

Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood Council Meeting Final Minutes

November 10, 2010

The meeting of the Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood Council (EWOSNC) was called to order at 7:02 PM, November 10, 2010 by President Diane Guillerman. A quorum of 11 delegates was present.

I. Guest Introductions

There was no speaker. The meeting began with announcements by Mark Kirschke, with Council Member Oliver Pennington's office:

- A. **Westside Success Initiative:** a 501(c)(3) organization; pursuing placement of cameras in areas around west Houston to combat crime. CM Pennington's office is helping with the initiative. The area to be covered is from Eldridge and I-10 to the Beltway, over to Richmond Avenue, and back up to Eldridge. Currently fiber optic cables are being laid. The cost for installing the cameras is from \$2500 to \$4000, depending on the type of camera. They are hoping businesses in the area will donate money towards installation. In Houston, it is a pilot program; in Chicago there are 1500 closed circuit cameras and 15,000 cameras on government buildings. Some people have privacy concerns, but the west Houston cameras can only tape in public areas. We can help by publishing the program to area businesses to increase participation.
- B. **Dairy Ashford Overlay:** CM Pennington's office has been receiving calls and it seems there is confusion as to whether planned improvement to Dairy Ashford is a reconstruction or an overlay. It is at this point is an overlay, not a reconstruction. The three area SNs (Briar Forest, Memorial, and EWOSN) submitted reconstruction of DA as a CIP request and requested overlay as an alternative should CIP money not be available. Money for reconstruction probably won't be available within the next 5 years given the City's budget issues. The design of the overlay is already done. Bids for the job will open in December; City Council will vote on it in January 2011; a Notice to Proceed should issue in April 2011; and the overlay is anticipated to be done in July 2011. Mr. Kirschke noted that Dairy Ashford is the 88th most congested roadway in Texas. After the overlay, DA will be a smooth roadway, though ponding issues will remain.
- C. **Westside Command Station:** on Dairy Ashford will begin conducting jury trials in municipal court matters on December 22, 2010 (on Thursdays only); a jury trial in that location needs to be requested by the citizen.
- D. **Recycling in west Houston:** The area SNs and CM Pennington's office are trying to encourage the City to increase recycling, and to build a recycling center in west Houston similar to the one in the West University area.
- E. **SNAP matrices are available:** SNs need to start looking at their SNAP issues to submit in January 2011. There are only 4 items that any money will really be spent on. Trees and mulch are not going to be funded.
- F. **Self-reported 311 data:** If you have flooding issues – particularly in your home – you should report it to 311. 311 data is being relied on more and more to ascertain where flooding is occurring. Especially if Proposition 1 gets funded, the use of 311 data will become important. So, report it using 311 – either by

calling 311; if using your cell phone, call 713-837-0311; or email at 311@houstontx.gov. You should also go to Council Member Costello's website and fill out the flooding survey.

- G. **City's Budget:** Although the City's budget goals for 2010 were thought to be achievable, it was recently discovered that the City is 50-80 million dollars in the hole. The City is talking about furloughing some workers and increasing or adding fees to some services. For example, inspections for pools are going from \$85 to \$230, which is the true cost of the service. Citizens can expect slower services and some things already funded may not get done. There was a question regarding implementing Proposition 1. Mr. Kirschke stated that the Mayor's principles will guide the discussion for implementation. He stated there will probably not be any exemptions for schools or churches, and he believes implementation will start next July.

Xavier Herrera also introduced himself. He is the SN's liaison to the Mayor's office. He stated we are blessed to be in District G and have CM Pennington and Mark Kirschke working on our behalf. Mr. Herrera stated that he is there to supplement the work of CM Pennington's office. If anyone in EWOSNC needs to contact him, he can be reached at xavier.herrera@houstontx.gov or 832-393-0955. He can also assist with SNAP or CIP requests.

II. Old Business

- A. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved and accepted.

