

Nearatown Association Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2018 – 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. Blue Line Nearatown Letter of Support—Attachment

Kay Warhol presented an outline of a proposed letter of support for high-capacity transit on Richmond Ave. from Nearatown to the METRO Board Chair, CoH Mayor, Montrose TIRZ Chair, and Montrose District Executive Director.

The letter urges “Completion of neighborhood-friendly high-capacity rapid transit on Richmond Ave., as a high priority capital project.” Several Nearatown CAs have previously sent individual letters and others are considering doing so.

Sherry Weesner moved that such a letter be submitted by Nearatown Association, and Steve Longmire seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Ongoing Initiatives and Nearatown/Montrose Related Meetings

- Montrose TIRZ 27 – Board(Feb.19) and Public(Feb.26) Meetings Update

Greg and Steve provided highlights of the meetings, with focus on the Public Meeting, which covered the TIRZ 27 history and purpose, how it was formed and how it operates. It was announced that the Montrose TIRZ has been awarded an HGAC Livable Centers Study grant. Sherry (TIRZ 27 Board Member) pointed out that this allows the TIRZ to leverage approx. \$175K in grant money for broad public outreach, research, and analysis which will help to prioritize projects that the TIRZ may undertake in coming years.

- Super Neighborhood Alliance Meeting – February 12 Post Harvey Mitigation, Attachment

Kay reported on activities of the SNA. Jim Blackburn was featured speaker – he has started a nonprofit to promote transparency and information-sharing on flood risk and mitigation: Bayou City Initiative (bcinitiative.org). The SNA voted to become a member of the organization. The SNA is still considering a resolution on post-Harvey flooding and drainage. Full minutes of the Feb 12th and other SNA meetings are available at: <http://www.houstontx.gov/superneighborhoods/alliance.html>.

- TXDOT 59 Montrose Area –

Greg gave an update on monthly meetings with University Place and other community stakeholders and the district engineer for TXDOT regarding the work planned on US59 and the Montrose bridges.

Steve also talked about the separate discussions underway on TXDOTs PEL study on US59/I-69, including Spur 527.

4. Other

- Website Refurbishment – Kay reported that, after a long hiatus, work is underway on a new website for Nearatown. There was a request for Paypal support for dues. That is not currently in the project scope.
- City of Houston Floodplain Ordinance proposed changes to Ch. 19 – Attachment

- Nuisance Properties - There was discussion of issues with a property at Colquitt and Driscoll that has caught fire several times, is in arrears on taxes, and has been on the nuisance properties list since 2016. It was recommended that the neighborhood contact the Fire Marshall to get the property declared unsafe.
- Houston High-Speed Rail Comments and Public Meeting March 5th – Attachment
- Officer Pate announced that the next citywide PIP meeting would feature an active shooter presentation
- Jack Valinski announced that the annual district CIP meetings have been scheduled. This year they will focus on the impacts of Hurricane Harvey.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.