

Neartown Association Monthly Minutes

Tuesday, August 23, 2010

Called to order 7:00 pm by David Robinson
28 adults & 2 kids in attendance

call to order

we all introduced ourselves

David from METRO

they are ironing out where the lines will run
ditto traffic signals
ditto designated and common left turn lanes
this should be "run through" in the next coupla months
determining land widths - may vary from area to area; 8'-11'
Neartown and Richmond Rail want two 10' lanes in each direction
use dual pole functions to save space for lanes and pedestrian walks
working w/various groups to get community feedback
all must be ready before construction can start
need local participation in funding
local & Fed grants
several years to come, w/construction right around the corner
David R. asked about grass track
Jason G. asked about takings of properties, preserving businesses and their parking
David from METRO claims they will take the absolute minimum
trying for 8'-9' sidewalks, but will go to 4' in necessary
to not have to take a building
qu's re left turn lanes, cutting 'hoods off from access to Hwy 59
coupla years (2-3) out before construction begins
October Neartown meeting he will have more info for us
or possibly a designated meeting on a Saturday a.m.
maybe also with HEB's proposed plan
qu re pedestrian crossings
qu re bicycle crossings, even if no car crossings
also possible to close Richmond to all traffic

Judge John Phillips - 314th Jovenile District Court

administrative judge for 3 juvie courts, ages 8-18 yrs old
has educational options for kids kicked out of school
he got psychologist to give assessment to kids
before their 1st court appearance
after a year, they saw that 50% had mental health issues,
25% of which were serious
'07 started planning for mental health centers
'09 February, convinced commissioners court for more money to address it
kids get assessment
now instead of putting them into a facility, many kids stay home and get counseling
has tremendous success rate in graduating kids
many can have case dismissed and record cleared
involvement with parents
close to 90% in just first 1 ½ years
his other point:
made serious changes in the way they deal with things in juvie court
1400 kids in detention facility in some other city
150 kids in " " in Houston
so the kids go to school, outside place, home at night
has more sex assaults in juvie than in adult court
most he calls "experimentation" - w/family, etc.
he's trying to keep them from having to register as S.O.'s
by getting treatment
recidivism for kids sex offenders is almost nothing
compared to adults, which is quite high

David R. talked about HEB

they still claim they will get back to us with a proposed design we can vote on,
most likely via Swamplot.com
it will be controlled so you can only vote once, you must be a resident, etc.
David ran through several proposals
Whole Foods will be at the Neartown meeting in September
Joe Turner from Parks & Rec
said the city will maintain any parkland that's constructed on the HEB lot
Management District does not go for that

David R. - Robert Ness - north of bridge on Montrose at Hwy 59,
13 story "tower" going up, parking in back
Robert Ness will be at September Neartown meeting

David R. - Neartown finances
civic associations should pay their dues

David R. - with the Census, we may be redistricted
he read some state rep and senator names

Ed G. - TABC

not anti bar, but anti bad business
new biz on Richmond, will get permit
Juan Mon's permit is approved
Muffin Man - 2310 Converse
different 'cause it's in the middle of a residential street of 7 homes
applying for late hours permit
open 5:30 pm - 5:00 am
to protest, you must have specific reason within TABC guidelines
- noise, parking, etc.
talked about problems with bars infiltrating residential streets

Julie Y. - gave PIP announcement

Robin - Wal-Mart- if city provides \$ to help developers,
it should also make it "urban block form," not one huge 23 acre parking lot.

Adjourned 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Young
Secretary