

**SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD 22 COUNCIL  
MINUTESMAY 11, 2009 MEETING**

**I. Meeting Called to Order at 6:40 p.m.**

**II. Self Introductions (5 minutes)**

**III. Consider and Approve Minutes from April 13, 2009 Meeting (5 minutes)**

Kathleen Vossler moved and Paul Nicosia seconded approval of the minutes; motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Outstanding Request to Mayor White for Task Force to Address Parking and Nuisance Issues Arising from Growing Number of Area Night Clubs: Claudia Vasquez, Mayor's Citizens Assistance Office (15 minutes).**

Report on city actions taken in response to issues raised at town hall Meeting held on Thursday, March 26, 2009. **At Ms. Vasquez' request, this item was deferred to June 2009.**

**V. Spec's Controversy (50 minutes):**

**Arturo Michel, Houston City Attorney (10 minutes)**

A letter authored by City of Houston (COH) Attorney Arturo Michel was distributed. The letter explained the COH's view of what occurred and outlined the law and the processes involved. Mr. Michel summarized the information stated in the letter and answered questions from the audience.

**Ella Tyler and Linda Geffin, Harris County Attorney's Office (10 minutes)**

A written rebuttal to a local news story about the Spec's issue prepared by the County Attorney's office was distributed. The rebuttal counters statements made on behalf of Spec's. Assistant County Attorney Linda Geffin summarized the information contained in the rebuttal, explained the legal process that the County Attorney has initiated against Spec's, and answered questions from the audience.

**John Rydman, Spec's Owner (15 minutes)**

A written appeal for community support prepared by Spec's was distributed. Spec's owner, John Rydman, stated that he did not want to go into detail about the facts because that is for a court to decide. Mr. Rydman stated that the city could pass an ordinance that would except his store from having to comply with the alcohol free school zone ordinance. Asserting that he and his store are no danger to Memorial Elementary school, Mr. Rydman asked the community to support his effort to obtain an exception from city council. Mr. Rydman answered questions from the audience.

**Comments/Questions (15 minutes)**

Upon the recommendation of J. West SN council members were asked to take the information from the City Attorney, the County Attorney's office, and Spec's to their constituent organizations, consult with their members, and return in June with a recommendation to support, oppose, or stand neutral on Spec's request for an exception.

**VI. Old Business (15 minutes)**

**Safety Zone/Quiet Zone (Rich Taylor, 10 minutes)**

COH Public Works and Engineering Dept. will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 27, 2009, at the United Way Building, 50 Waugh Drive, at 7:00 p.m. Additional Information available at [www.washingtonquietzone.com](http://www.washingtonquietzone.com)

**Candidate Forum for District H Special Election (P. McIlvain, 2 minutes).**

On Friday, April 24, 2009, SN 22 in partnership with SN 63 and the League of Women Voters held a candidate forum for the special election to fill the District H city council seat vacated by Adrian Garcia at Ripley House, 4410 Navigation, that was attended by approximately 150 people. The groups who hosted this candidate forum have expressed interest in cooperating to host candidate forums for future races, e.g., mayor, city controller, and at-large city council positions.

**Proposed Amendments to Chapter 42** (T. Dornbusch and J. West, 3 minutes)

On Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 p.m. in the City Hall Annex, the COH Planning and Development Department will present to the Planning Commission proposed amendments to Chapter 42. The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on the proposed amendments on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. in the City Hall Annex. J. West and T. Dornbusch served on the stakeholders committee that reviewed and commented upon the proposed amendments. They reported a consensus with members of the development community regarding amendments to the requirements for notice of variance requests and the naming of replats, but no consensus for the remaining proposals. The proposal likely to draw the most attention and concern from neighborhood groups is the proposal to amend the definition of “urban” to include all of the area located inside the Beltway. The city administration will send electronic copies of the draft amendments to all active SNs once they have been completed.

**VII. On-Going Project Updates** (15 minutes)

**Area Business Owners Committee** (P. Nicosia and R. Zamore) P. Nicosia presented minutes from Business Owners’ Committee held on April 16, 2009, and reported that attendees at that meeting selected Rene Zamore from the Houston Restaurant Assoc., and Darren Van Delden from The Drake to serve as co-chairs of the committee. The next meeting of the Business Owners’ Committee will be held on May 12, 2009, 3:00-4:30 p.m., at Hickory Hollow Restaurant, 101 Heights Blvd.

**Catch the WAve 2009:** Recap and Strategy Session to be held Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.

**Olivewood Cemetery Update** (J. West and T. Dornbusch)

Meetings have been held with Richard Celli, Director of the COH’s Department of Housing and Community Development, and Roksan Okan-Vick, Executive Director of the Parks Board in an effort to find funding for tasks that must be completed by the end of 2009, e.g., the metes and bounds survey, the archaeological survey, and the fencing.

**Transportation Committee Update** (J. West)

Upon recommendation of J. West decision regarding when and where to meet deferred to June.

**Social Networking for Super Neighborhoods** (P. McIlvain)

Upon recommendation of J. West discussion of social networking deferred to June.

**VIII. New Business** (10 minutes)

**Project Plan Templates** (P. Nicosia)

P. Nicosia presents examples of templates that could be used to plan special events. Detailed discussion deferred.

**Candidate Forums for Mayoral and At-Large City Council Elections** (P. McIlvain)

P. McIlvain reports that the Second Ward SN (SN 63) and the Independence Heights SN (SN ..) have both expressed interest in hosting candidate forums and recommends that a drawing be held between representatives of these three SNs as a means for deciding which forum each will host. Detailed discussion deferred.

**IX. Announcements, Community Reports, and Open Comments** (5 minutes)

**Farmers’ Market to be held at Wabash Antiques and Feed** every first and third Sunday from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. Please plan to support this local initiative of a SN business.

**Clean-Up Dates for Olivewood Cemetery:** May 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, the Odd Fellows; May 30<sup>th</sup>, Catholic Summer Immersion. All volunteers are welcome. All clean-ups will be held weather permitting.

**I-45 Coalition:** M. Perry reported that there have been no up-dates from the Texas Department of Transportation regarding plans to reconstruct I-45 through the central city and that Jim Weston, Chair of the I-45 Coalition is looking for a pro bono attorney to help the organization challenge the existing plans.

**Washington Avenue Night Clubs:** P. Thomason reported that Bar Eight has opened on the north side of Washington Avenue and that since Bar Eight opened a number a area residents have expressed concern about the amount of overflow parking the Rice Military neighborhood is experiencing.

**X. Adjournment at 8:40 p.m.**