

Minutes for the meeting of May 10, 2017

I. Call to Order at 7:03 p.m.

President Doug Parrish informed the group that we have two new delegates (not present at this meeting). Rhonda Kelly taking Bob Andrew's spot and Wendy Salahuddin from Parkridge were noted by all. Additionally, Billy Long is no longer in our group. He has retired and is traveling with his family. We wish him well.

Mark Kirschke from District G and Councilman Travis' office reported that Monica Aizpurua is the new chief of staff for Mr. Travis. She comes with a significant vitae to the table. Her email address is [Monica.Aizpurua@houstontx.gov](mailto:Monica.Aizpurua@houstontx.gov).

Mr. Kirschke gave information on several items listed below:

- HB1368 (speed limits down to 25 in residential areas) -seems stuck in committee. If residents wish this bill to make progress they should contact their local representative.
- November 7 – there are many important issues to be placed on the ballot, such as revenue caps, petition issues, Rebuild Houston, bond issues, and possibly a Metro bond.
- Save the Date for June 3 – Annual Hurricane Prep Event READY or NOT will be held at the George R Brown center.
- Girl Scout Cecilia Jeffers – working on a silver award has petitioned sidewalks for more areas on Whittington by going door to door. We commend her tremendous efforts at age 14.
- Eagles Trace – signage and flashing lights for dangerous traffic situation is in the works with Mr. Vo and TxDot.
- Energy Corridor projects with concrete barriers at many intersections are expected to conclude in August. 281-759-3800 can be used for more information.
- Locating Grocery Shopping Carts – if you find these, snap a picture, gather address and send to Mark to be forwarded for removal.
- Ordinance recently past – generally we were somewhat misled as to the details of this document. The Knox Amendment is more of “impediment of the roadways.” Warnings will be given for the first 30 days. After this initial time more strict measures will be forthcoming. Sadly, the work by our SN17 did not get the full traction that was expected on panhandlers. Mark stated that a major rewrite carefully crafted was submitted. This was modeled after similar bills in San Antonio and New Orleans.
- In conjunction with the new ordinance there is a formidable education program planned to make the public aware that spare change is not the solution meaningfulchange.org is a much healthier plan. This will include numerous billboards stating it is OK to say NO to panhandlers. More

than 100 faith based agencies and entities are part of a large outreach program to help those truly in need utilizing 100% of funding with zero administrative costs. The “card” information from the city is rather slim on information. Mr. Kirschke stated that he hoped that more resources like the older version would be much more supportive to those in need.

- More beds for those in need to combat the encampment situation are coming online very soon (200-500 beds possibly within six months).
- Dairy Ashford Lift Station near the Bayou is slated for June 30 completion.
- The Kirkwood Lift Station is not working as it should and changes are being made to utilize gravity to supplement issues when power outages occur. Harvest Moon Lift Station now has added capacity to aid as well.

Margarita Dunlap from Metro brought the group up to speed on the upcoming Transportation plan. There will be events some by invitation to gather community input and support. A referendum will probably be next year rather than in November. She also gave us information on the Summer Fun Pass for students K – 12 ages. Students that have student types of proof can ride free during the summer from June 1 until September 1.

HPD officer Laugermann-Deese from the Westwood Storefront located at 9700 Bissonett gave us current crime statistics.

- No murders
- 2 sexual assaults
- 3 aggravated assaults
- 11 other assaults
- 18 Robberies up from 15 last month 20% were in apartment complexes
  - Most of these were Thursdays through Sundays
- 58 thefts 21 were stores, 13 were apartments, generally these were near Westheimer near highway 6 from noon until 7 p.m.
- She also gave her remarks on personal dealings with panhandlers to assure the group as to the meaningful steps taken by many officers regarding this locally vital mater.

II. Speakers: Rashad Cave: Dept. of Neighborhoods

Mr. Cave brought greetings and furthered conversations and fielded questions about the new ordinance and general communications with the department personnel in his department. He noted that this group is very service related and they truly want to aid the citizenry in problem solving and completion. He gave flyers that detail the various contact persons listed below:

- Inspections and Public Service (IPS) (use 311)
- Mayor’s Citizens Assistance Office (MCAO)

- Volunteer Initiatives Program (VIP)
- Mayor's Anti-Gang Office (MAGO)
- Office of New Americans and Immigrant communities (ONAIC)
- Mayor's office for People with Disabilities (MOPD)
- You can reach Mr. Cave at [Rashad.cave.houstontx.gov](mailto:Rashad.cave.houstontx.gov)

#### IV. Old Business

A. Minutes were unanimously approved from April Meeting.

##### B. Committee Reports:

1. Beautification /Parks & Trails (Virgie) – retention ponds need mowing and dumping on Hwy 6 at Westheimer and other locations are a problem.
2. Infrastructure (Judy Thompson) – none at this time
3. Security (Johnny Lozano) – given by HPD officer
4. Homeless (Jack O'Connor & Johnny) disappointed with the ordinance not being more strongly worded. We may want to enlist more HPD assistance for enforcement in our area.
5. Webmaster: (Bob Andrew) – the new Farmers Market information is on our site. Be on the look for more information such as the department connections and various city services for communications coming soon.

#### V. New Business:

A. Announcements – none at this time

B. Adjournment – at 8:24 p.m.

Next Meeting is Wednesday, June 14, 2017