

Neartown Association Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2018 – 7:00 PM

Cherryhurst Park Community Center, 1700 Missouri St

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

1. Introductions

2. Citizens Advocacy for Street Safety – Raj Mankad, Friends of Polly Koch.

Raj provided background on Polly Koch who was hit and killed when crossing the intersection of Richmond Ave and Mandell St in November 2017. Her friends have organized and spoken out about the issues with pedestrian safety – staging a protest at the intersection, speaking before City Council, etc. They are looking for ways to have a more definitive impact. He led a discussion with meeting attendees on the issues around safety for pedestrians and cyclists on Houston streets and approaches for finding solutions. Raj shared info on a process that the Near Northside is employing, funded by the Clinton Foundation, to increase the visibility of crosswalks at key intersections.

Based on the high level of interest in this issue, Kay Warhol moved that Neartown form a small committee to work with Raj and investigate ways to improve pedestrian/cyclist safety in Montrose neighborhoods. Steve Longmire seconded and the motion was approved. Jack Valinski volunteered to lead the effort.

3. City of Houston Council Member Amanda Edwards – Harvey Recovery, infrastructure and upcoming I-45 improvements.

Council Member Edwards touched briefly on the propositions on the November ballot, then spoke about the City's discussions with TxDOT on the i-45 North project and the work of the H-GAC High Capacity Transit Task Force, of which she is co-chair. Due to the many comments that TxDOT has received on the North Freeway plans, including environmental and neighborhood impact concerns, the agency has pushed out the projected date to achieve a Record of Decision to 2019, rather than this year. The High Capacity Transit Task Force has been looking at where high-capacity transit is most needed and would make most sense in the region, as well as potential alternative sources for transit funding. She encouraged Neartown members to express their concerns about transportation projects during the public comment period at the Transportation Policy Council taking place on Friday, Oct. 27. She also expects that the High Capacity Transit Task Force will hold its next meeting before the end of the year.

4. Other –

- Walkable Places Committee – Midtown Community Meeting November 7, Trinity Episcopal Church 6-8 PM. Greg shared that the next committee meeting would be 4-6 PM October 31st at City Hall Annex.
- Super Neighborhood Alliance September 15th Meeting Update – Kay noted that the meeting focused on the propositions being presented to voters in the November election.
- Neartown Officers for 2019
- New Neartown Website – Kay

- Other: Margo Fendrich shared information on the multi-neighborhood social to be hosted by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on Friday Nov. 9, 6:30 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.