

From: "Julie Young" <wallpaperlady@att.net>
Subject: **Neartown Minutes, Nov '10**
Date: February 7, 2011 6:18:38 PM CST
To: "Mark Johnson" <mark@PhotoArchitect.com>

Neartown, Tuesday, November 30, 2010
14 in attendance

**David said most areas in Neartown will be getting huge green rolling recycling bins,
If they have not already**

**Many recent meetings re expansion of the Management District
Claude said commercial property owners pay into the MD
And made some other points**

**David passed around a map
Claude answered questions**

David will have more info re Rail & METRO later

The Chronicle had an article about Wilson Elementary SPARK Park

Nathan from the City talked about SNAPS (Super Neighborhood Action Plans)

He screens out 311 issues, CIP's and other unqualified

Total of 25 allowed for Neartown Super Neighborhood as a whole

City will not maintain many alleys as they are private property

Unless the COH did some work there and it's become problematic

Jan 15 is the deadline for SNAPS

**After Nathan puts it into a database, it goes to Public Works, and to Parks,
and they decide who / what gets approved**

if something is denied, it does not stay on the list – you must reapply

Kay wants an option to interact with COH – deemed not very likely

“Specificity counts” said Donald Perkins, so be very specific and detailed

“the system lends itself to ‘jargon sophistication’,” said Allen Euckert

There will be an officers’ meeting before the deadline

311@houstontx.gov to be used to submit and track 311 items

Copy Nathan, Tanya, and David with your 311 requests

CIP deadlines in early 2011

President@neartown.org to get it to David

Tuesday, Jan 4, for the aforementioned meeting

Guy from the Buffalo Bayou Partnership:

Was last here in late June when the project was starting

Comments from citizens are on their website

Main comments: keep Buffalo Bayou green – not a “Riverwalk”

Sharing the park with all users

500,000 bicyclers, 50,000 walkers

Maintenance better than in the past
(this is hard b/c Parks Dept is underfunded)

Safe access

Streetscape around the park

Since June, some improvements are underway:

Rosemont Bridge due in January

A million dollar art project along with it

Dredging and plant clean up done on the east end by Flood Control Dist.

Hike & Bike reconstruction, Sandy Reed Trail

Will be 10' wide

In final stages of Federal approval, then 7 months bid time

Work should start on this mid-summer 2011

Maintenance study is underway

Overall design concepts:

Flood Control District wants more natural curves, wider curves

As a means to control erosion

Cypress trees instead of concrete

FCD will do maintenance, silt removal, vine removal

Landscape Plan:

Reduce mowed areas to have more landscaped areas
with native plants on slopes

More woodland areas; 6-7 acres near Waugh cloverleaf
that will be "natural woods" and dense with trees,
while areas where more people are will be fewer trees; more

parklike

Modest garden areas, water features, ponds

Better event setting at Eleanor Tinsley Park

5-mile loop, 10' wide Hike & Bike trail

Secondary smaller paths closer to the water for walkers
5' wide, asphalt or decomposed granite gravel

Propose 2 or more pedestrian bridges

By the police memorial, Jackson Hill to Dunlavy

There is one now at Shephard, put in by TXDOT

These will provide 1 mile loop options for walkers & bikers

Limited parking in the park; mostly it's for bikers & walkers

Comfort:

will be benches, drinking fountains, trash cans, bike racks

3 picnic areas, BBQ pits, series of 3 shade pavilions

Pavilions can be reserved

2 public restrooms, Dunlavy, Sabine – will be staffed & monitored

Need to work out how to fund these by the City

Lighting:

Main trail will be lit, but not foot paths

Many areas will be dark, to provide a "tranquil get away"

Special Destinations:

Lost Lake - near Dunlavy, small parking lot, gardens, picnic shelter
Possibly a small café
Waugh Drive – additional viewing spots for bats
Dandelion Fountain – seating, arbors
Green Tree Natural Area
Dog Park will be fenced and legal
With small dog area and large dog area
With water feature, shade pavilions, tiny bit of parking
Art projects east of Rosemont Bridge, near Police Memorial
Early Feb. for one of these
Eleanor Tinsley Park remains mostly the same
Some clean up
5 ½ acres new park area behind Skateboard Park
With lawn, small pavilion for entertainment, playground,
Picnic pavilion, restroom, canoe & bike rental,

concessions

Master Plan beyond the park:

Companion bridge with Rosemont Bridge to extend over Allen

Pkwy

Taft – fully signalized intersections for safe crossing

Dunlavy – same as above

Gillette – probably not here, but it would be nice

Parking – shared parking at YMCA and other entities

Convert part of lower Allen Parkway for parking along the

Frontage road near E. T. Park

Lighting on towers and buildings near by

Shuttles

Maintenance – City of Houston, County, & Buffalo Bayou must

work together

\$50 million in improvements to be privately funded

Hard to do bridges over or to public roads with private

organizations

Will go to the City Council in January for approval

Design will be finished in 2012, then 3 years of construction

BuffaloBayou.org click the “Sabine-Shepherd” button

Elections:

President: David Robinson

Vice President: Greg LeGrande

Treasurer: Mark Johnson

Secretary: Julie Young

Voted and passed unanimously

Dismissed at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Julie Young
Secretary**