

Neartown Association Meeting Minutes

November 26, 2019 – 7:00 PM

Cherryhurst Park Community Center, 1700 Missouri St

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

1. Harris County Diversion Programs and Bond Reform—Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg.

DA Kim Ogg provided an overview of what her office is doing and her primary concerns. Her vision is to make Houston the safest city in the nation. The DA's office handles ~100,000 cases a year with 350 attorneys. DA Ogg highlighted developments that are helping them do their job, such as use of genealogy in cold cases and enhanced DNA, which enables retesting when questions arise about previously convicted individuals. She spoke briefly about the success the County has had with marijuana and mental health diversion programs and talked about the recent bail reform settlement. She supports not keeping poor people in jail just because they can't afford bail, however she is concerned about repeat violent criminal offenders being released on personal recognizance bonds. The county has had a positive change in the Grand Jury Selection Program by going from appointed Grand Juries to randomly-selected Grand Juries.

2. Introductions— Following the District Attorney's presentation, all attending introduced themselves, as customary. 19 people attended, including a staffer of City Council candidate Sallie Alcorn's campaign and City Council candidate Shelley Kennedy and a member of her campaign staff.

3. Neartown Officers 2020 – Election.

Sylvia Drew presented the slate of nominations and moved that the slate be accepted:

President – Greg Le Grande

Vice President – Kay Warhol

Treasurer – Paul Terry

Secretary – Joellen Brayshaw

Steve Longmire seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. Other—

- Two volunteers of the Be SMART program (<http://besmartforkids.org/>) of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America accompanied DA Ogg to the meeting to share educational materials and hand out gun locks. The Be SMART program

focuses on education and awareness about child gun deaths and responsible gun storage. As of the meeting date, Texas had recorded 29 unintentional shootings by children.

- Houston City Council District C Runoff Candidate Forum between Abbie Kamin and Shelley Kennedy. Jointly Sponsored by University Place Super Neighborhood and Neartown Association at 6 p. m. December 3, 2019 at Congregation Emanu El, 1500 Sunset Boulevard. <https://www.neartown.org/s/Houston-City-Council-District-C-candidate-forum-Flyer.pdf>
- The Dec 3 Central Division PIP meeting will honor and say farewell to Officer Wayne Pate, Central PIP coordinator, who is retiring.
- There will be no regular Neartown Meeting in December

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Recorded by Kay Warhol & Greg LeGrande