

Minutes from the meeting of January 9, 2019, of Super Neighborhood 17 – Eldridge/West Oaks

- I. Call to order at 7:00 p.m. by President O'Connor. 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 **Captain Faulhaber, representing HPD-Westside** who reported that December, 2018 had been a rough month in the district due to school being out and kids breaking into vehicles and stealing packages. He noted that 5 teenagers (several from Westside High School) had been arrested for back to back violent robberies, all of the suspects were armed and threatened to kill their victims. He noted that HPD had also caught someone stealing packages off door steps. It seems a resident had a camera that not only showed the face of the culprit but also the license plate of the car being driven. 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. The following are statistics for the Westside area:
 - Violent crimes – no change from last month
 - 19 aggravated assaults with 10 being family members
 - Nonviolent crimes are down by 19% from previous month.

HPD hopes to get a grant to help with family violence.

For those interested in obtaining the crime data, information can be found on the HPD website. This area is in District 20, SN 17. He noted that alerts are built into the mapping along with detailed information. He called the site “a high tech tool” and urged everyone to take a look. Also Westside Command is working on an implementation using GIS to map all the apartments in Houston and associated the DALE information with specific address's to make the information better available to officers responding to calls. One of HPD's concerns is the computer systems running the new software are significantly out of date.

The next speaker was **Council Member District G, Greg Travis, from the City of Houston**. He announced the District G, CIP meeting was going to be held on March 17 at 7:00 pm, at Tallwood Baptist Church. He stated the City of Houston was strapped for funds since Proposition B was approved by the voters which entails parity pay for Houston Fire Fighters. He said there will be cuts including laying off City staff members, and Fire Fighters. While Proposition B is the “valid until declared invalid”, it is being contested in Court but the City must be prepared to make necessary cuts when and if the vote is legal. The City is facing a \$200,000,000 deficit. The question is whether HFD can obtain the increase through a City wide vote, or through mediation bargaining.

He asked if anyone was having issues with the garbage service as at this time as there are enough people, but not enough trucks to pick up all the trash in the City. He stated that

recycling collection goes straight to the dump and not to recycling centers as no one is buying the product. He also stated that there will be no additional garbage fee to help defray costs.

He next discussed drainage issues in the City. Many citizens are still trying to recuperate from Hurricane Harvey but with our current drainage when it happens again, it will be even worse. He commented on projects Harris County Flood Control are considering, including building a tunnel under Buffalo Bayou to downtown, but the cost would be as high as one billion dollars a mile.

Construction on Memorial is projected to be completed by October 31, 2019, but he noted the project was a year behind. There is a new policy in Public Works that will grade contractors and if the contractor does not pass, the City will not use them again. Finally, Public Works will hold the contractor accountable.

Van Huynh, representative from District F, Council Member Le's office announced that the CIP meeting for this district would be the end of February but the Council Member was waiting final scheduling by the City but that it would be held at the Alief Community Center. Mr. Huynh reported that the Council Member would be focusing on parks, streets, and sidewalks and security. We have since received an update that it will be held on Tuesday, February, 26th at 6:30 PM.

IV. Guest Speaker

President O'Connor introduced **Marc Eichebaum, Special Assistant to the Mayor for Homeless Initiatives**. Mr. Eichebaum manages The Way Home, Houston's nationally recognized homeless housing initiative. The program has housed more than 15,000 homeless individuals which reduced the homelessness in the City by 55%. He asked the question of what does he mean by homelessness but before that can be answered we must understand the symptoms and the causes. Symptoms include no home, being hungry, and being alone. Houston has changed the symptoms by finding housing and food for the homeless. Housing is first but there are many barriers, including "not in my backyard". Permanent housing is found with no strings – can continue to use drugs or alcohol and no faith preaching. Houston is leading the nation even though Houston a larger population, as Houston has a smaller population of homeless now than any City in the nation. He noted that half of the panhandlers are not homeless as many are paid quite well living off the street traffic. Recently the City passed, the "Right of Way Safety Ordinance" which means the panhandlers cannot create a dangerous situation such as walking between cars. Panhandler signs are meant to make us feel bad but really contributions off the street enables them to stay on the street. A question arose about tiny houses, but he stated as of yet, none have been constructed in the Houston area so it is not known whether they could decrease homelessness. . He also noted encampments are a public health and a public safety problem. The program's website is www.MeaningfulChange.org. Houston is looking for volunteers to help locate and to help count homeless and if anyone is interested to contact www.homelesshouston.org/takeaction/volunteerr/homeless-count, which will be January 24. He asked everyone to support The Way Home program.

V. **Margaret Dunlap from Metro** was present but unable to speak due to an illness but she requested President O'Connor to read a brief summary. Everyone was encouraged to attend one of 17 upcoming public meetings where the draft of the Regional Transit Plan (METRONEXT) will be presented for review and comments. Come and learn how the region will move forward,

taking your comments and making this plan a plan that will meet your needs. Mr. O'Connor will be receiving an email with all the meetings to share with you in the next few days.

VI. **Minutes** – The November 12, 2018 minutes were approved by all present.

VII. **Proposed Amendment** – Ms. Yeglin read the proposed amendment prior to voting. She asked that only delegates or alternates, if delegate not present, to vote.
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.

A motion to approve the proposed amendment as submitted. Ms. Yeglin reminded those present that only delegates, or the alternates, if delegate absent, are allowed to vote. A question was asked as to how many votes the Founder would have if also a delegate to a neighborhood. Ms. Yeglin replied that the Founder in that case would only have one vote. A vote was conducted and the amendment, Section 5.6 was approved by a vote of 8 to 4.

VIII. Committee Reports

Panhandling – there was no report.

Beautification – Ms. Yeglin announced that a meeting was being arranged with Super Neighborhood to combine efforts to landscaping esplanades at Briar Forest and Dairy Ashford since that area was the dividing line between the two super neighborhoods

Capital Improvements – City Capital Improvement Project Meetings will be coming up in February for District F and in March for District G.

Flood Control – no update at this time.

Communications- Ms. Kelley noted that the last newsletter highlighted Shadow Lake encourage delegates to highlight their neighborhood in the next newsletter.

Security – Jeff Baker reported that the site SpotCrime.com or Lexis Nexis to view crime statistics, he also encouraged individual homeowners and businesses to use cameras as it helps police to solve crime problems. He cited the recent case of the Christmas Package bandit in

which he was able to use neighborhood cameras to assist HPD and Precinct 5 constables by providing the license number of the suspect vehicle, suspect was apprehended and arrested.

Membership- Ms. Kelly asked if everyone had noted the vignette about Shadow Lake in the last newsletter? It is hoped that each delegate will submit a brief summary about their neighborhood which is due the Friday prior to the subsequent SN meeting.

XI. New Business

Ms. Yeglin reported that since Sherry Lamb had resigned as Co-Secretary, there was no alternate Secretary able to take minutes. She noted that the minutes do allow for two Co-Secretaries.

Ms. Yeglin made a motion to elect John Auman, from Ashford Par, Sec 1-5, to fill the term of one year due to vacancy, per the By-Laws. The motion was seconded by John Lozano and approved by all present.

It was noted that due to an oversight, the Annual Meeting for SN17 was not held in January per the By-Laws. Ms. Yeglin stated the positions that were open for election were Vice-President and Treasurer. Ms. Guillerman noted that the election could not be held until March, as must first be announced at the next meeting and as such, the February meeting will call for nominations and names from the floor to vote in March.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.