

Minutes from the meeting of May 11, 2022 of Super Neighborhood 17 – Eldridge/West Oaks

- I. Call to order at 7:15 p.m. President Baker opened the meeting at Eagles Trace
- II. A quorum was established.

We thanked the following officials for their presence and participation:

Jack Cagle – Harris County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Tiffany Thomas – Houston City Council, District F

Lizzie Metriyakool – Office of Rep. Jim Murphy, TX House, District 133

Kim Brode – Office of Commissioner Jack Cagle

Kent Clingerman – Office of Commissioner Jack Cagle

Rene Ruiz – City of Houston, Department of Neighborhoods

Margaret Dunlap – METRO

- III. Due to extenuating circumstances, HPD was unavailable. The chair announced a number of officer involved events and that crime statistics would be discussed later in the meeting.

- IV. **Jack Cagle, Harris County Commissioner, Pct. 4** – Jeff announce a deputy death Cagle, a judge, volume,

The chair introduced Commissioner Cagle who introduced Kent Clingerman of the community assistance department. He noted that this is for any member of the community for any matter of assistance. It does not necessarily need to be at the county level, but that they work to make the right connections, whether it be City of Houston, Tomball, the state. He did ask to only send one issue per email. If you have a second issue, PLEASE use a separate email to help the office better track work orders.

Next he discussed what county commissioners do. That is they commission things to be done, is to pay to have it done. Every county has four county commissioners, with a county judge. That judge is not a judge in strict legal sense, but a judge of the activities of the Commissioners Court. They meet and listen to constituents ask for projects to be commissioned (road & bridge commissioner). More of the county is not in the City of Houston. There are 6 cities in pct. 4. He briefly discussed redistricting and the new map as well as his previous experience as a county district / civil court judge and as a lawyer.

He then talked about the basics, 3P's, Parks, Potholes, Public Safety of Commissioners Court Parks: he discussed evening clean-up as people come home from work in the evening and the county library system.

Potholes: more than half of county is not in a city, arteries maintained by county, BW8, HOV, HCTRA system ("Harris County ..."), money paid going to the next road.

He discussed former project work in NE Harris County partnering with cities building water

diversion projects using roadway box-culverts. He discussed portions of the METRO service area without current actual bus service and special services for those areas. The commissioners partner with METRO, cities, MUDs, Neighborhoods / HOAs (building sidewalks, lighting, drainage, and beautification) in ways they can contribute funds to leverage existing work to upgrade over a basic installation or build.

Public Safety: They oversee the County Jail, County Sherriff, County Constables, Harris Health System. Cagle discussed the parts of the core mission that the county should continue to support.

He discussed ways he felt the county budget has moved away from his expectations of service following changes in leadership following in 2018. Cagle proposed a return to the 2018 budget with a focus on basics. He discussed local law enforcement funding requests currently unfunded, the overworked district attorneys, murders by individuals out on bond, and finally the Public Contingencies Fund collapsing from \$300M to \$4M.

Asked if he'd consider running as Harris County Judge. Members of Commissioners' Court all get 1 vote. It would not add to his current vote. As an allegory to high water equipment, the county judges set the mood and tone. The commissioners get the people out of the water.

Asked about yesterday's Commissioners' Court moving money from HCTRA to Trails. Is that a done deal? He noted this is one that you have to vote on then find out what it means. If approved, will be legal as a trail is a form of transportation under Texas code. He previously tried this moving the money to another project, but it wasn't transportation related and was overruled by the State AG.

Asked about redistricting and how much did it cost to flip the two signs? Too much. "Raise property taxes without consent, requires a super quorum of four." He discussed his opinion that Hidalgo wants a commissioner to lose due to lack of name recognition to get a super quorum.

V. Community Leaders

- a. **Lizzie Metriyakool – Office of Rep. Jim Murphy** – discussed the coming primary runoff election to replace Rep. Murphy and pointed people to harrisvotes.com. He will still be in office serving the community through January.

Asked about pedestrian deaths on SH6, asking for improved lighting, his office is waiting for funding. Asked about paper license plates, they are coming back to fraudulent dealerships. Is there anything we can do about suspicious paper plates? If they are parked off street, nothing, is there anyone we can report this to? It's going to come down to shutting down dealers first and raising the visibility through the media.

She noted that much of the current work of the office is to save the emails for the next administration.

Asked about a vandalism event where an association gathered license plates, as it was criminal trespass, out of 13 vehicles only 1 had a real tag. We can't deal with the vandalism until we know who is doing it. The matter was referred to Ms Thomas, below.

