

President Greg LeGrande called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1) Introductions

2) November elections for 6 of 9 HISD Board of Trustees – Houstonians for Great Public Schools, Jasmine Jenkins, Executive Director & Sara Chu, Director of Operations and Community Strategy

Houston GPS is a 501c(4) advocacy organization seeking to increase public understanding of the role of HISD Trustees and hold the Board accountable. Jenkins and Chu shared the key issues the organization is currently focused on:

- Teacher appraisal system
- Budget proficiency and transparency
- School improvement

They reminded us that two trustee seats representing parts of Neartown are on the November 2017 ballot: District V and District VII. They point out that voter turnout for school board elections is typically very low and encourage everyone to vote. Houston GPS has endorsed Sue Deigaard for District V and Anne Sung for District VII. For more information on HoustonGPS, including board and leadership council members, see <https://www.houstongps.org/>. (For current HISD trustees and a link to a map showing district boundaries see: <http://www.houstonisd.org/domain/10786#finder>)

3) Other

- Montrose TIRZ September 18th Meeting update – Greg shared highlights of the meeting and Sherry Weesner clarified aspects of the TIRZ formation and funding/spending parameters.
 - The TIRZ is planning outreach to community leaders prior to scheduling a large public meeting.
 - The Board is currently seeking legal services, which will assist with administration and be valuable when the TIRZ begins considering contracts for projects.
 - Sherry expects that the TIRZ will be creating its first 5-year CIP next Spring.
 - There has been a proposal to add a property not currently in the TIRZ at the corner of Fairview and Taft. The Board has not discussed this and currently has no position on the proposal. Adding a property would require City Council action (and likely require removing a property).
- TXDOT Montrose Area update – Steve Longmire gave an update based on the recent meeting with TXDOT hosted by First Montrose Commons.
 - As part of the [North Houston Highway Improvement Project](#), the Montrose bridges over US59 will be torn down in the summer of 2020. TXDOT has no traffic plan to handle the disruption during demolition and reconstruction (and don't seem to see this as their responsibility).
 - It's expected that the bridges will be done one at a time. Construction time is projected at 60 days per span.
 - Steve suggests that the Neartown Association prod the City of Houston for a traffic plan and reach out to the super neighborhood on the south side of 59 to coordinate.
 - The Fannin Street exit from 59 will be eliminated as part of the overall project

Kay Warhol put forward a motion based on Steve's suggestion; David Krentz seconded: NTA shall engage the City, TXDOT, and METRO in developing an optimal traffic plan for the period of the TXDOT North Houston Highway Improvement Project demolition/construction that impacts the Montrose Blvd. bridges over US 59 and adjacent streets. NTA will solicit support for this action from other affected community organizations, e.g., University Place, as well as our District City Council Member and At-Large Council Members.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Upcoming Neartown Metro Meeting – Kay reported that she had been unable to confirm the availability of METRO staff for this meeting, given the disruption caused by the hurricane. Notice will be sent by email if the meeting is still on.

UPDATE: The Neartown workshop with METRO tentatively planned for Oct 18 has been postponed until early 2018.

- Trash and Recycle Suspended – A reminder!
https://www.dropbox.com/s/q8l1k1f7mu4vhc9/SWM_HARVEY_SPN_ENG%28V1%29.pdf?dl=0
- Harvey City of Houston Update – Jack Valinski provided a brief update. Lloyd Matzner added that Allen Parkway may have had some residential flooding and noted that KHOU/Channel 11 was still undergoing remediation for the flooding at the station.
- Brian Pendleton spoke briefly on behalf of Anne Sung, candidate for HISD Board Trustee, position VII
- Sherry alerted the group that TXDOT is considering allowing the maximum height of billboards in the state to be raised. Scenic Houston is submitting comments against this and soliciting community support.
- A number of Neartown CAs are holding National Night Out activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Submitted by Kay Warhol