

# Neartown Association Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2017 – 7:00 PM

Cherryhurst Park Community Center, 1700 Missouri St

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

## 1). Introductions

2). Transit – Kay Warhol reported that the METRO Board is in the process of putting together a long-range plan and considering priorities for its next capital projects. Even though the University Light Rail Line (or Blue Line) on Richmond is on the current plan, it will be reevaluated along with other projects that have been proposed. In order to proceed with any major capital projects, METRO will have to hold a referendum and get voter approval to raise additional funds; that could happen as early as this November.

Kay suggested that the Neartown membership consider taking a formal position of support for the Blue Line on Richmond Ave. (whether as light rail or bus rapid transit), which could then be communicated to the METRO Board in a letter, through appearance at a METRO Board meeting, etc. Kay proposed that representatives discuss this with their civic associations and be prepared to vote at the next NTA meeting. Several members noted that they would not have civic association meetings in that time frame. We agreed that we would continue the discussion in April.

It was also agreed that Neartown would extend an offer to the METRO Board to host a community meeting in support of the Board's outreach to gather public input on the long-range plan.

## 4). Other –

- Montrose TIRZ Meeting March 20, 2016. Greg attended this meeting. The TIRZ Board acknowledged the need to set up committees for public engagement, infrastructure, and finance. Funds should become available to the TIRZ in July. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Stephen's
- Bike Plan – Approved March 22, 2017. Council Voting :  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/kpyzo6svcohw7/Bike%20Plan%20Vote.docx?dl=0>
- Update from March 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting—Planning Commission Committee on Walkable Places
- SNA Meeting Review and Update – Jack Valinski reported on the presentation from the Mayor's Office on the efforts to address homelessness in the city.
- Avondale Promenade Park Grant – Grant approved for \$1mm on March 23, by Texas Parks and Wildlife  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/7dgktcsbnnqewce/AvondalePromenadeParkPlan%20Plat%2010%2021%202016.pdf?dl=0>
- Directors & Officers Insurance – Veronica Faubert shared that the Hyde Park civic association contracts with Travelers for this insurance, at a rate of \$600/year

- Jack Valinski noted that the Mayor has traveled to Washington to speak about environmental budget cuts and to Austin to gain support for the pension plan. He also reported that there may be an additional vote on HISD tax revenue recapture options on May 6.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.