

Super Neighborhood 22
January 13, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Depelchin Children's Center
Officers attending: Tom Dornbusch, Steven Vealey
Approximately 23 persons in total.

I. Call to Order by Tom Dornbusch at 6:40 PM

II. Motion made and passed to approve minutes of December meeting.

III. Jerry Peruchini, chief of staff to CM Ed Gonzalez of District H, announced the first ever Houston "Write-a-thon" event to be held at Freed-Montrose Library on February 22, from 10AM to 5PM. The purpose of the event is for volunteers to lend expertise and to work with writers, designers, and civil servants to improve government communication. and to help translate city ordinances, processes, and manuals into language that's easier to understand.

IV. Air Alliance Houston will hold their annual networking luncheon and review of air quality in the Houston region, February 4, 10:30 to 1:00 at Maggiano's Little Italy. The featured speaker is the Environmental Protection Agency's Regional Administrator Ron Curry. The fee to attend is \$35.00.

V Meg Poissant, for the noise committee, reports that bar activity on Washington Ave is not subsiding but getting later. Whereas the crowds have diminished somewhat in the early evening, the hours of midnight to four AM have seen an increase in bar activity and noise. This also may account for some of the train noise that has been noticed lately. People trying to avoid the parking meters are now parking further to the north towards I-10. Consequently trains have had to sound horns due to danger on the tracks of pedestrians crossing unsafely.

VI. Washington Ave Corridor Improvement Committee: Paul Nicossia reported on research being done to determine the best way to implement Complete Streets initiatives. Possibly through the formation of a Chamber of Commerce or a management district akin to the Parking Benefits District. He will get the information out as it progresses. There are plans in the works for a City of Houston Open Street event on Washington Ave. It would be a one-day festival in April. A portion of Washington Ave would be closed to traffic during a Sunday. Local civic clubs would be encouraged to man tents to exhibit and promote their neighborhoods. The exact date should be known by the April SN22 meeting.

VII Parking Benefits District, Phyllis Thomason: the projected budget of \$445,000 for the fiscal year is estimated to fall short due to greater than expected amount of parking going into the neighborhoods. The local civic clubs and neighborhoods need to take a stand to discourage this. Maria Irshad will attend civic club meetings to help. PBD

meetings are held on second Tuesdays at the Westend Multi Service Center. The next is scheduled for January 14 at 6:30. Also PBD will meet with the Art Alliance regarding an initiative to decorate and brighten up the parking meter stations.

VIII. CoH ordinance change re food stores: Jane Cahill-West addressed work being done with the help of Melissa Noriega and CM Stephen Costello for a change of ordinance to aid development of food stores in underserved areas. The change would allow grocery stores of greater than 10,000 sq. ft, with alcohol sales less than 25% and no hard liquor to open within the 300' "alcohol free" buffer zone surrounding churches. This effort will allow mainstream stores such as HEB, Kroger, Walmart and Fiesta to enter neighborhoods that they are currently excluded from.

IX IH45 TxDoT Farrar meeting review: Tami Merrick was unable to attend meeting and not available to offer a review of the meeting. However, Tom Dornbusch reported in her stead, that the comment period deadline was extended to the end of January. The meeting information can be found online.

X. It was reported that City attorney David Feldman has agreed to work with CM Ellen Cohen and SN 22 to create a written agreement with the Davari brothers that whatever business they open on Washington Avenue will not be an SOB, or any other type of public nuisance. However, before scheduling a meeting with the Davari's and their lawyer, Attny Feldman and CM Cohen would like SN 22 to adopt a resolution formally requesting the city's assistance to put in writing the commitments that Mr. Wallace made on behalf of the Davari brothers at SN 22's December meeting. A motion was made and passed to that effect.

XI. Tom Dorbusch spoke about the Memorial Park Demonstration Project, a proposed project. to restore Buffalo Bayou and prevent bank erosion. It includes a stretch of Buffalo Bayou that flows adjacent to Memorial Park and the River Oaks Country Club.

XII. Tom Dornbusch announced that Kathleen Vossler will resign her position as VP for SN22 in order to pursue her campaign for judge in Harris County 309th district. Nominations were opened to replace and fill the position. Monica Savino was nominated, and motion to appoint her to the position was made and passed.

XIII. New announcements.

A. Meg Poissant raised the question, in view of the many new apartment complexes being built, how is traffic being planned? Discussion that followed left the question open for further consideration.

B. Kim Ogg, Democratic candidate for Harris County District Attorney, spoke of her campaign. The race will be contested in the March 4th primary.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.