

NEARTOWN MEETING (Consolidated General/Leadership Council)
Cherryhurst Community Center, Thursday May 16, 2002
Minutes

NTA President, Ed Gonzales, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Robert Graham moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting (4/18/02). Donna Roth seconded. Treasurer Donna Roth reported that NTA has a working balance of \$2004.

The scheduled guest speaker, Evalyn Krudy, was unable to attend to give a presentation on the City's Decal Permit Parking test program. An informal discussion produced the following comments: Donna Roth noted that as part of the process of evaluating whether a block/neighborhood, etc. that has requested the permit parking would qualify, the City would check whether cars typically parked along the street were from the neighborhood or out of the area. If parking is just neighborhood parking the program would not be implemented. Several people questioned whether overcrowded parking would simply be pushed into other areas. Raju Adwaney thought the pilot program would last 18 months.

Old Business:

Donna Roth reported on a recent meeting held to address the controversy that has arisen concerning the Little League field, general usage and neighborhood interests surrounding Dunlavy Park. Donna is representing NTA along with representatives from Blvd. Oaks, Castle Court and Richwood civic associations in an attempt to reorganize Friends of Dunlavy Park. Margaret Lam also attended as the Montrose/Nearatown Super-Neighborhood rep. Donna said that a sign carrying the National Little League logo had recently been torn down from the outfield fence. Raju Adwaney made a motion that NTA pay for a replacement banner that Donna priced at \$160. Robert Graham seconded the motion and the motion carried. Ed Gonzales passed around photos of the new Reliant utility poles installed in the middle of sidewalks in three locations (the ADA requires a "36 clearance). He asked neighbors to notify him of locations/addresses for other problem sites. Donna Roth noted the corner of Dunlavy and West Gray.

Ed also reported that the first SNAP/CIP responses are expected later this month. He anticipated that budgetary constraints would be severe.

New Business:

Frank Plischke, Pres. of Avondale Assoc., reported on a rumored cell phone tower to be located in Spec's parking lot where Fairview turns into Tuam. He learned, as part of his investigation into the relevant laws governing the location of such structures, that if the cell tower is below 60 feet tall none of the regulations (such as 30 day notification, distance to residences, etc.) apply. In the process of inquiring with the City, Frank also found out that Cingular is planning to build a new tower near the intersection of Westheimer and Hazard.

Ed Gonzales reported that the original sewer lines in the North Cherryhurst area were never dedicated to the City of Houston and the City has taken the position that it will not maintain them. At present the City has proposed that property owners will have to pay ~\$2000 to connect into City lines. Variations of the problem are widespread around Nearatown.

Ed Gonzales attended a recent TXDot meeting concerning SW Fwy construction near Montrose and downtown. He learned that over the next four years, sections of the freeway will be completely closed. The project is scheduled for completion in 2006. Ed hoped to have more information on this at next month's meeting. Raju suggested inviting TXDot to the June meeting and Ed said he would try to arrange this.

Civic club/association announcements: Bob Bagot reported that Hyde Park United was having some success resolving various problems with a property where ongoing criminal activity had been occurring. He also noted that they were starting to get civic association participation from residents of the new townhouses. Frank Plischke reported that Avondale recently donated \$1000 to the HPD 802 Storefront (the storefronts are community supported). North Montrose was having problems with the Channel 11 helicopter. The helicopter used to take off over Allen Pkwy and is now flying over houses. There had been some discussion w/ the station. Raju Adwaney reported that 1st Montrose Commons is spending \$477 to fix up the Richmond esplanade. Gary reported that Park Civic is involved in setting up a website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Secretary, Dana Padgett