- b. **Tiffany Thomas – Houston City Council, District F** – noted her last picture from winter 2020, her last meeting in person right before the pandemic. She reintroduced herself. She noted the city budget workshop started today to review all the departments and the general fund. Individuals can come in person or online. The city must maintain a reserve ratio for which the city has done well to maintain almost double the required reserve. The city's budget is 58% employees, 78% of that 58% is for public safety "classified" employees. There are 5 HPD cadet classes scheduled. Chief Fenner recommended deep classes instead of 6 smaller classes working to a 4% increase in staffing. HFD will be getting a 18% increase in salary divided over 3 yrs. With some also for the remainder of employees. She discussed the consent decree with City / EPA / DOJ for sewage and waterway system, due to overflows in the system as an environmental justice violation. Some of the increases in the water bill will cover that, but that increase is also for infrastructure resilience such as the freeze. She asked for submissions of public comments on the general fund for items such as libraries, parks, etc.

She announced upcoming events, the May 17 CIP & redistricting meeting, the first since 2019 with COVID. (Also an early voting center) at 6pm.

On public safety, she is looking at ways to focus in an investment perspective such as improving street lighting, clearing trees blocking lights, blight improvement such as the Alief-Clodine trailer, inoperable cars, illegal dumping (15000 lbs, 144 mattresses, toilets), contractors. Some funds will also go to 40 Flock cameras, with plans to expand after community feedback.

The city has had more catalytic converter etching events, has adjusted ordinance to help prevent the sale of stolen converters. She will also be working to adjust the over 65 homestead exemption.

The city has 37 pools and needs 111 lifeguards at \$11/hour. She is pushing to adjust that to \$15/hr.

Finally she noted the growing homeless issue on the Westside. There is a citywide encampment strategy. She needs residents to call 3-1-1. She noted that most individuals offered housing accept it.

- c. **City of Houston, Distric G** – Ms Huffman sent regrets, but provided the following update through Jeff Baker. The library will be turned over to the city mid-summer, with another two months needed to open [– so by Christmas]. There have been a number of procurement delays. The north bound lanes are complete, the south bound lanes have some work to go. There will be a brief pause and possibly a change in contractors before moving on to between Briar Forest and Westheimer.
- d. **Office of Comm. Jack Cagle – Kent Clingerman** – posted fliers for the Richard and Meg Weekley Community Center off Greenhouse and Clay.
- e. **Rene Ruiz – City of Houston, Department of Neighborhoods** – The district G meeting is tomorrow for CIP and redistricting at Grace Presbyterian. Rene will also be available there. Asked about the 18-wheeler parking, the major problem is currently over the weekend. There will be a rotation in the parking enforcement schedule. The city is also looking to improve signage.
- f. **Margaret Dunlap – METRO** – If you have any questions about the ongoing METRO projects. There will be upcoming public meetings on a Westpark alignment for a BRT expansion to connect with the Silver Line and the LRT line off Wheeler and beyond. The ultimate goal is to connect with both airports.
- g. **Crime Update** – Jeff Baker provided a brief of HPD’s report. Murders and robberies are up, but on Westside it is flat. Month on Month the numbers are generally unchanged, but they are significantly improved Year-on-Year. About a third of the aggravated assaults involve family members.

HPD recommends to get your catalytic converter(s) covered by a welded cover plate. Do not approach criminals even if armed as all lookouts may not be readily apparent. There may be more than one. He concluded remarking that there are a lot of officers retiring or moving on.
- h. **Bryan Dotson – Constituent** – Gave a short summary of FLAP, the Federal Lands Access Program, applying for Federal lands access money. It used to be a 80% partial match, but is now a 100% match of \$9M-\$11M for expansion of the trail facilities within Bush Park. The council took up his recommendation and voted to support it.

VI. Candidate Forum

The following candidates briefly spoke before the Superneighborhood council

- a. Kyle Scott (R), Harris County Treasurer, November Candidate
- b. Shelly Barineau (R), TX House District 133, Primary Runoff Candidate

VII. Committee Reports.

Jeff Baker – Chair of Public Safety – there have been some resignations in DMV for the paper plates. Asked about a computer glitch at the county that prevented action, did the county CIO get fired? No. The question was posed to Kent Clingerman, still present, who will get back to us. Universal Services is the department that handles it.

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. New Business

None

VIII. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING – June 8, 7:00 PM, Eagle's Trace