

ELDRIDGE/WEST OAKS Super Neighborhood Council Meeting Final Minutes -- September 8, 2010

The meeting of the Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood Council (EWOSNC) was called to order at 7:00 PM, September 8, 2010, by Vice President Bob Sumicek.

I. Speakers

(1) Robin Blut, Executive Director, Keep Houston Beautiful :

Ms. Blut provided a booklet and information about local clean-up activities her group can assist us with. Items available are gloves, rakes, shovels, etc., as well as equipment -- as long as there is a deposit provided (\$50.00 for tools, \$100.00 for equipment). They can also make arrangements for the extra large roll off dumpsters. However, they need 3 - 4 weeks notice for activities and for equipment. Keep Houston Beautiful is a partnering group. Her packet provides much in the way of planning for an event.

Donald Perkins also added there are local areas of Houston that have excellent track records in beautification projects. He will furnish an email message with information and links to aid us with those types of beautification and clean-up projects. Officially, the first Saturday in April is Clean-up Houston Day. More information can be found at www.houstonbeautiful.org as well as the packet of information. Also, using high school students as "labor" in various projects allows the students to get needed service hours to graduate. TREES can be provided. Again look for more information from the packet on the links provided.

(2) Jessica Colone with Keep Houston Safe PAC:

Ms. Colone discussed the Red Light Camera program. Her information was pointed about the need for red light cameras. she stated there has been a dramatic fall in "t - bone" accidents, which create great injury and damage, since the red light cameras were installed. Ms. Colone stated that the behaviors of drivers immediately changed with the addition of the cameras in every instance. She reminded us that red light camera offenses are \$75.00, while full court fines are about \$250.00. The funds received from the red-light camera offenses are spent in the following approximate amounts:

5 - 10 % flat fee to the provider of the equipment;

1/3 to hospital district (particularly Ben Taub Hospital);

1/2 to maintenance and pay for the officers that review the camera information (all fees charged are reviewed by an officer before sending out.

There are some hold-ups in the funding to hospitals - but they are out of Austin, TX, state government issues, not with our local law enforcement or city. Ms. Colone provided information in handouts promoting the camera program and the proponents across the state by organizations such as Firefighters, Police officers, and others.

II. Guest Introductions

Donald Perkins from the City of Houston - provided updates and handouts; Mark Kirschke representing Oliver Pennington's office -- much discussion was sounded about the Briarhills traffic study, meeting with HOA etc. The essence of the conversations were (1) there is NO official traffic study yet - it is planned. The plan that was suggested by some at the Briarhills HOA meeting will NOT be accepted in its present form. The COH would never accept this recommendation. This presentation

was not started by COH and would not be used. Much angst on the part of the delegates and attendees was felt. Mark suggested that everyone “think” and follow the suggestion of regrouping with a representative amount of interested parties. The COH wants the group to continue to formulate a committee that is representative of all factions so that the facilitation of information can be official. A traffic study will be performed. Suggestions from the group offered that these studies be at the appropriate times (morning rush) to best view the real status of volume of traffic in the areas most in difficulty (Briarhills parkway) (the back entrance). Basically, the plan is back to square one. COH will take control if the efforts are not “fair” and suitable. We all need to take a look and try not to be intense if possible.

Mark also heard information about the Esplanade concerns by our SNC on the Dairy Ashford problem. Donald Perkins remarked about the Adopt an Esplanade program as that might have some possible effectiveness in the future.

III. Old Business

A. Approve minutes - approved by vote of members present as John Lezano motioned and Judy Thompson seconded the motion.

B. Committee reports:

1. Security (Bob Sumicek) – statistics –

1 murder (Dairy Ashford near Alief Clodine);

13 aggravated assaults (1 in a hospital parking lot);

9 robberies (all are hoping that recent arrests will dramatically impact that robbery and burglary numbers);

36 burglaries;

87 thefts (most of the thefts were at bus locations and parking lots...20 were at West Oaks Mall);

7 auto thefts;

(Note - 4 people have been arrested regarding the house break ins - and are aiding the police with information as to how to protect their property and what each of us can do: (1) close garage doors, (2) don't leave a light on all day that can signal that no one will be home until after dark, (3) watch your shades, all down all the time may signal that no one is home. Bob can provide those helpful hints again if needed. We can go mycity.houstontx.gov to see many statistics about the COH including crimes by area).

2. SNAP/Infrastructure (Judy Thompson) – All CIPS were denied due to economic conditions and lower COH tax revenues. Suggestions from COH were to reapply.

- Projects of concern – I-10 to Westpark overlay of Dairy Ashford; maybe 2011 begin.
- TxDot gave 100 worst streets - Dairy Ashford was #88.
- Renew Houston Prop. # 1 on the ballot – the program “pay as we go” that was discussed several meetings ago. This will fund items like streets such as above.
- YES on the project to restripe Briarforest onto HWY 6 south. – date to be announced.

3. Beautification (Virgie Manning) – bring your ideas to the next meeting for possible beautification projects from your individual HOAs.

Projects of an ongoing nature -

- Parks - large hole in trail repaired, some benches repaired, more repairs – may require CIP
- Recycling - Farmer's Market – City Centre (Town and Country) Thursdays 4 – 8 p.m.

- Graffiti – some improvements
- Grass overgrown – 2 out of 4 complaints were cut
- Dumping illegally areas – 2, police were contacted
- Flags, Advertising, etc. – India restaurant sign on BF and DA has been notified several times to repair or remove
- Newspaper boxes with trash – notified but no changes

IF YOU SEE PROBLEMS – get details, take photos, date everything.

4. **Flooding and Drainage Committee (Billie Long)** - absent, his second had no report.
5. **Legislative (Doug Parrish)** – absent – no report.
6. **Speakers Committee (Maria Galitos)** – Jack O’Connor and Hubert Vo were invited- Vo has not responded as of this date.

IV. **New Business**

- A. **Announcements** -welcome to new members – Westchase will be forming a SNC soon. They sat in on our meeting to get a feel for how things work. The busy and “passionate” group of SNC was glad to have them for the meeting.

B. **Adjourn**

Next Meeting – Wednesday, October 13, 2010 – at 7:00 pm (AC Classroom of Eagle’s Trace Retirement Community). Speakers Jack O’Connor has agreed. Hubert Vo was asked but has not responded.