

Minutes from Meeting of March 9, 2016

I. Call to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. Announcements:

District G – Chief of Staff, Sally Alcorn

Ms. Alcorn appeared on behalf of Council Member Gregory Travis. Ms. Alcorn gave brief reviews of several Mayoral initiatives including the pothole repair program including budgeted funds of fifteen million to order more asphalt for continuing repairs. She noted that several of SN17 stakeholders were present at the CIP meetings. The tax credit project (subsidized housing) was supported due to the 9 to 6 vote of the various HOAs. Ms. Alcorn stated that this is only step one in a very involved process. Public comments and concerns can continue to be voiced. She can direct residents on ways to provide additional comments. Ms. Alcorn also discussed the meeting with Chief Maddie Provost regarding the homeless issues. Mr. Travis has committed to \$100,000.00 toward this important SN17 issue. Councilman Travis is focusing on crime, education, and more visibility by HPD. A real time crime analysis is going to aid in targeting crime in our area. Recycling by the COH has gone from making money to losing money. There will likely be a service interruption as the Mayor plans to seek negotiations and bids from other providers. The current contract is up March 16, 2016. Ms. Alcorn provided handouts about the Gessner Road and Memorial Drive projects from the Public Works Department. She noted that all SN17 members should feel free to contact their office. They are happy to help.

Doug Parish, president of SN17 added that at the CIP meetings he attended he was very pleased to see the Mayor providing specific and targeted comments on SN17 submissions and overall demonstrated a communicative and positive demeanor.

Doug Parish stated to the group that we as a Super Neighborhood are following Robert's Rules of Order and that minutes will be only targeted highlights of meetings regarding minutes of meetings. Minutes are not to be a substitute for attendance at meetings. Bob Andrew also augmented the remarks with comments on the active issues link on our SN17 website, and provided a printout of Active Issues page.

Speaker:

Sean Powers – Volunteer for Bike Houston provided a PowerPoint presentation about the Plan in the works by Bike Houston. The focus of this non-profit organization has the charge of making biking more safe and seeks to increase access all across Houston. Increased ridership is a key goal. Estimates suggest that 1.5 million residents bike in the metro area, while COH has approximately 500,000 riders. According to statics 54% would bike more but feel less than safe. In the recent three year period, there have been 25 fatalities, and 1,500 reported crashes involving bike riders though more are not reported if 911 is not called. He stated that mobility particularly for impoverished is

needed. 23% of Houston residents meet the poverty level of \$24,000.00 in annual income. Those are the riders that bike to work as they have no income for a vehicle. Funding for this extensive project has many supporters. Policies and framework are parts of the Bike Houston overall plan. Mr. Powers showed several local, regional and national trails and provided pitfalls and positive attributes. There will be a survey on their site. All are encouraged to participate in the survey for public comment. The last overhaul of a bike plan occurred in 1993. With our substantial growth in population and traffic, there is a great need for revision and planning. Bike Houston seeks to rise from the Bronze level to Gold level as the fourth largest city we “barely are on the map” when it comes to biking. The plan has several levels of additions and millions in costs to achieve more “high comfort” lanes as well as improved street and off street pathways. Sean provided his personal email for those who seeking additional information or contact personnel. sjpowers@gmail.com

III. Old Business

A. Minutes of previous meeting were unanimously approved.

B. Committee Reports:

Beautification: Vergie stated that the date of 2019 was announced for construction starting on the Brays Bayou Trail project was due to the first needing to complete construction of the four control structures that are set for completion in 2017.

CIP/311: Vergie reported for Judy Thompson on attendance at the Districts F and G CIP meetings. Further information can be found on our website on the Elected Officials and Active Issues pages.

Security: Doug stated that murder rates were up but that overall most other crimes were down somewhat. He offered that HPD has a mental health unit that is noteworthy. More information can be found on the website on the Active Issues page.

Flood Control: no report at this time, though many were mindful of current stormy conditions.

Homeless: none, but Johnny and Jack were pleased that Councilman Travis has agreed to contribute significant funds. They have not received a reply from Councilman Le as to his commitment.

Webmaster: Bob offered District F and G map handouts to the stakeholders asking them to “draw in” their various neighborhoods. COH has neglected to update the maps in the past but agrees it needs to be done and welcomes assistance from the residents. Please complete and return at the April meeting

IV. New Business: none

Adjourned at 8:17 p.m. Next meeting is Wednesday April 13, 2016