along with Houston proper. Currently there is \$256 million in funds from our tax dollars (property tax) and 425 million in funds from the most recent bond election. The bond funds are slated to cover 14 projects. One of those is the Westside HCC campus to be constructed on property adjacent to the Briar Village neighborhood. This parcel is approximately 21 acres. The campus will have science and technology (S.T.E.M.) as its academic focus. The tentative completion is February of 2016.

Dr. Zachary Hodges, President of the West Houston Campuses of HCC also gave us more details about the programming and physical campus as well as generalities of the Hayes Road, Eldridge @ Bissonnet Trade Campus, and Spring Branch campuses. The HCC idea really began as a natural function of HISD. Students who were not fully ready for the 4 year experience or who were more interested in trade and associate degrees were not served well in Houston. Houston in general has been lagging other states until recent years regarding community colleges. The HCC system has a priority to create programming that answers to the business communities. As an example, the corrosion programming was created to answer the need of the Houston petrochemical and shipping businesses. Over 1,000 technically trained persons were vitally needed to serve as technical staff to aid in solving corrosion issues in commercial and petrochemical businesses.

Website: HCCS.edu On the website, you can check the timeline for the various projects funded by the bond issue.

Other highlights presented were general facts about connections with 4 year institutions and primary programming on each campus that are listed below.

Westside High School has an in-house college program that gives joint enrollment credit for students. This is called the Futures Program. Academic focus of this programming is hard sciences as it is in collaboration with UT / MD Anderson. Dual credit and no tuition are advantages of this program.

Hayes Road (The old Chevron building that has been revamped) - houses 600 students - wishing to earn engineering 4 year degrees in cooperation with UT Tyler. This degree plan boasts 4 years with only \$20,000. The Hayes Campus houses on the 3rd floor a Film program that is touted to be rare in the state. This has a modality that makes it possible to lease space for others to use production facilities by way of memberships. Additionally, a Goldman Sacs cooperative entrepreneurial program located on Hayes assists the population by

supporting and sustains small businesses to create and grow that segment of our cities' businesses.

The Eldridge at Bissonnet campus is geared toward Trades. This houses "shop" related curriculum intended for level 1 certificate programs. Local Industrial and businesses are benefiting from graduates that can serve the community with great skills and earning potential to the greater Houston workforce. This is a campus valued at 2.5 million.

The leadership within HCC regarding the newly slated campus for Westheimer near Eldridge has reached out to the local high school, Westside (HISD). The new campus is slated to have a nursing program along with other science and technology related curriculum. The tentative name of the campus **West Houston Institute** which focuses on hands on and laboratory experiences for science and technology. Affiliated universities include UT, A &M, U of H, UT Tyler and others. Strategic planning for this campus have leanings toward a flexible building able to accommodate small group learning and large group forums such as conferences. The campus will have an Electron Microscope and several 3 D printers to aid the creation of prototypes, construction, and hard sciences. The internal environment of the campus is organic industrial with lots of light, steel, and glass. The plans call for 3 stories. The campus will have lots of lighting and private police also. This campus is directly affected by the results of House Bill 5 (vocational education). The institute is being modeled after Arizona State.

III. Announcements: Districts F & G, City, Metro.

Mark Kirschke sent information via email

"Not sure if I will be able to attend this evening. If I can, it will be to present and run. Just wanted everyone to know that the Equal Rights Ordinance was referred back to the administration, which has the effect of delaying the vote until May 28, when we anticipate the ordinance will pass. Keep your calls and emails coming.

Please remind people to take the Master Park Survey to their issues will be considered in the new parks master plan:<http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/masterplan.html>

Everyone in Eldridge/West Oaks SN is in Park Section #18

Mark F. Kirschke - Director of Communications - Oliver Pennington, Houston City Council Member District G

Dillon Osborne representing Councilman Richard Nguyen, District F, brought information on the new proposed ordinance about discrimination. Clearly this was a passion filled topic. Questions about burden of proof, language of the ordinance, enforcement, and scenarios were discussed. This would be a class C misdemeanor. Dillon noted that any case would go to an investigatory process before any litigation with a judge would occur. Other comments were tabled until more information about putting the information on a ballot could be ascertained.

Mr. Osborne reminded the group about a deed restriction workshop this weekend. The flyer will be attached. Regarding the CIP projects submitted on behalf of our superneighborhood, these were as follows: (1) flooding issue, (2) widening of Synott, (3) Richmond Avenue rebuild, and (4) Dairy Ashford rebuild.

Margarita Dunlap of METRO brought greeting and information flesh out the details of the Reimagining survey. She reminded us that this was a major undertaking that will create an overhaul of the entire system. Bus routes will be more easily understood, routes may change frequency. Ms. Dunlap recommended that citizens visit the websites below to see the routes and follow the changes. This plan is by no means finished. Public input is desired! As open meetings are scheduled, announcements will be made to us so we can share with our stakeholders. Please come to these public meetings and voice your opinion.

<http://www.ridemetro.org>

<http://transitsystemreimagining.com/web/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/METRO-Stakeholder-Task-Workshop-061413.pdf>

IV. Old Business

Corrections from Vergie Manning for the April minutes are as follows: Huffman Elementary school (in part E) should be changed to Heflin Elementary.

A. Approve Minutes from previous meeting. Minutes were approved with the above correction noted.

B. Committee Reports:

1. Beautification (Diane & Virgie) – Recommend to your city councilmen, that we wish to have 2 parks (a) Braes Bayou Trail and (b) Bush Park. These are ideal as hike and bike areas.

If you know of properties that have derelict buildings or graffiti please share your information with Diane Guillerman, in order to facilitate clean or other needs.

2. SNAP (Judy Thompson) - No report as Judy is out of town. Doug Parrish reported that there will be a meeting with Clark Martinson regarding the Widening of Eldridge next week. Doug will share what learns from that meeting.

3. Security (Johnny Lozano) – Johnny attended the PIP meeting. He noted that these are great and informative meetings. One of the facts mentioned was that the crime in District 20 has double the crime of District 19 which was a surprise to all. Most crime is down in general at this time. One noteworthy hazard: those with a 1 ton pick-up truck are highly likely to have auto theft in their future as this is the preferred vehicle for smuggling due to the rugged nature for “long haul” trips for trafficking.

4. Flooding (Billie Long) - No report at this time.

5. Homeless (Jack O'Connor) - Jack met with Mandy Sample. She agreed to revisit our area. This issue is by no means resolved but we are seeing some responses to our requests. A group including public officials, attorneys, and citizens are looking to take of some properties scattered about the city to make housing for homeless. Look for more information on that issue in the future.

6. Webmaster (Tom Mikus) - nothing at this time

V. New Business:

A. Announcements

Questions from the gallery came from two citizens for Dillon Osborne to Richard Nguyen regarding flooding in their neighborhood. They provided pictures of the rain from February. The conversation became more directly related to the homeowners and Mr. Osborne. He suggested that homeowners contact 311 or the local police to address some of their issues.

B. Adjournment

Next Meeting is Wednesday, June 11, 2014