

Neartown Association Meeting

September 22, 2015 – 7:00 PM

Cherryhurst Park Community Center, 1700 Missouri St

Minutes

Greg called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Introductions

2. Neartown Sponsored Mayor Forum Update –

Greg reminded everyone of the event scheduled for Wednesday October 21st at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church from 7PM to 8:30PM. This is after the start of early voting and its theme is "Last Chance to be Informed Forum with Time to Mingle." So far, 4 candidates have accepted the invitation to participate, 1 is a "maybe," and 1 has declined.

3. Montrose TIRZ Update –

Greg asked for a show of hands from those CAs that have sent letters of support to Council Member Cohen's office. Brooke Boyett from CM Cohen's staff said they have only received 3. She will follow up to confirm the number and which CAs have provided. Greg asked again that all CAs submit letters and he will follow up with a reminder to presidents.

Brooke also shared that they are working on a town hall meeting on the proposed Montrose TIRZ for November (this is not required, since there have been many meetings on this topic, and there will be a City Council hearing, but CM Cohen believes it is important). City Council is currently working on review/approval of budgets for the existing TIRZs, and will look at the proposals for new TIRZs last – hence the late date. The expectation is still that the TIRZ can be approved before the end of the year.

4. Other

Tony Allender of the Montrose Management District provided a brief update on progress on the District's application for a special parking area. There have been discussions with the City over the past year about what might be the best approach, including short term fixes as well as long term solutions. He characterized the overall effort as a set of "experiments." Tony also answered questions from attendees. Application for SPA web link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/v26d1dy74ab0pk/Montrose%20SPA%20%28Full%20Report%29.pdf?dl=0>

A few highlights:

- Short term, plan is to facilitate more shared parking and build on the existing valet program
- The plan divides the area, which encompasses parts of Westheimer and Montrose, into 3 sections, and a business would be able to count parking available in the section where it is located or an adjacent section against its required parking spaces. In effect, businesses would be allowed to use off-street parking within 1320 feet rather than the currently required 250 feet. Residential parking would remain under existing City of Houston Rules.
- Two goals of the plan are 1) do not encroach on residential areas, and 2) avoid razing structures for parking lots
- Long term the district would like to build one or more parking garages. Funding for garage construction would require participation of the private sector – either an independent party for which building and operating a garage is an attractive business venture or a partner that would share the cost and the benefits of a garage with the District (once it has built enough capital to take on the effort)
- Two major concerns for residents were 1) whether a SPA would have any impact on parking restrictions – either existing or future – in the neighborhoods, and 2) security. Tony is confident that the SPA would not interfere with current parking restrictions (e.g., permit only during certain hours) on residential streets, nor any future

applications for parking restrictions on residential streets. With regard to security, he mentioned that the District currently has an agreement for patrol by off-duty HPD officers and it may look at adding a security component to the SPA plan. It was also suggested that civic clubs voice their security concerns at the monthly HPD PIP meetings.

- Jack Valinski noted that City Solid Waste department has introduced a new mobile app called "Rollout" that tells you when the next trash collection will be at your location, among other things. (info: <http://houstontx.gov/citizensnet/RolloutMobileApp091615.html>)
- Carolyn Garrard invited all to the next Covenant House Candlelight Vigil and Rally on November 19th at 7:00 pm. (http://www.covenanthousetx.org/events/index_html?-C=)
- Caroline Garry mentioned that HISD held a community meeting to discuss plans for work on Wilson Elementary that is part of the 2012 bond program. (HISD posting: [Wilson Montessori K-8 community learns more about proposed renovations, new addition](#))
- Kay Warhol reported on actions taken at the September Super Neighborhood Alliance meeting and shared an information sheet on upcoming candidate forums and other events of interest. (info sheet, with updates, attached to minutes)
- Tuesday, October 6 is National Night Out in Houston!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Upcoming Candidate Forums

Mayoral Candidate Forum

Plan Houston: A Roadmap to Success?

Craig Cohen, Moderator

Saturday, September 26, 2015

9:00am – 9:30 am Coffee and Danish in Room 112 off the patio

9:30 - 11:30 am Forum

Houston Community College Main Campus Auditorium

Free and Open to the Public

RSVP requested: martha@blueprinthouston.org

Free Parking; entrance off Alabama; METRO Red Line Ensemble/HCC Station

Nightingale Interpreting will provide American Sign Language interpretation.

Candidates participating include: Chris Bell, Stephen Costello, Adrian Garcia, Ben Hall, Bill King, Victoria Lane, Marty McVey, and Sylvester Turner

Co-Sponsors include:

AARP, the American Institute of Architects, the American Planning Association, the American Society of Landscape Architects, Bike Houston, Citizens Environmental Coalition, Citizens Transportation Coalition, Complete Streets Coalition, , Houston Tomorrow. Kinder Institute, the League of Women Voters/Houston, Super Neighborhood Alliance

UPDATE! Monday, October 12, 2015, 6:30-8:00 PM, the Super Neighborhood Alliance will host a Q&A Session with Mayoral Candidate Ben Hall from 6:30-7:00 PM and a Forum for Candidates Running for the Office of City Controller from 7:00-8:00 PM. This event will be held in the Garden Level Auditorium at the Bob Lanier Public Works and Engineering Building, 611 Walker. Free parking is available on adjacent streets after 6:00 PM. (Note, this is a CoH office building, so picture ID must be presented and personal items scanned)

Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Neartown Association Candidate Forum

St Stephen's Episopal Church, Pecore Hall

Additional info at September NTA meeting.

NEW! Tuesday, October 20, 2015, 6:30-8:30 PM, the Greater Heights Super Neighborhood (SN 15) will host a Candidate Forum for City Council District C and any at-large candidates who wish to participate. This event will be held at the Heights Fire Station, 107 W. 12th (at Yale Street).

Other events that may be of interest:

HOUSTON'S NEW GARDEN

Join Us to Help Shape the Houston Botanic Garden

Wednesday, September 30, 2015 | 6:30-8:30 pm

Park Place Elementary School
8235 Park Pl Blvd, Houston, TX 77017

Please join the Houston Botanic Garden Team, Houston City Officials, and the Design Team to view and provide feedback on designs for the Houston Botanic Garden. Light refreshments will be provided. Parking is available at Park Place Elementary and Park Place Regional Library.

FREE and open to the public. ALL Houstonians welcome.

UPDATE! Houston's Progress towards Complete Streets.

Houston Coalition for Complete Streets - Quarterly Meeting.

Tuesday Oct 6-13, 2015, 6:00 – 8:00 pm CDT

3015 Richmond Avenue Continental Club at 3700 Main Street

RSVP requested at: <http://bikehouston.org/calendar/> - click on Oct 6 event.

Join the Houston Coalition for Complete Streets for an update from the City of Houston on their progress towards building Complete Streets in Houston.

Complete Streets are streets designed for all all users, regardless of age, ability or mode of transportation.

In November 2013 Mayor Parker signed an Executive Order for the City to achieve complete streets.

Before Mayor Parker leaves office the Coalition would like to hear what the City's progress has been to date. We want to know where we are now, and what we need to ask of the next administration.

Please attend this meeting as your presence demonstrates that people in Houston want Complete Streets.

Representatives from both Planning and Public Works & Engineering Departments will be present at the meeting.

The Houston Coalition for Complete Streets is a group of 35 organizations who all support building Complete Streets in Houston. We support policies and programs that results in schools, parks, libraries, museums, and businesses connected to residents through transit, sidewalks, bikeways, and cars. At the start of the meeting we will provide an update on the Coalition's work and information on how new organizations can join us.

Neartown Association Attendance List

				Date: SEPT. 22, 2015
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	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone</u>
1	GREG LEGRANDE	NEARTOWN AVONDALE	glegrande@tjnbp.com	7135986291
2	RAY VALDEZ	AVONDALE ASSOC.	RAYMOND_VALDEZ@COMCAST.NET	206.650.1065
3	David A Ross	W.A.M.M	davidross47@gmail.com	713-630-0615
4	JACK VALINSKI	COH	JACKS.VALINSKI@HOUSTONTX.GOV	
5	Joellen Brayshaw	Castle Ct. Neighbors	jhillbrayshaw@yahoo.com	7134088902
6	Carol Wolk	Mandell Place	carolwolk2comcast.net	
7	B.W. Pate HPD	HPD	wpate43@yahoo.com	713-284-8604
8	JOAN MULARSKI	VCCA		713 522-0979
9	Hollie Robinson	MONROE Mgmt District	HRobinson@monroesedistrict.org	
10	Tony Allender	Monroe " "	tallender@hklp.com	832.483.1853
11	Cindy Gabriel	List Monroe Com.	cindygabriel@att.net	713-320-6018
12	June Spencer	Cherryhurst	june.spencer88@gmail.com	713 9062731
13	Michael Jenkins	Complex Contractors	michael@complex.com	210.663.0749
14	RAMONA CRAYTON	METRO	HC08@ride.metro.org	7/652-8005
15	Jake Masc	Mandell Place CA	jacob.masc@gmail.com	713-498-2067
16	Susan Robbins	Cherryhurst	srobbins@uh.edu	713 302 3374
17	Brooke Boyett	CM Cohen	districtc@houston.tx.gov	
18	DAVID WARREN	—	D-WARREN@ATT.NET	—
19	Amanda Edwards	Amanda Edwards Campaign	amanda@edwardsforhouston.com	713 561 1845
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