

# Neartown Association Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2023

The Womens' Home, 607 Westheimer

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

1. Introductions
2. Office of Ann Harris Bennett – HC Tax Assessor-Collector.  
Clementina Nunez and Ariane Cathey of the Harris County Tax Office gave a presentation on property taxes, including how taxes are calculated, how property owners can save money with exemptions, and how to pay.
3. Baker Montessori School SPARK Park.  
Benjy Mason, Chair of the Baker Montessori PTO, spoke about work starting on renovating and updating the school SPARK Park. Because the park is open to the public, he is reaching out to the relevant neighborhood organizations to see if there was any interest in being involved in the design and/or fundraising for the new park. He can be reached by email at: [leadership@bakerpto.org](mailto:leadership@bakerpto.org).
4. METRO University BRT
  - Steve Longmire and Kay Warhol reported on discussions with METRO regarding plans for the METRO Rapid University Corridor bus rapid transit (BRT) project. On Feb 20, Greg, Steve, and Kay met with CEO Tom Lambert, Board Chair Sanjay Ram, and the University Corridor project team to discuss concerns about plans to eliminate left turns and crossovers on the non-signalized local streets that intersect Richmond between Shepherd and the Spur. They expressed concern that the number and location of such changes would greatly impede movement through the area, restrict important access, and have the effect of dividing and isolating parts of Neartown. Steve and Kay also shared info on the February 27<sup>th</sup> public meeting on the University project and encouraged Neartown members to attend the remaining public meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and make their concerns known.
5. Other updates:
  - Neartown residents were also encouraged to participate in the March 14 Houston Public Works community meeting on the Westheimer/Elgin Montrose to Main paving and drainage project
  - There was brief discussion on the Montrose TIRZ plan for rebuilding Montrose Blvd.
  - Kay noted that Planning Director Margaret Wallace-Brown would speak at the March 13 Super Neighborhood Alliance meeting, with an update on Planning Department activities, including Conservation Districts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Recorded by Kay Warhol, Vice President.