

# Neartown Association Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2017 – 7:00 PM

Cherryhurst Park Community Center, 1700 Missouri St

Called to order by Greg at 7:01

## 1). Introductions

## 2). METRO Regional Transit Plan/Richmond Transit Corridor -- Linda Trevino, Senior Public Affairs Representative

Linda gave a few announcements re: the upcoming open house meetings that METRO is holding to gather public input for its long-range (25-year) regional transit plan. The meeting scheduled in the Neartown area is Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray. For more info and to submit comments online: <http://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/Regional-Transit-Plan.aspx>

Linda also announced METRO's Summer of Fun Pass - free rides for K-12 school children during the summer. <http://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/SummerFunPass.aspx>

## 3). Montrose TIRZ Board Meeting review

Greg shared highlights of the Montrose TIRZ's recent meeting:

- A budget and funds are now in place
- One budget item is a website, with an October goal to have it up and running
- The TIRZ board is looking at a Livable Center study – discussion ensued
- Repayment has been made of initial costs to form the TIRZ, to the Montrose Management District (\$47,000)
- Based on the first year's increment, the funds deposited from the City for the TIRZ total ~ \$1.4 million
- The original plan developed when the TIRZ was formed has not changed
- The TIRZ board is considering standards for small cell towers – Looking towards adopting existing standards of the MMD.

TIRZ Board meetings are the third Monday of the month at 6:00 pm at St. Stephen's Church, Pecore Hall, just off W. Alabama at Woodhead. Neartown members are encouraged to attend TIRZ meetings and to give the board input on the TIRZ activities. Public comments are taken at the end of every meeting.

## 4). Other

- Super Neighborhood Alliance update – Kay Warhol spoke about the June SNA meeting
  - TxDOT I-45 North Improvement Project -TxDOT presented on the redo of I-45 through downtown and north of downtown. One of the big plans is that the Pierce Elevated will go away, and I-45 will be moved to the east side of downtown. The project will also include some work on 59, starting in Montrose. See the website ([www.ih45northandmore.com](http://www.ih45northandmore.com)) for info, drawings, and to give comments (comments due July 27).

- The SNA representative to the Downtown Management District's Plan Downtown reported that the district is asking for input on this update to the plan for Downtown Houston – see Info and survey at <http://www.plandowntownhou.com/>.
  - Steve Steltzer, CoH Green Building Resource Center, announced that he is available to speak to groups about things like saving money on energy bills through retrofits. “Book a GBRC speaker” at <https://www.codegreenhouston.org/> or contact Steve to schedule a tour [Steve.Stelzer@houstontx.gov](mailto:Steve.Stelzer@houstontx.gov).
  - The city is not accepting new applications for residential parking permits right now – this is on hold while the related ordinance is being reviewed. (If your neighborhood is interested in these, it's suggested that you let the city know.)
- Discussion of possible Neartown-hosted meeting on METRO Regional Plan – Kay raised the question of whether NTA still wants to do this and if so when. The consensus was that Neartown should hold a separate meeting – after the already scheduled August 2<sup>nd</sup> METRO meeting at the Multi-Service Center, preferably after school has started. Kay will follow up with Linda Trevino to determine possible dates.
  - First Montrose Commons newsletter recognition – Steve Longmire reported that FMC was honored by receiving FIRST PLACE In a nation-wide competition for “best newsletter on-line.” The name is “On Common Ground” and is at [www.firstmontrosecommons.org](http://www.firstmontrosecommons.org).
  - New rainbow crosswalks - Jack Valinski reported that these crosswalks on Westheimer at Taft have been completed.

Adjourned by Greg at 8:08

Initiated by Julie Young