

# Neartown Association Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2017 – 7:00 PM

Cherryhurst Park Community Center, 1700 Missouri St

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

1. Introductions
2. Montrose Management District – Executive Director Ben Brewer

Ben reviewed Montrose District accomplishments over the last ten years and shared the Service, Improvement, and Assessment Plan for 2017-2031. (Available to download at: <http://montrosedistrict.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/mmd-2017-sp-brochure-web.pdf>). Things he highlighted include: the district's patrol service is seeing a decline in violent crimes since 2014 and a decline in total arrests since 2013; maintenance services have included graffiti abatement, removal of "bandit" signs, identifying and reporting street light outages; working with Bike Houston, 7 bike racks have been installed and 21 are planned. Ben provided a summary of Montrose District expenditures and briefly talked about the differences between a Management Districts and a TIRZ.

3. Neartown 2018 Officers – Greg presented a slate of officer nominations and invited nominations from the floor:

President – Greg LeGrande

Vice President – Kay Warhol

Secretary – Julie Young

Treasurer – open for nominations

A discussion followed on the duties of the treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor. Sylvia Drew moved that the slate of officers be accepted as presented; Steve Longmire seconded. The motion passed. The Treasurer position remains open.

4. Other
  - Montrose November TIRZ Meeting—Board Members terms expiring end of year Greg requested approval to send a letter to the City supporting reappointment of Paul Dickerson, Kathy Hubbard, Joe Webb, and Lisa Hunt to the Montrose TIRZ Board. Sylvia Drew so moved, Kay Warhol seconded, and the motion was approved.
  - Super Neighborhood Alliance Meeting November 13<sup>th</sup> - no update
  - TXDOT 59 Montrose Area update

Greg reported that discussions are ongoing with University Place in anticipation of making a joint request to the City for a traffic plan for the upcoming period of construction in 2020 on the Montrose bridge and Spur 527. It was also agreed that Neartown request another update from TxDOT in January.

- Walkable Places – Chronicle  
Article <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/local/gray-matters/article/Why-is-walkability-so-hard-to-develop-in-Houston-12352975.php>  
Greg reported that the City is looking at selecting an “initiation area” for provisions coming out of this committee. The Montrose corridor is in the top 3 possible areas.
- Blue Line Update  
Kay reported that it appears that METRO will be doing its next public engagement on the METRONext long range plan in April of 2018. It’s expected that in January and February the METRO Board will be reviewing alternatives for inclusion in the plan and setting priorities. In the meantime, the Blue Line advocacy group is interested in speaking to Neartown civic associations about what the Blue Line (aka University Line) could mean for Montrose and for Houston, and requesting letters of support for this transit line to the METRO Board and the Mayor. Contact Kay at: [warhol1@swbell.net](mailto:warhol1@swbell.net).
- Neartown Neighborhood Association’s Information, The City of Houston request for updates on officers of local neighborhood organizations. Information to be forwarded.
- Other
  - Jack Valinski reported that the City is looking at a proposal for a bike rental program that would not require docking stations – bikes could be picked up and dropped off anywhere on public property.
  - There will be no Neartown meeting in December. The next meeting is January 23, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.