

Nearatown Association Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2019 – 7:00 PM

Cherryhurst Park Community Center, 1700 Missouri St

7:00 p.m. meeting called to order by Greg LeGrande

1. Introductions

18 in attendance (including two political candidates and one office staffer)

2. Houston Bike Plan—Robin Holzer

- Access the interactive Houston Bike Plan map: <http://houstonbikeplan.org/documents/>
- Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC): See meeting dates, submit comments, stream prior meetings, and more: <http://houstonbikeplan.org/bicycle-advisory-committee/>. Next full meeting of the BAC will be Wednesday, April 24, at 2:30 pm in the City Hall Annex Council Chambers.

Robin represents our Nearatown Super Neighborhood on the City Bicycle Advisory Committee. She discussed:

- o Pros & cons of bike riding in District C
- o District C number of crashes involving bikes and pedestrians is disproportionate to other parts of the city
- o City audits of dangerous intersections
- o \$1 million/year allocated by city to spend on bike projects
- o [Bike Houston](#) pushed to get the Plan finally started and their website is a good resource
- o Commissioner Rodney Ellis's office came up with \$10 million to fund building bike lanes and paths, with improved, modern, and safer designs - none of these are in District C
- o Commissioner Ellis may do it again this year, and some may be in District C – residents can go to Commissioner's Court and sign up to speak (3 minutes) (similar to City Council) in support of specific bikeway projects
- o May is Bike Month, and also Bike to Work Day
- o BCycle, the Bike Share program (renting bicycles from the city) is working well

3. Other –

- Montrose TIRZ 27— February 18th Meeting Update – Kay Warhol
 - o Website is live: montrosehtx.org
 - o TIRZ has issued an RFQ for engineering services and plan to do so for financial advisory services
 - o Working on requirements to form a redevelopment authority
 - o Neighborhoods can request speaker on the TIRZ pedestrian/bicycle mobility program
 - o Next meeting April 15, 6 pm St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
- METRONext – Review and comment on Moving Forward Draft Plan at www.metronext.org

Kay reported that Neartown worked with METRO on a successful METRONext community meeting at the Montrose Center in February; she shared copies of the Moving Forward Plan map from that meeting.

- METRO is still taking citizen comments, via the www.metronext.org website and will send speakers to neighborhood meetings on request
- Residents of the METRO service area will be able to vote on a referendum to allow them bonding authority for funding to implement the plan over the next 20 years

Robin shared additional specifics on the proposed plan, which includes an expanded University/Blue Line running through Montrose on Richmond Ave, improvements to parts of the frequent bus network (incl. Westheimer #82 and Montrose #56), and 2-way, all-day regional express bus service using HOV lanes on all area highways

- Super Neighborhood Alliance—February 11th Meeting Update – the meeting was hosted at METRO and focused on METRONext
- I-45 Modified Proposals and Comments – Website with changes and public comments section www.IH45NorthandMore.com

Greg noted that TxDOT continues to revise the plans. They want citizen comments and input and must respond to any comments they receive.

- TxDOT's 2050 Texas Transportation Plan <https://www.txdot.gov/government/reports/statewide-plan.html>. Public survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TTP2050>

TxDOT is also receiving comments on its long-range plan via a comment form and public survey

- Other
 - Sylvia Drew told about upcoming PIP meeting: Tuesday, Mar 5, topic - Burglary of Motor Vehicles
 - Jack Valinski gave updates from the City:
 - Trash pick-up should be back to normal schedules
 - District C CIP meeting (although not officially referred to by that name) is Thursday, March 28, 6:30 pm at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center on W. Gray
 - There is a cool art installation along Allen Parkway at Gillette, with lights, temporary
 - Ellen Cohen's e-newsletter reports that Richmond Ave will be overlaid this year with 1" of black top

8:05 pm, meeting adjourned by Greg