

Minutes from the meeting of Jan 12, 2022 of Super Neighborhood 17 – Eldridge/West Oaks

- I. Call to order at 7:00 p.m. President Baker opened the meeting. The meeting was held online through Zoom.
- II. A quorum was established.
- III. Though not expressly acknowledged in the meeting, we thank the following officials for their presence and participation:
Councilman Greg Travis – City of Houston, District G
Stephani Leota – Office of Rep. Lizzie Fletcher, US Congress, TX District 7
Ben Williams – Chief of Staff for Rep. Jim Murphy, TX House, District 133
Lawrence Bell – Office of Comm. Tom Ramsey, Harris Co. Pct. 3
Yolanda Alvarado – Community Outreach Team, Office of DA Kim Ogg
Rene Ruiz – City of Houston, Department of Neighborhoods
Katie Shelton – Chief of Staff for Councilman Greg Travis
Ofc. T. Whittaker – HPD
Ofc. R. Reyes – HPD
Sgt. Parkerson – HPD
- IV. For Community Safety **Ofc. Whittaker of HPD** started by wishing everyone a happy new year. He also announced the next PIP meeting on Jan 20, the third Tuesday, noting it will be on Zoom at least through to summer break (last meeting in June). He reviewed the December crime statistic and arrests. He noted one case where the assailant was dressed as a construction worker. He also noted that many victims are reluctant to give names or other identification making further investigation and charges difficult. He also discussed the rise of printed guns. When discussing storage facilities he noted the most common day for burglary is Sunday. The most common time is 2pm-10pm, and that catalytic converter theft continues to be a problem.

Asked about “shot [gun discharge] spotters,” they have been approved by city council. HPD has had good success, finding casings with-in feet of the marked location as well as finding victims. Ofc. Whitaker provided his email address to get the Zoom meeting invite.
- V. Community Leaders
 - a. **Stephani Leota – Office of Rep. Lizzie Fletcher** – announced a report from the USPS Inspector General on stolen mail and checks. The information has been posted to fletcher.house.gov. Her office is still receiving mail delivery complaints district-wide [CD7] and considering further work with the IG office.

A delegate remarked on the inconsistency of funding replacement of Cluster mail-boxes.

- b. **Lizzy Metriyakool – Office of Rep. Jim Murphy** – noted that Rep. Murphy’s office is working on a newsletter covering recent law changes. She also provided her email address. Asked about Rep. Murphy’s voting history on abortion laws, she will return with more information.
- c. **Katie Shelton – Chief of Staff for Councilman Greg Travis** – announced that the current Kirkwood road work is 80% complete with an estimated completion in April. HPD has issues about 200 citations in and around the work zone, mostly for speeding. Paving on Briar Forest will begin next week.

Kendall library is still working on final permitting to complete interior work. The library can’t formally move in until some of that work is complete. Exterior construction should complete in April.

She announced a meeting regarding minor closures on Eldridge to move equipment for sewer work expected to start soon. She also announced a Judicial Townhall for criminal court judges on Jan 27. Finally she announced the Jan 22 dedication of the Nela Brown Dog Park at Waldemar City Park.

In comments to questions, she noted the Briar Forest resurfacing will be the western section, with the sections further east going in two-month increments. She also noted that the lane closures on Eldridge, near Memorial will only be limited – moving equipment in and out as the city prepares to work at the Enclave Pkwy sewer station. That project is scheduled for later in the year.

Councilmember Travis briefly joined the call to thank Ms. Shelton for her service as he prepares to resign to run for another office. His replacement was announced as Ms. Mary Nan Huffman who will be sworn-in in February.

Asked about specifics on the “supply chain issues” impacting the reopening of Kendall Library, he noted that it is mostly cosmetic, principally roofing, and not structural. Asked about the opening, he noted that from interior work completion the library will need 2 months to move in with a push to be open mid-February.

- d. **Lawrence Bell – Office of Comm. Tom Ramsey** – noted the office is working with Comm. Cagle on a smooth transition.
- e. **Yolanda Alvarado – Office of DA Kim Ogg** – added notes in the chat regarding child neglect. She recommended taking all post office business inside the building. Community representatives noted that lobbies of both Rogerdale and Whittington are routinely locked, primarily due to ongoing issues after hours. They questioned the legality as well as theft and vandalism issues.

- f. **Rene Ruiz – City of Houston, Department of Neighborhoods** – reminded everyone that the city is looking for all civic groups AND HOA’s to register with the city. He posted the link for COVID testing information.

Asked about registration, he noted that registration with the Secretary of State is mandatory; registration with the city is optional, but the city is trying to keep a record of active registrations and organizations. HOA’s should register with the city as a civic organization. Ms. Shelton noted that district G had an intern project to update the list of HOAs in the area.

Rene also thanked Nela Brown, posthumous, for her service to animals and the community. His opinion was repeated by multiple delegates.

VI. Committee Reports.

- a. Nick Kornuta – Chair of Flooding – discussed oral arguments that day for downstream flooding from reservoir releases following Hurricane Harvey. He also discussed the rerouting of the Park 10 sewer plant.

VII. Old Business

- a. Having a quorum the November minutes were approved

VIII. New Business

- a. The Executive Committee reported on a recognition event for HPD with donuts and pizza. The committee thanked Shipley’s Donuts for their donation of donuts and kolaches.

IX. **Candidate Forum**

- a. The Superneighborhood invited candidates for City Council, District G. Of note only 4 Early Voting centers will be open, 16 on election day itself. The District G special election is on Jan-25. This is separate from the March Primary with Early Voting Feb-14 – Feb-25, and Election Day on March 1. The following candidates met with the community:
 - i. **Piper Madland**
 - ii. **Mary Nan Huffman**
 - iii. **Raul “Roy” Reyes**
- b. The following March Primary candidates were also represented:
 - i. **Mr. Burt Keller (R)**, TX House, District 133
 - ii. **Ms. Erika Ramirez (D)**, Harris County Criminal Court #8.

VIII. Council Elections

- a. Jeff Baker was nominated for President unopposed and was elected by unanimous consent.

- b. No nominations were received for Co-Secretary.
 - c. Diane accepted was nominated for Treasurer unopposed and was elected by unanimous consent
- IX. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING – Feb. 9, 7:00 PM, via ZOOM