

NEARTOWN ASSOCIATION (NTA) MEETING
Cherryhurst Community Center, Tuesday June 25, 2002
Minutes

NTA President, Ed Gonzales, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Frank Plischke moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting (5/16/02). Ron Rodricks seconded. The motion carried. Ed reported that NTA has a working balance of \$2434.

Prior Business:

Neartown Little League (NLL) / Dunlavy Park - NLL finished its season with a celebration the first of June. The Friends of Dunlavy Park (including representatives from Neartown Assoc., Neartown/Montrose Super-Neighborhood, Boulevard Oaks Civic Assoc., Neartown Little League, South Central Little League, Castle Court Neighborhood Assoc., and Richwood Place Civic Assoc.) met and drafted a letter to the City of Houston asking for enforcement on private properties encroaching on the west side of the park.

The 2002 Super Neighborhood Action Plan/Capital Improvement Plan (SNAP/CIP) responses will be discussed at the July meeting.

A Cingular cell tower is going in at Westheimer and Hazard behind a antiques store. Its 59' height brings it in just under the city notification requirements for towers 60' and taller. Vermont Commons Civic Assoc. has asked NTA assistance in asking City Council to revisit the existing ordinances governing cell phone towers. NTA Vice Pres. Raju Adwaney made a motion to assist Vermont Commons. Ron Rodricks seconded. The motion carried.

Details on the next phase of the Southwest Freeway construction (scheduled for completion in 2006) will be discussed at the July meeting.

General discussion of the ongoing problem of the proliferation of Social Rehabilitation Sites (SRSs) in the Neartown/Midtown area. Ed Gonzales emphasized the need to organize a task force to supply information/proposals for the 2003 Texas legislative session. There have been no volunteers for this as of yet. Raju Adwaney volunteered to contact all civic assoc. presidents requesting a list of sites in their areas.

New Business:

Ed Gonzales met with Historic Houston to discuss participation in developing a tour of Neartown to project enhanced community image via historic sites, business opportunities and growing diversity within Montrose. Coy Tow (Exec. Dir. of GHGLBTCC, a Neartown/Montrose Super-Neighborhood participant) has agreed to direct/conduct tour.

Two relatively new bars have been responding to residential complaints (primarily noise & traffic) - EJ's, behind Mark's restaurant, and Helios, in the 400 block of Westheimer (formerly the Mausoleum).

Ron Rodricks, Pres. of Westmoreland Civic Assoc., talked about ongoing concern over the Masterson tree (ancient Live Oak on Burlington St. near I59). Developers are planning on putting a mid-rise condo (65 units) on the lot. Ron appeared for a meeting of the Houston Historical Commission, but the meeting was deferred until next month.

There has been a serious upswing in reported crime incidents. Frank Plischke (Avondale) reported a violent incident on June 13th in which a woman was threatened w/ a knife, her male neighbor was threatened with a gun and a truck was stolen. Frank also reported problems with

car windows being broken into. Joan Mularski (Vermont Commons) reported that at the most recent HPD PIP meeting they were told about two women leaving the Taco Milagro restaurant at Kirby and Westheimer. The women were parked on the street and were pistol whipped and robbed.

East Montrose, Avondale and the Q-Patrol have joined to restart Citizens on Patrol. They need one more group to get together the minimum of 20 volunteers required for official police support (radios, etc.) of their efforts.

Civic club/association announcements: Frank Plischke (Avondale) noted that the new city ordinance dealing with aggressive panhandling, dumpster diving, sleeping on streets, etc. allows individual civic groups to petition city to enforce the ordinance in their area. John Thomas made a motion that NTA petition the city. Robert Graham seconded. The motion carried.

Jeffrey Kolb (Richwood Place) reported that Richwood has private security (constable service hired by the civic assoc.). Bob Bagot (Hyde Park United) announced a July 4th party scheduled for noon at the esplanade across from the fountain - everyone is invited. John Thomas (North Montrose) reported that the Channel 11 helicopter taking off over residential areas rather than toward the bayou is still a problem. He also noted that there is no city requirement that building demolition restrict dust (he found this out with the recent demolition of the movie theater at River Oaks Plaza). Raju Adwaney (First Montrose Commons) reported that his group has started cleaning up the Richmond esplanades.

Check out the website: www.houstonpermits.net to find a listing of all permit applications.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Secretary, Dana Padgett