

Nearatown Association Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2019 – 7:00 PM

Cherryhurst Park Community Center, 1700 Missouri St

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

1. Introductions – 22 people in attendance. Two candidates for Houston City Council District C introduced themselves: Greg Meyers and Shelley Kennedy.
2. David Robinson, Houston City Council At-Large Position 2—Houston Updates.
Council Member Robinson spoke about the work of the Transportation, Technology, and Infrastructure Committee, which he chairs, and the Quality of Life Committee for which he is vice chair. He spoke of the City's major challenges, including:
 - Continuing Harvey recovery: dollars for federal programs for housing are finally starting to come through; the City's number 1 priority for this Texas legislative session is securing money from the state's rainy-day fund – the need is assessed at \$1.5B across the Texas coast, \$200M for Houston. State funds will be particularly important as matching funds to help obtain federal grants.
 - The plan for implementing Prop B. The Mayor and firefighters have sat down to talk, and he is hopeful.

CM Robinson also talked of the City's first ever collaboration with the Houston AIA chapter – Houston 2020 Visions (aiahouston.org/v/site-home/Houston-2020-Visions/42/) and encouraged the Super Neighborhood to consider a submission. The deadline is August 25 of this year. Finally, he addressed several questions from attendees.

3. Proposed Transit Corridor Amendments—Muxian Fang, Planner Leader - City of Houston Planning Department.
Muxian provided background on the current Transit Corridor Ordinance, noting that of approx. 350 qualified developments, only about 19% have opted to take advantage of the provisions. She reviewed challenges related to current transit corridor performance standards and the nature of the amendments to the ordinance that are under consideration (refer to handout). Historic districts, deed restrictions, and minimum lot size provisions have been recognized as contextual elements that need to be taken into account. Additional information about the potential ordinance amendments can be found on the Walkable Places Project website (www.houstontx.gov/planning/Commissions/committee_walkable-places.html), in the presentations contained in the Committee Documents. This web page also has a link to a comment form.
Next steps:
 - City planning and legal departments are working on the details of the amendments
 - Public meetings are expected to be scheduled in late spring or early summer
 - Hope to gain approval from Planning Commission and City Council this summer

4. Other –

- Neartown Officers for 2019 – Steve Longmire moved that the slate of Neartown officers for 2019 be elected: Greg LeGrande, President; Kay Warhol, Vice President; Paul Terry, Treasurer. Sylvia Drew seconded the motion. The motion passed. The position of Secretary remains open.
- MetroNext Public Meetings – Draft of long-range transportation plan for public input www.metronext.org. Open house for Neartown/Montrose: Wednesday, February 6, 6:30 – 8:30 pm at The Montrose Center, Room 107, 401 Branard Street.

Kay Warhol asked that neighborhood association representatives spread the word and encourage their members to attend. The Neartown website has been updated with information as well:

www.nearatown.org/other-happenings-calendar/2019/2/6/metronext-community-meeting-for-montroseneartown.

- Other
 - The annual CIP meeting for District C is scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 6:30 pm at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray
 - Greg pointed out that Neartown dues are due
 - Sylvia Drew reminded all that the Central Division PIP meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month 7:00-8:00 pm at 1602 State St. She noted that the PIP program provides a list of streets where crime is committed; also, police patrols are data-driven and they use input collected at these meetings.
 - Jack Valinski reported that regular trash collection is pretty much on schedule, but City is working to catch up on recycling and junk/tree waste collection. The City is using contract services to assist with this, and new trucks are on order, but there is a 6-8 month lead time for delivery.

Jack also mentioned that the 311 app has been updated – note the red button is the “call” button. Also, if you call 311 about trash pickup, be sure to get a service number.
 - Kay reported that at a recent TxDOT meeting on the big I-45 improvement project, TxDOT stated that it no longer plans to make changes to or rebuild the Montrose bridge as part of the related I-69 work scheduled to start in 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.