

Nearatown Association Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2016 – 7:00 PM

Cherryhurst Park Community Center, 1700 Missouri St

President Greg LeGrande called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, 13 in Attendance

1). Introductions

2). Plan Houston – Council Member Amanda Edwards presented the future rollout of the new process of “Plan Houston” the strategic plan for the City of Houston. The survey for where the city could place a greater focus on issues is located at web link <http://www.planhouston.org/> The survey will be available through Nov 25th.

3). Kush Issues – Update on Kush related items was given by Steve Longmire.

- First Montrose Commons hosted a community meeting on this topic in September, to which Nearatown civic club presidents were invited. The Mayor’s special assistant for homeless initiatives provided an update on the city’s efforts to deal with this issue. A few points that Steve shared from the meeting:
 - This is not seen as a homeless problem, but more an addiction/mental health issue
 - City efforts have largely been on the “supply side,” going after kush dealers, increasing bails, etc.
 - There are extra hurdles to overcome in attempts to deal with/provide assistance for users
 - The city is working to acquire two properties near the veterans’ housing, with plans to create a vets’ center that would provide them extra support and thwart targeting of vets by kush dealers
 - Panhandling is a ready source of funds for buyers – residents are urged not to give money to panhandlers
- Steve is suggesting that the city erect anti-panhandling signs to alert motorists of this issue
- Midtown has expressed interest in forming some type of coalition to combat this issue

4). Other –

- SNA Meeting Review and below Planning Commission Chapter Changes out for comment prior to City Council Approval.
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/jwrgdh2xml3n1mh/Planning%20Commission%20Chapter%20Changes%202016.docx?dl=0>
- Chapter 26, Off-street Commercial Parking Regulations -- Proposed changes to Chapter 26 would allow for exceptions to parking requirements to be approved by head of the planning department without hearing and for a 10 percent reduction in required restaurant parking spaces. Comments or questions should be sent to Brian Crimmins with the Planning & Development Department at brian.crimmins@houston.tx.gov . A public hearing on the amendments will be held by the Planning Commission on Thursday, September 29, 2016. For more information visit www.houstonplanning.com .The draft of changes is attached and can be found at web link: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/02buwzy9i5uup5n/Chapter%2026%20Public%20Comment%20Draft%208%2019%202016.pdf?dl=0>
- Chapter 33 Amendments to allow implementation of the Houston “Bike Plan” to the overall Houston Master Plan. Recommendations for inclusions of further community review and input in line with Master Plan Changes.
- Chapter 26 Amendments to increase distances 150’ for off-street parking approved administratively, decrease in small neighborhood restaurants parking requirements by 5 spaces approved administratively and bicycle rack construction and locations.

- Chapter 41 Amendment for process for street name changes including 75% residing on street approval and with public meetings prior to vote in City Council.
- Bridge Closures Over Hwy 59
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/evs6mh49i9w1prd/US%2059%20Bridge%20Street%20Closures.pdf?dl=0>
- National Night Out Reminder for Tuesday October 2, 2016.
- HPD Officer Wayne Pate— Warning about Car Fix Scam taking place in the area and eviction at 1410-1305 Fairview.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Neartown Association Attendance List

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	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone</u>
1	GREG LEGRANDE	NEARTOWN	glegrande@tjrbp.com	713-598-6291
2	STEVE LONGMIRE	FIRST MONTROSE Commons	steve.longmire@gmail.com	832-658-5657
3	Sylvia DREW	Avondale	dachmation@yahoo.com	713 520 1952
4	JACK WALCOWSKI	CAO	JACK.WALCOWSKI@HoustonTx.gov	8-393-5962
5	KAY WARTHOL	WINDLOW PLACE	warthol1@swebell.net	
6	Carol Wolk	Mandell Place	carolwolk@comcast	713 529 0082
7	Jake Mase	Mandell place	jacob.mase@gmail.com	713-498-2067
8	BMENDENHALL	ROSELAND ESTATES	bmendhb@gmail.com	4/522-6752
9	PAUL TERRY	LANCASTER PLACE	paortet@gmail.com	512-771-8450
10	Lis Harper	Vermont Commons	lisharper@icloud.com	713-496-2624
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