

Neartown Association

September 23, 2014 Meeting

Minutes, 17 Attendees

Greg LeGrande called the meeting to order at 7 pm

1). Buffalo Bayou Partnership (BBP) Update on Buffalo Bayou Park –Trudi Smith, Buffalo Bayou Partnership Director of PR and Events

Trudi Smith reviewed the progress of the Buffalo Bayou Park. The \$58 million park project consists of 168 acres along the Buffalo Bayou from Shepherd to Sabine and is expected to be completed by the summer of 2015. Ongoing developments within the project are a skate area, concession stand, playground, food trucks, restrooms, information area, art exhibition area, dog park, performing arts area (300 seats), fountain, gardens, bringing back Lost Lake, a new “grab & go” food venue with private event space, hike-bike trails, 80 parking spaces (access to 400 free “jury parking” spaces at city lot H during evenings & weekends). Additional park amenities are canoe rental and launch, pavilion rental, bridges, 19 covered rest areas, an 11 acre prairie with native grass, plants & trees(14,000 native trees planted) and lunar lighting. Activities include boat tours, walking tours, kayaking, regatta, crawfish festival. Recent funding by the Brown Foundation will open up the water storage cistern <http://buffalobayoupark.org/the-water-works-underground-cistern-a-historic-houston-space-with-enormous-potential/> under the park in fall 2015 to the public. Park security is being handled with patrols by off-duty HPD officers. BBP will be responsible for maintenance of the park.

The web link for the update of the Buffalo Bayou Park is:

<http://buffalobayoupark.org/category/development/>

2). Metro Police Department Adopt a Bus Stop Program – Officer John Kossie

Officer Kossie spoke about Metro’s Adopt-a-Shelter program and anti-crime and graffiti efforts. Individuals or businesses may “adopt” a bus or train stop shelter. Participants are asked to keep an eye out for prevent vagrancy, trash, and graffiti and to report any suspicious activity to METRO police. In exchange, they may get their name on a plaque and also METRO ride passes. With approval, participants can decorate the shelters (but no advertising). There are 12,000 bus/train stops & shelters, so lots are available for adoption. More information on Adopt a Shelter can be found at web link: <http://www.ridemetro.org/SafetySecurity/MPDPrograms/AdoptStop.aspx> .

3). Other

-- Jack Valinski spoke about the COH’s free document shredding this Saturday, Sept 27

-- Kay Warhol shared information on a Request of Variance from the City Planning Department from a developer at the former Interfaith Ministries for use of indent parking along Montrose at Lovett Blvd to help them meet city parking code requirements. Planning Commission consideration is set for Thursday, October 2nd, 2:30 pm. Individuals may sign up to comment at the Planning Commission meeting.

--Kay W also share a notice from CM Robinson’s office on a new 2014 neighborhood matching grant program for beautification & improvements. More information on the program can be found at <http://www.houstontx.gov/neighborhoods/matchinggrants.html>

-- The Pup Crawl in Cherryhurst Park was announced on Saturday October 25, 3:00-6:00 pm. Brochure attached.

-- Officer Wayne Pate told the story of the detective work surrounding the capture of a gun wielding road rage incident reported to and solved by the Montrose Storefront HPD office.

-- Prior to the formal meeting start Chip Wells, aspiring candidate for Judge for Family Court 247 came and met people

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm