

[minutes for the meeting of June 10, 2013]

Memo To: Members, Delegates, and Stakeholders of SN17
From: Sherry Lamb
Re: Minutes from meeting of Eldridge/West Oaks SN17
Date: July 7, 2013

Called to order 7:15 p.m.

Speaker Mandy Chapman Semple from the Mayor's office brought greeting and information about the Homeless Initiative. She gave an overview. Ms. Semple began with the COH in January 2013. Prior to this she was a contract employee with HUD to support collaborative planning and response to the homeless issues. The "continuum of care" including the 17 member committee including consumer providers and others are being encouraged to share and formulate a strategic plan.

Primary step is a count, this is relative as all counts cannot actually be 100% accurate. Attempts are being made to count homeless, disabled, and those in and out of shelters. The "homeless" are about 25% of the total number of persons yet this group received 80% of the responses. COH fully realizes that the count is really "an undercount."

Evidence based support suggests that **Permanent Support Housing PSH** will provide stability. This will lead to life skills, employment, socialization, and the ability to reconnect with society.

There are 3 needs to respond to regarding the homeless

1. It is clear that there is not nearly enough PSH. The COH is looking for suitable property to rehab or construct to meet some of these demands. 2500 units are needed by 2015 if projections are on target.
2. Access to these units requires that there are some behavioral and health care services also needed. Unfortunately, there is an 8 month waiting list.

COH is seeking any new model to help in meeting needs with services to shorten this time frame. The goal is to promote stability.

3. There is need to create a system to identify and verify the needs for a housing unit. Most severe persons in need should be the first to receive housing. There is an additional need to prioritize the most vulnerable. The idea may be to have a registry to assess, survey, or other tool to facilitate placement in housing.

Q and A from the group

Some persons on the streets at various locations will not “accept” services. They don’t wish to leave their spot. Our SN17 contact persons Jack O’Connor and Johnny Lozano have offered to provide locations or ride along to point out the locations that are the most detrimental to COH or HPD or other agencies as they are quite familiar with our neighborhoods.

Westside homeless partnership has been a positive group with good success rate.

All wish to work with the new Houston Police Department personnel to engage and move forward on homeless issues.

Businesses have complained that some of the “street persons” are getting more aggressive and dangerous. It appears that a “gang” type mentality is taking over, or that gang members are “pushing out” the homeless by intimidation tactics. We as a SN need to know how to help our citizens and what to tell them beyond 311 and 911. Ms. Semple will relay all of our remarks to the COH. WE do not wish to fall UNDER the radar of COH and HPD. Our area does seem to be getting worse.

City of Houston Representative Dawn Hurd brought greetings and comments

Skellern of HPD is leaving – Michael Rease is his replacement.

Pip meeting is very soon, all who wish to attend are welcome

Westside Trail – summer start of project with a completion date of December will include 1.9 miles of improvements include benches and trashcans.

We as a SN are seeking more information on Westhollow area, particularly the retention area and the road openings/closings.

Metro Transit Representative provided some general information

There will be a symposium in the galleria area, be on the lookout for additional information.

Superbowl plans are still a main focus.

Reimagine – there is currently a review of the entire route system. This is the first time that Metro has done a system wide review. They wish to have input from Superneighborhoods to facilitate a wide cross section of participation.

Old Business

Minutes were read and approved

Committee Reports

Beautification – committee is still tackling graffiti – school is out and this is increasing

SNAP – nothing at this time – Judy will return in July

Security – crime is down except for Auto Burglary -nearly 1 in 10 happens in parking lots especially at restaurants. LOCK and COVER your items .

Flooding – Project Brays is continuing, no other news at this time

Homeless – Jack has drafted a letter, please contact him if you need the letter or have not seen the contents. We want to work with all the agencies, initiatives, groups and the general public to help reduce this problem.

New Business

1. There is a reported sink hole on Bayou Parkway. We are seeking the status of this and repairs that may be made?
2. Are there any changes in the status in the “partially burned” shopping center on Dairy Ashford?

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sherry Lamb
Delegate from JP11
Co-Secretary of SN17