

Minutes from the meeting of September 12, 2018 Super Neighborhood 17

- I. Call to order at 6:58 P. M.
- II. Quorum established: 7 to comply, 10 present.
- III. President O'Conner thanked everyone, including delegates and the many visitors for attending. He also welcomed City of Houston and HPD staff. Everyone in attendance was asked to introduce themselves.

IV. **Speakers**

HPD Representative - The first speaker was Officer Parkerson from HPD. The Officer provided statistics on crime in the area. General crime stats were down in this area over all. He noted that Sexual assault and Murder were zero. Violent crimes were down 41%. He also remarked about the upcoming Police / Clergy Alliance that will meet tomorrow. This group will further address homeless and panhandling issues along with the Meaningful Change group. He emphasized the need to stop the cycle of arrest and release by not donating to those on street corners. The Meaningfulchange.com group is a superior place to donate as they do help those in need. Comments and questions from the SN17 solidified the need to do more with campaigns to inform the public about stopping the cycle and giving on the street rather to donate to a good cause that actually helps those in need. The ordinance passed last year is in litigation from the ACLU, therefore cannot be enforced until courts decide on the matter. HPD Officer Vu also provided information on the diversion plans: 1) Marijuana diversion plan and 2) Trespass diversion plans. These plans allow for first, second, third, and more offenders to be released. He offered a solution of the big rocks in the medians to make it physically more difficult for those to stand and wait for handouts from those in cars passing by.

Greg Travis, Council Member, District G was thanked for his aid without fanfare with storm and debris removal issues. Mr. Travis continued the homeless/panhandling issues with his efforts of rock use on medians to discourage standing and waiting in those locations in his district. He noted that homeless have no need to be on the street there are safe places for them if they truly want them. Most are persons with substance abuse issues or mental difficulties that would deny the suitable assistance. He noted that panhandlers have an additional motive, cash. He too, emphasized the need to educate the citizenry to discontinue street donations as this continues the cycle.

Secondly, he gave details about the upcoming Rebuild Houston renew vote. He offered that this is difficult as we are paying for "sins of the past". Of the approximately 3 billion dollars, about half has been paid off. Though not perfect by any means, he suggests voting yes. If the vote passes the funding continues in the same manner and less funding can be rerouted by the city to non-flood/drainage/roads purposes. Additionally, he noted that nothing will stop the drainage fee. Those are here to stay. He remarked about the overall drainage and construction

in our area. He described the current 48 “culverts in place under our streets. He noted the value and wisdom in moving toward expensive but preferred 10’ by 10’ culverts to not only move large amounts of water, but to hold this water during significant events like Harvey last year. Yes, on the vote will continue the “flood, drainage, roads - only” plan. He states that 100% of placing of funds on the “flood, drainage, roads - only” plan of course may be unrealistic but he will be the bulldog to hold the city accountable.

Next, he discussed the Bike Plan. He agrees but disagrees. He prefers the plan to use CenterPoint corridors to lay fairly thin asphalt for biking safe from car traffic versus expensive concrete roadways. He wants no Rebuild Houston funds spent on bike plan matters. He commented on the county bond issue that recently passed. He was happy to see the actual list of improvements from the Harris County Flood Control group to help both lower and upstream flow for the overall program. Current projects seem to address up stream needs to have less water in the flow to begin with.

Lastly, he discussed the Firefighters Parody issue coming up on the ballot. He was happy to aid the firefighters by assisting issue placement on the ballot, but he will vote no. He described the various fire station personnel duties and responsibilities (firefighter and ems), collective bargaining process, and funding from various points of view. He feels that even if passed it will be in the courts for up to eight years. He noted that the pension issues are most complete and are vastly improved. He reminded the group that the Mayor will be in our area October 18th to also go over items that were presented tonight.

Rene Ruiz-Neighborhood Protection Division - described the meeting with the Mayor and offered a handout with more details.

- V. Discussion on the increase of Aggressive Panhandling** – President Jack O’Connor expressed disappointment in the litigation surrounding the ordinance especially fought for by our representatives. Jack was seeking some sort of consensus to further the SN17 viewpoint and forward momentum. He described the broken window theory. Albeit trash, broken windows, or panhandlers/homeless allowing any of these to linger will essentially promote more of same. He is looking for zero tolerance. The group noted that it is a complex issue. Overall, all agreed that quality of life and property values warrant this consensus to forge better ways to combat the issue.

On a side note, **Greg Travis** remarked about the over budget and over contractual time has been noted by the City Council regarding the Memorial Drive construction. He stated that the contractor was notorious for shoddy workmanship and poor materials. He requested that his contractor be fired for breach and another contractor be selected to finish the project. That has not happened as of the meeting. He will continue to work for a resolution on this issue.

- VI. Approval of minutes from June 13, 2018 meeting.**
VII. Committee Reports

Public Safety and Security – Chair Jeff Baker – President Jack O’Connor introduced Jeff Baker. Jeff gave us his background in police and firefighting. He also works with the Alief SN.

Beautification – Cindy Yeglin – no report as Cindy is out with surgery. We will keep her in our thoughts.

Capital Improvements Projects F and G Infrastructure – no chair at this time. Anyone interested please contact Jack O’Connor.

Flood Control and Drainage – Chair Nick Kornuta – stated that the HCFC bond passed. He has attended meetings about all the local reservoirs and will plan to attend the Corp of Engineers meetings looking for information, studies, etc. that are pertinent to share with our group.

Membership – Rhonda Kelly – Jack O’Connor praised Ronda for her support and aid in growing our group with her efforts. Rhonda encouraged all delegates to complete the required form valid for two years.

VIII. **Old Business** – none

IX. **New Business** –Bylaws Revision. Johnny Lozano gave a brief history of the SN17 and noted that a plan was suggested to amend the bylaws to provide continuity from founding members. These founding members have dedicated much time and effort to the SN17. This bylaw change will afford the group continuing wisdom. Their continuing efforts and expertise are valuable to the health of the SN17 and its future. Per current bylaws, the revision is read at one meeting and voted upon at the next meeting. The revision as stated below was accepted for reading into the minutes of the September 12, 2018 SN17 meeting.

Section 5.6 – “Founders.” There has been a small group of individuals in the Super Neighborhood and its operation since its initiation. These individuals include: Johnny Lozano, Billy Long, Douglas Parrish, and Dianne Guillerman. These individuals will be hereafter referred to as “Founders” of the Super Neighborhood. To maintain continuity in the purpose, history and operations of the Super Neighborhood, this group of people will be allowed to participate in all Super Neighborhood meetings, with voting power set forth in these Bylaws (i.e., one vote per Founder); however, these Founders do not have to specifically designated as a delegate of a particular homeowners’ association or other Super Neighborhood member in order to participate in the Super Neighborhood. The Founders are subject to all other Bylaws contained herein as they may be amended in the future. These Founder members may also act as representatives of their homeowners associations or other Super neighborhood members but do not have to specially be appointed as delegates of same in order to exercise their votes.

X. **Adjourned at 8:50 P.M.**