

Minutes from the meeting of November 14, 2018 of Super Neighborhood 17 – Eldridge/West Oaks

- I. Call to order at 7:00 p.m. Quorum was established by 12 delegates or alternates.
- II. President O'Connor thanked everyone, including delegates and the many visitors for attending. He also welcomed all our guests from the City, County, Metro and others in attendance. Everyone in attendance was asked to introduce themselves.
- III. Speakers
Our first speaker was Lieutenant Tim Trometer, representing HPD-Westside. He noted that overall crime is down from the previous month and 30% down for the year. He urged once again to not give money to the panhandlers and homeless people seen on the street. This encourages crime and prostitution as most times they are part of a gang. Remember most people on the street can make up to \$200 a day, tax free, seven days a week. He also asked that business people, and homeowners, to lock all vehicles, and to remove any valuable items. So many times robberies of motor vehicles are quick and snatch - break a car window, reach in for a purse, computer, guns and gone in less than five minutes. The following are statistics for the Westside area:
 - 1 domestic sexual assault – was a father/daughter incidence
 - 13 aggravated assaults vs 27 last month; 6 were family violence, 7 non family
 - 29 break- ins of habitats – 13 residential - many of the doors were simply locked and 16 of businesses
 - 69 motor vehicles

There was no narcotic reports but it was announced that 2 arrests had been made in the past few days in SN17.

He also urged everyone to be aware of package thefts at the front door. There are alternate locations such as UPS or FedEx the homeowners can pick up packages from. Lastly, he reminded all to not engage burglars, but wait outside and to call 911.

The next speaker was Richard Long from the US Army Corp of Engineers. He provided a quick summary of what duties the Army Corp of Engineers are tasked with on behalf of the Government. He then introduced Andrew Weber who discussed the history of the Addicks and Barkers Cypress dams which were built over 15 years ago. At that time, the boundary of the City of Houston was 10 – 15 miles from the dams and now, there are homes built surrounding both dams. Both dams were built to handle 2 in of rain. If over that amount of rain, the gates are closed and the dams hold water until can be released later. In September, 2015, \$73 million dollars were allocated to repair the dams, but then there was the Tax Day flood and Harvey and all the plans went out the window. There has been lots of progress, including updating mechanical equipment and building a new outlet. All of a sudden there are new studies – Buffalo Bayou Tributary Study at a cost of \$6 million and the Federally Funded Resiliency Study for \$12 million.

Just recently there has been an agreement with Harris County Flood Control and Army Corp of Engineers to work together for the very first time. In the future there will be a third reservoir to increase water capacity, more excavation, and try to figure out how much to release and when. For more information, or any questions, feel free to contact the Corp of Engineers or review the website at: BBTRS@usace.army.mil, <https://www.swg.usace.army.mil>.

The next speaker was Rene Ruiz from the City of Houston Mayor's Citizen Assistance Office, as he explained how 311 worked and how to use it. The main function is to provide customer service to citizens of Houston. This can include repair of pot holes, barking dogs, repair of street lights, overgrown empty lots, water leaks, stored vehicles on driveways, mowing esplanades, etc. The ways to communicate to 311, is by phone (call 311), online (via 311 website or mobile app), or email (311@houstontx.gov). You can call Department of Neighborhoods at 832-394-0600. The 311 smart phone app, which use of cellphone technology to transmit a geolocation tag and photo. Make sure to get the service request number, as this will make it easier to track the status of the request. 311 requests are how the city manages requests to the various city departments.

Margaret Dunlap from Metro briefly spoke on the new Regional Transit Plan and noted meetings will be held in the future concerning this new study. She noted those 65-69 pay ½ fare and those over 70 ride free.

Mark Kirschke, Staff member from Councilman Greg Travis's office, District G, commented that 311 is about managing accountability for the City departments. He also mentioned the passing of Propositions A & B and that Mayor Turner is currently investigating the possibility of major changes in how HPD is managed. He next discussed the current situation with Solid Waste especially in light of the shortfall expected following the passing of Proposition B. The CIP for Dairy Ashford appears to be finalized. It will include 6 lanes from 1-10 to Westheimer and included replacement of the Buffalo Bayou Bridge with one above the 100 yr flood elevation.

- IV. Minutes - after the guest speakers, SN17 conducted normal business such as approving the Sept. and October minutes.
- V. Proposed Amendment – Based on the discussion following the last meeting, the amendment has been adjusted to include a provision for removing the added “at-large” delegates by a 2/3 majority vote. Diane Guillerman read the revised amendment to be approved at the next meeting – January 10, 2019, per the Amended By-Law:

Section 5.6 – There has been a small number of individuals involved in the Super Neighborhood and its operations since prior to its recognition by the City of Houston. Hereinafter, these individuals will be known as the “Founder Delegates at Large.” The active, currently participating Founder Delegates at Large are: Johnny Lozano, Douglas Parrish, and Diane Guillerman. To maintain continuity in the purpose, history, and operations of the Super Neighborhood, the Founder Delegates at Large may participate in all Super Neighborhood monthly meetings, with voting power as set forth in these Bylaws (i.e., one vote per Founder Delegate at Large). These Founder Delegates at Large do not have to be specifically designated as a delegate of a particular homeowners’ association or other Super Neighborhood member in order to participate in the Super Neighborhood; however, if they are acting delegates for a stakeholder member, then they have only one vote. The Founder Delegates at Large are subject to all other Bylaws contained herein and as the Bylaws may be amended in the future. To prevent the Founder Delegates at Large from a “lifetime membership,” they may be removed as a Founder Delegate at Large for good cause in the same manner as set forth in Section 6.10 of these Bylaws, that is, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Council where a quorum is present.

VI. Committee Reports

Panhandling – President O'Connor advised that if any panhandling camps are seen, to contact HPD for assistance. The Committee members will be visiting City Hall in 2019 to speak on issues raised at super neighborhood meetings.

Beautification – Ms. Yeglin had no current report due to being out for several months due to surgery. She stated that she did drive the area and contacted 311 when there had been dumping or unmowed lots. She also noted that the Beautification Committee Head for SN 18 had not been available to meet as her home has been under repair due to Hurricane Harvey.

Capital Improvements – City Capital Improvement Project Meetings will be coming up in February.

Communications- Ms. Kelley announced that the Newsletter team will be asking around next year for articles from HOA's, to advertise the activities and amenities of the local HOA.

VII. New Business

Jeff Baker, the alternate delegate from Shadowlake, asked that SN-17 endorse the neighborhood's plan for connecting trails to the HPB's Brays Bayou trail. He also was seeking a letter of support from Bike Houston since they recognize the value of connecting trails and have already added these same connecting trails to their planning for access to the Brays Bayou Trail.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.