

Neartown Association Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

29 in attendance

7:08 p.m. called to order

-David opened iwth an overview of what's on for tonight and a brief review of the Neartown Forum in May

-we all introduced ourselves

-METRO's David talked
update on Fed. issues & processes
proposals for Main St. Line
coming: 100% "low floor" vehicles, to help with carrying bicycles
no space on platforms or right of way for bike racks
he claims they will work to acquire space for bike racks
lane width and left turn lanes, to allow more room for traffic lanes:
METRO tried to minimize property seizures
trying to keep tracks narrow, stagger station sites
looking at different lane widths, while still keeping good sidewalk widths
Richmond businesses need access from semi-trucks, which means 11' wide lanes

-Jeff from the city talked further about the new rail line
city standard land width is 12,' 11' is acceptable,
10' is allowable in certain circumstances for a limited period of time
a big Hummer with large custom mirrors is 10 ½' wide, mirror-to-mirror
Richmond is a high-volume roadway
and projected to increase, even with rail
he claims they wil lkeep an eye on wide, useable sidewalks
David Robinson wants public knowledge before & input for variance requests
Jeff thinks the city will approve 11' variance request from METRO
METRO is 2 years away from construction, 3-4 year cycle to build
potential for Grass Track in the Uptown Line
\$4 million per mile to bury existing utility lines

-Jeff Rose, Construction Consultant with the City of Houston, re Renew Houston
thought up by mostly civil engineers
who noted the city cannot keep up with sewer an drainage needs
in 2040, Houston will have 5000 people per square mile,
with most density inside the Loop
\$11.5 billion is the value of our sewer system

\$100 million is spent on it each year
the city can't quickly fix or update problems
Renew Houston is to set up funding solely for drainage & sewers
this money will come from:
-user fees, to everyone, based on his impact on the system
this translates to about \$5-\$6 per month per family
-construction impact fee
-something else involving bonds
to be implemented through a Charter Amendment
there needs to be a petition to get on the ballot,
then we get to vote in November 2010
there will be provisions to keep the money from being diverted
renewhouston.org
city is studying the areas in most dire need
Sam from Stephen Costello's office (City Council)
assured us that these funds would be used only for sewers & drainage
asking for resolutions of support from associations like Neartown
and local civic associations
they are working with developers and anti-tax groups
to educate them and get them to support it
David Robinson, at the June 22 meeting, will address this

Julie gave the PIP plug

Adjourned 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Young
Secretary