

Nearatown Association Meeting Agenda

March 26, 2019 – 7:00 PM

Cherryhurst Park Community Center, 1700 Missouri St

President Greg LeGrande called the meeting to order at 7:05.

1. Introductions – 23 people in attendance. Bill King introduced himself as candidate for CoH Mayor; Matt Hansel represented his wife Abbie Kamin, candidate for City Council District C.
2. Community Impact Newspaper—Matt Dulin, City Editor, <https://communityimpact.com/news/houston/heights-river-oaks-montrose/>, 1st edition early April. Example edition from the Woodlands, <https://communityimpact.com/the-woodlands/print-archives/year/2019/>
Matt provided background on the publication, which launches its Heights-River Oaks-Montrose edition April 3, as a free, monthly news magazine delivered by mail throughout area zip codes for these three neighborhoods. He described the focus as “hyper local” with in-depth articles as well as news on business openings and closings, transportation projects, education issues, and similar matters. There will be a digital edition and an email newsletter, but the focus is on the print publication. At the outset two staff will be reporting - Matt and one additional reporter. He invited all to the launch event at Harold’s in the Heights on April 3.
3. Houston Fire Department Strategic Plan—Leonard Chan, Accreditation Manager. Leonard distributed a survey seeking input on community perceptions and expectations to aid in developing the HFD strategic plan. The survey can be accessed at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HFD2019>.
4. Other –
 - Nearatown Secretary vote—Greg put forward Joellen Brayshaw as candidate for this position. Sylvia Drew moved that Joellen be elected Secretary for Nearatown; Kay Warhol seconded, and the motion carried.
 - Nearatown Candidate Forum— Houston City Council District C election. Greg recommended that we organize a candidate forum in the Fall for the race for City Council District C. Lloyd Matzner volunteered to lead this effort, with Greg, Kay, Paul Terry, and Steve Longmire assisting. Other civic association representatives who are interested in working on this should make their interest known to president@neartown.org.
 - Market Based Parking Midtown, Nearatown/Montrose issues. Greg discussed the proposed expansion of market-based parking to all of Midtown, which has potential impacts for Nearatown neighborhoods that overlap with and/or border Midtown. The Midtown Super Neighborhood has communicated concerns that the proposal has not been fully vetted in Midtown or Montrose neighborhoods that will be affected. This is the main topic for the City Council Quality of Life Committee on March 27. Concerned residents were encouraged to attend and comment.
 - Super Neighborhood Alliance—March 11th Meeting Update. Kay reported that the focus of the meeting was the presentation from Houston Fire Chief Samuel Pena, who spoke about changes to the department’s deployment model aimed at making more effective use of HFD resources, and about plans for implementation of Proposition B calling for pay parity between fire and police personnel. Kay noted that detailed minutes of the meeting, including highlights of Chief Pena’s remarks, should be available in the next

month. She also shared that the SNA is holding two training sessions for Super Neighborhood leaders on March 30 and April 27. These are open to neighborhood association representatives.

SNA minutes are available here: www.houstontx.gov/superneighborhoods/alliance.html

- Other
 - Linda Trevino of METRO reported that the Board is having a METRONext workshop at its March 28 Board Meeting. This will be mainly an update on the ongoing public engagement on the METRONext Moving Forward Plan. View the plan and submit comments at: www.metronext.org.
 - Sylvia reminded us that the Central Division PIP meeting is Tuesday April 2; topic: hurricane preparedness. She noted that local crime statistics are available at these meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Recorded by Kay Warhol