B. Committee Reports

1. **Security**—Bob Sumicek, Chair, reported HPD stats for Districts 70 and 80, stating no rapes, no murders, but an increase in burglaries along Briar Forest. He will try to help get Kroger and its area businesses to donate towards the Westside Success camera initiative. A delegate stated that residences were being burglarized (gang related) and we should all try watching out for our neighbors.
2. **SNAP** – Judy Thompson, Chair, was absent. Ms. Guillerman stated all EWOSNC members should begin looking around their respective neighborhoods/area, looking for SNAP issues that need to be submitted. The SNAP Committee is meeting in December to begin preparing the SN's SNAP requests. Delegate Sherry Lamb asked if the flashing light on Parkway Plaza should be submitted again. Another delegate asked why HISD can't get involved with the flashing light – it is needed for their schools too. There is an HISD officer in the area with a radar gun. Mr. Kirschke noted that the flashing light could be "self-funded" by the schools; the cost may be around \$30,000 to \$35,000. Mr. Herrera stated the SN should submit it again because the officer is a temporary fix. He requested Ms. Lamb email him and he will look into it.
3. **Beautification**—Virgie Manning, Chair, was absent. No report.
4. **Flooding and Drainage**—Billie Long, Chair, reported that the most important news was Proposition 1 had passed. He noted that the 311 information is used in the City's GIS system. Those areas generating the most 311 calls will be moved to the front of the list under Proposition 1 funding. It is important to get the information out to all residents that they need to report flooding to 311. It was noted there was a meeting to update the community on the Addicks Dam safety issues. Mr. Long did not attend; Mr. Kirschke said a representative from his neighborhood was attending and he would forward the report to EWOSN once it was done.
5. **Legislative**—Doug Parrish, chair, no report. Mr. Kirschke stated the Council Member's office had a way to keep track of bills being filed and he would keep us informed of the bills dealing with HOAs, and Mr. Parrish stated he would help by reporting the information to the SNC. The state has a website where all citizens can look at bills that are filed.
6. **Speakers Committee**—Maria Galitos, Chair, no report, but asked for suggestions. It was noted that the discussion regarding initiatives for the SN will help define needed speakers.

III. New Business

- A. **Initiatives/Direction of EWOSN** -- Ms. Guillerman stated it had been almost a year since the SN was officially recognized by the City and more than a year since the group of delegates began meeting. She noted some of the SN's accomplishments to date: 311 issues addressed, right-hand turn lane on Highway 6 into Eagle's Trace, informative speakers, effective communication with the City of Houston, and the condition of Dairy Ashford being addressed. She asked for suggestions regarding initiatives the SNC might like to pursue in 2011 and read some suggestions emailed to her by Donald Perkins: (1) sponsoring an Educational Town Hall meeting by inviting HISD superintendent, Mr. Grier, to address the community regarding his policies, goals, etc. Also, AISD superintendent Dr. Louis B. Stoerner could be invited; (2) SN Clean-up by coordinating civic associations, the Energy Corridor, area schools and churches; and (3) a West Houston Mayor's Town Hall Meeting, in which Mayor Parker and various department heads would address the community. Mr. Herrera suggested getting something like this on Mayor Parker's calendar as soon as possible. Mr. Sumicek suggested a presentation similar to the one done by Cypress Creek, involving a training session for new incoming HOA officers and directors. Delegates discussed the type of people that would be presenting this, such as judges and experts, particularly someone from Butler and Hailey.
- B. **Increasing participation in the SN**-- by other HOAs and organizations was also discussed. Some ideas suggested were: (1) having a committee of SN delegates who are willing to speak to various HOAs, informing them of the SN; all delegates seemed in favor of this and volunteers were solicited for a committee. The committee volunteers were: S. Lamb, K. Knopf, B. Sumicek, D. Rowe, B. Long, D. Parrish, M. Galitos, and D. Guillerman; (2) Hosting a SN "meet and greet"; and (3) approaching the property management companies to get names, contacts for more HOAs in the SN. Volunteers for these last two ideas were also solicited. Ms. Guillerman stated she would check, but noted that some of the management companies are already on the distribution list for notices of meetings, etc., and they don't attend. She also noted that part of the problem is that the list of HOA contacts maintained by the City is not necessarily up to date. A committee will be established to look at this issue further.
- C. **Amending By-laws**—Ms. Guillerman asked if any delegates thought amendments to the by-laws were necessary; no one did. Ms. Guillerman suggested the by-laws be amended to eliminate the position of correspondence secretary because it is not really necessary. A motion was made by Ms. Lamb to amend the by-laws to eliminate the position; it was seconded by Mr. Parrish and all voted in favor of amending the by-laws to eliminate the position. The amendment will be read and voted on at the December meeting. It was suggested that a webmaster be included in the officers, but was not voted on.
- D. **Non-Profit Status**—Ms. Guillerman questioned whether the SN should become a non-profit 501(c)(3) so the SN can raise some money to fund projects. Mr. Kirschke stated it is an expensive process (possibly costing \$1000, and that other than raising money and writing off donations, the status wasn't that beneficial. Only one SN that he is aware of has done it – Memorial SN. The issue was tabled for further discussion.

A delegate noted it was 8:45 pm, so a motion was made to adjourn. Ms. Guillerman announced that HPD's training presentation, "Shoot/Don't Shoot" is scheduled for the December meeting, on December 8, 2010. There was a brief discussion regarding how useful the presentation may be, and the meeting was adjourned.