

Nearatown Association Meeting
February 24, 2015
Minutes

28 ½ in attendance

Called to order by Greg at 7:00 pm

1) Introductions

2) Menil's development plans/progress – Sheryl Kolasinski -- Deputy Director/Chief Operating Officer, The Menil Collection

Sheryl talked about changes coming over 20-25 years to the Menil

Campus occupies ~30 acres

Goal of the master planning process has been to “intensify” what has been working

Want more green space, space for arts, rental housing

Phase 1 was completion of Menil Bistro and the campus entrance/parking lot on W. Alabama
Special Parking area – they don't want to have to comply with City rules re the required # of parking spaces in some of their areas, such as the bungalows leased to nonprofits; want to retain green space, not increase concrete

Parking area approved by city with plan to review in future.

There will be changing year-long art installations in the Byzantine Fresco Chapel, beginning with The Infinity Machine

New things to go on site of the Richmond Square Apts. will be park space, the Drawing Institute, new rental apartments

Colquitt and W. Main will be extended to Yupon

Also mentioned tree preservation/planting, green parking lots, renovated existing bungalows

Parking for new apartments will have to be contained within lots they sit on

No high-rise is planned; the new apartments will be less than the 8-story Suzanne being built elsewhere by another entity

Q&A period, and she had booklets available to take home

3) Other

Announcements by Greg re:

– Allen Parkway Parking Plan

http://www.mainstreetirz.com/images/150205_Allen_Parkway_Public_Meeting_Final.pdf

Plans for Buffalo Bayou Park parking on north side of Allen Parkway

Ryan Leach, Executive Director of the Downtown Redevelopment Authority, will be at the March Nearatown meeting

– March 4 will be District C CIP meeting at Multi-service Center on W. Gray

– The Montrose Management District proposed parking district for commercial entities is still being considered by the City

– Memorial Park Master Plan public meeting on Monday March 9, 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Brown Auditorium

Julie announced the East Montrose Foodie Home Tour and Art Walk, April 25, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

4) Update on TIRZ (Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone) as it Relates to Neartown/Montrose
Discussion re TIRZ led by Greg:

Background – The proposed partial annexation of some of Neartown/Montrose into Midtown's TIRZ last fall; Too short of notice, so Council vote was deferred, and a town hall meeting was held in December

Upcoming events – Council Member Cohen is hosting a meeting March 11th, for Neartown civic club presidents re the various options for a Montrose participation in a TIRZ

Nearatown is proposing a follow-up meeting March 14 at St. Stephens at 10:00 am for the purpose of sharing the information gained at the March 11th meeting with the broader Neartown community and discussing questions and concerns

Anticipate that Council Member Cohen will host another town hall meeting later in the spring. Much discussion followed on the possible motivations for the proposed annexation by Midtown and its potential impact on Montrose, what an independent Montrose TIRZ might mean, the history of Montrose requesting a TIRZ, etc.

8:10 pm, Greg shut us down, so the Parks employee could go home (and the rest of us, too).

Originated by,

Julie Young

Secretary