

# Neartown Association Meeting Minutes

August 23, 2016 – 7:00 PM

Cherryhurst Park Community Center, 1700 Missouri St

President Greg LeGrande called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, 12 in Attendance

## 1). Introductions

2). Security—Kush Menace → Within the past 60 days Kush(K2) users and dealers have become an ever increasing threat to security, peace and wellbeing for Montrose Neighborhoods adjacent to Highway 59 Spur 527. Drove of Kush users living in unsanitary conditions have taken up residence underneath unfenced portions of Spur 527 overpasses spilling out into Highway 59 right-of-ways. Commonly Kush users are falling into busy street areas and wondering incoherently into neighborhoods aggressively demanding drug money. HPD, COH, TX Dot and support agencies have yet to effectively address this Kush hotspot. Neartown supports addressing the Kush Menace with a lasting long term solution.

- Local neighborhoods will look into the passage of a Civility Ordinance to allow a proactive HPD interface Kush homeless.
- A vote was taken for Neartown to send letter(s) to City of Houston Departments, churches, homeless organizations, the State Legislator and TX DOT.

3). Best Practices, Neighborhood Association News Letters and Communication – Steve Longmire presented the communication process used by the First Montrose Commons Neighborhood Association. A web link to a marked up copy of their process is:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qbq2jws60yb7q/Best%20Practices%20Newsletters%20and%20Communications%208%2023%202016.pdf?dl=0> .

Some key components are:

- News Letters are electronic saving \$1700 annually in copy fees and time of door to door delivery.
- Web hosting and email are through Wordpress.com and ZOHO.
- The use of NextDoor.com for neighborhood area geographically constrained flash flash messages has increased association membership by 20 percent.

## 4). Other –

- 424 Westheimer Park—> The Houston City Parks Department and the City of Houston General Services Department held a meeting to review conceptual designs for the park on **Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at the Women’s Home, 607 Westheimer**. Two designs concepts were presented, The Promenade and The Green. The City will soon be applying for a State of Texas Parks Grant to partially fund the park. Meeting notes can be found at the web link: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/4si3c9qho5fg5yq/160816%20Westheimer%20Park%20Community%20Meeting%20Notes.pdf?dl=0> and are attached in this mailing. Lisa Johnson with the City of Houston General Services Department has requested that any additional feedback be sent to her prior to September 1<sup>st</sup>. A final design concept meeting will be held on September 13 at the Women’s Home, 607 Westheimer at 6:30 PM.
- Chapter 26, Off-street Commercial Parking Regulations -- Proposed changes to Chapter 26 would allow for exceptions to parking requirements to be approve by head of the planning department without hearing and for

a 10 percent reduction in required restaurant parking spaces. Comments or questions should be sent to Brian Crimmins with the Planning & Development Department at [brian.crimmins@houstontx.gov](mailto:brian.crimmins@houstontx.gov) . A public hearing on the amendments will be held by the Planning Commission on Thursday, September 29, 2016. For more information visit [www.houstonplanning.com](http://www.houstonplanning.com) .The draft of changes is attached and can be found at web link: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/02buwzy9i5uup5n/Chapter%2026%20Public%20Comment%20Draft%208%2019%202016.pdf?dl=0>

- Houston Bike Plan – Some neighborhoods have complained that their feedback for the use of minor roads for bike routes was not considered in the final Bike Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

# Neartown Association Attendance List

Date:

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	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone</u>
1	GREG LEGRANDE	2611 STANFORD	glegrande@tgnbp.com	713-598-6291
2	David Hoyer	Vermont Center Civil Serv	david.hoyer@sbcglobal.net	713-533-0082
3	Asha Dhruka	2221 W. Dallas St. apt 504	AshaD997@gmail.com	832-630-2254
4	STEVE LONGMIRE	FIRST MONTROSE COMMONS	STEVE.LONGMIRE@GMAIL.COM	832-655-5657
5	JACK WALINSKI	COTY	JACK.WALINSKI@HOUSTON.TX.GOV	
6	PAUL TERRY	LANCASTER PLACE	paortet@gmail.com	512-771-8450
7	Tim Bacon		timbacon10@gmail.com	
8	Lloyd Matzner	N. Montrose	Lsmgmatz@sbcglobal.net	713-315-7141
9	Chris Delphin	Hyde Park	on file	on file
10	RAY VALDEZ	AVONDALE	RAYMOND_VALDEZ@COMCAST.NET	206-650-1065
11	Wayne Kate			
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