

Eldridge / West Oaks Super Neighborhood 17
May 8, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Doug Parrish.

Questions about the property construction on Briar Forest / Highway 6 (behind the Shell Station/Churches Chicken) location as well as the location near the corner of Eldridge and Briar Forest were asked. The most current information to date is as follows.

1. Near Shell Station Property

The property owner/manager is **Graystar**

Multi-Family units - consisting of 324 units

This company is not new to Houston per Oliver Pennington

Oliver stated that this group has been an owner, builder, and manager of several properties.

2. New Eldridge and Briar Forest Property

This contains 4 story wrap style apartment units

354 units are planned for this "Wrap style" which consists of building being built around the parking areas.

This is a more upscale residential plan

Oliver Pennington – Councilman of District G brought new from COH.

General information on District G

- 200,00 people live in District G
- Most of these residents work outside of their district, thus there are many traffic issues
- Most recent voting prompted Metro to extend some rail services.
 1. to U of H and TSU
 2. to Harrisburg
 3. to North Main
- There is a plan to add a Post Oak Spur that would connect the NW station to the Post Oak Galleria area. This is a \$175 million project.
- There are talks about creating a SW station project in the works.
- Plans are in the works to annex Memorial Park. This would not affect the area as Park. There are stipulations that dictate that the park be used as a recreational space. This plan along with private funding should aid in the reforestation of the park. Most have noted that the park is devastated from the recent years of drought.
- New Bicyclist Protection Ordinance has passed. Main provisions state that objects cannot be thrown at cyclists and that a 3 foot minimum distance from vehicles should be maintained.
- Minority Contracts Ordinance has been extended. It will renew in 5 years. Much discussion was made at the COH meeting as to not be prejudice yet not have dictations on the best costs for and services for work done. Many of these

minority companies cannot be bonded. There are many complexities surrounding this ordinance. Oliver stated that originally he did not want to vote positive on this issue but did ultimately vote yes with the thought that more discussions before the next renewal should take place.

- Upcoming Chapter 42 platting Ordinance will impact all areas not just inside 610. The meeting will be June 18 at 6:30 at the Wesley Hall location at 12955 Memorial Drive (North side of Memorial Drive). This ordinance has several key points – lot setbacks, lot subdividing, and more. Please look at your respective homeowner association deed restrictions for clarity. If you have questions, Mark Kirschke or Oliver Pennington can assist and answer questions. Contact them for help.
- Flood / Draining areas – Oliver is working to stop the audit and take a closer look at Construction issues to proactively consider growth and construction impact on local flooding of existing structures.
- Budget hearings are beginning. Revenue is slightly up however, the budget is still “tight.”
- PIP meeting is 3rd Thursday May 16th at 7 p.m. – all are welcome to attend.
- Oliver Pennington has a newsletter. He wishes to include community events and news. Please submit articles, events, and good news to share. The deadline for this regularly distributed electronic newsletter will be given to us soon.
- Construction of Memorial from Kirkwood to Eldridge including sidewalk areas has been moved from 2015 to 2014. That is a great plus for our area.
- Elections are this fall and he would seek our support.

OLD BUSINESS

MINUTES - Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. It was approved without discussion.

BEAUTIFICATION - efforts by our homeless committee on cleaning up the area are ongoing. There does not appear to be any new graffiti. Suggestions were made to have HCC come to speak to our group to share the details of the planned campus on Westheimer near Eldridge location and the impact on our area.

SNAP – No new projects are slated. Judy is out of town and will return for next meeting. Report any problems to 311.

SECURITY – John reported on the PIP meeting with the speaker presenting on Brain Injury. Additionally crime seems to be slightly down except for burglaries. This is a trend across the city not just our area. Cameras as a deterrent seem like a great idea. There are some drawbacks. Liability issues are a concern. Oliver suggested that working on this from the law making/ordinance end might be a wise path to lessen the resistance to commercial property owners such as the West Oaks Mall installing and sharing surveillance that is (unmanned – unmonitored.) Rules currently make it difficult or nearly impossible for companies who wish to have data of this type yet cannot have “unmanned” footage.

FLOOD - Billie discussed the recent flooding. Our area received plenty of rain yet had no significant lasting flooding. Braes Bayou was certainly high but with the high volume, it did relieve the water appropriately. The bayou system still shows high levels due to the fact that other areas and reservoirs must be still full and in need of water releases.

HOMELESS – Jack reported on the PIP meeting with HPD. We certainly do have their attention. There are some efforts to consider in the “planting” of hedges and shrubs that are “homeless” unfriendly. Look for Jack’s email message that discusses this entire issue at some length. Cathy Washburn of the West Houston Partnership is working hard along with the Mayor’s office to obtain a reliable census and to help alleviate the homeless issue. NY Times had a front page article on homeless – it is a good read, take a look. Consider contact the Mayor or HPD for very aggressive persons that may be at intersections accosting citizen in their vehicles at traffic intersections. Thanks to all of the hardworking committee members.

NEW BUSINESS

Announcements

- Next week is National Police Week (“cops” do love cookies)
- Art Car Parade is Saturday
- Eagles Trace News – Memory Care facility is now open. Ribbon cutting ceremony will be June 11, 2013. At the regular campus there is a 96% occupancy rate with 570 residents. 120 jobs have been created due to the construction of this facility. All SN delegates extended thanks to Eagles Trace for allowing us to use the classroom facilities for our monthly meetings and for graciously providing coffee and refreshments.
- Adjournment – a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn.
- Next meeting will be June 12 at Eagles Trace at 7 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Lamb – Co-Secretary
Delegate from John Paul II Catholic School