

Guests:

Leigh Killgore, SN14-Lazybrook/Timbergrove
John Zavala, SN14-Lazybrook/Timbergrove
Jeff Trevino, SN51-Near Northside
Susan Graham, SN51-Near Northside
Martha Vogel, SN51-Near Northside
Kay Walton, SN62-Midtown
Caitlin Hoffman, SN62-Midtown
Mark Williamson, SN15-Greater Heights
Austin Halvorson, State Representative Sarah Davis
Andre Wagner, Senator Carol Alvarado
Jeremy Crain, Council Member Karla Cisneros
Dexter Handy, Citizens Transportation Coalition
Jack Valinski, COH-DON Mayor's Citizens Office
Isabelle Asakura, Asakura Robinson
Tony Buzbee, Mayoral Candidate
Sallie Alcorn, At-Large 5 Candidate
Greg Meyers, District C Candidate
Daphne Scarbrough, District C Candidate
Lt. Constable Joe Danna, HCSO Precinct One
Commander Mark Lentini, Houston Police Department
Sergeant Audis Harris, Houston Police Department
Quealy Anhn, Woodland Heights
Pastor Tim Engel, Messiah Lutheran Church

Linda Trevino, METRO Public Affairs

Sherry Weesner, TIRZ 13

Civic Club Representatives:

Steve Vealey, Camp Logan/SN22 Vice-President
Victoria Royalty, Camp Logan
Adria Czerewaty, Camp Logan
Drew Wiley, Cottage Grove
Mike VanDusen, Crestwood/SN22 President
Dori Boone, First Ward
Paul Benz, First Ward
Todd Cochran, First Ward
Paul Nicosia, Magnolia Grove
Shelly Anello, Old Sixth Ward
Roy de la Garza, Old Sixth Ward
Keith Edgar, Rice Military
Stacie Fairchild, Rice Military/SN22 Secretary
Mark Fairchild, Rice Military
Joan Miller, Rice Military
Joe Hood, Rice Military
Kate Hood, Rice Military
Mauri Lucas, West End
Karen Mattern, West End
Ross Mattern, West End
Melissa Richardson, Woodcrest

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

I. **Introductions:** Municipal candidates [Tony Buzbee - Mayor](#), [Greg Meyers - District C](#), [Daphne Scarbrough - District C](#), and [Sallie Alcorn - At Large Position 5](#) shared their platforms.

II. **Acceptance of Minutes from Meeting Held on June 20, 2019**

III. **Presentation A: Grant Application to TCEQ – TIRZ 13 President, Sherry Weesner**

Sherry Weesner began by sharing that last year, TIRZ 13 made the application for a \$500K grant to TCEQ to add Low-Impact Development (LID) features to a street project planned in [TIRZ 5](#) (on Hemphill-South side of Washington Avenue) as well as an analysis to monitor water quality. LID features are used to mimic natural processes that result in the protection of water quality and associated aquatic habitat. Features include rain gardens, grass, special plants, permeable pavements, etc. The results of the analysis would shape how projects are constructed in the future. TIRZ 13 did not receive the grant last year and is making the application again this year; the TIRZ is asking for letters of local support including from SN22. The street project will move forward regardless of the grant. However, the grant will allow the LID features and analysis to be added to the project. SN22 voted in support of the letter.

Presentation B: NHHIP I-45 Expansion – SN51-Near Northside Residents, Jeff Trevino and Susan Graham

Jeff Trevino asked for support in helping delay the HGAC vote to give TXDOT \$100M next Friday (July 26) until after citizens have had an opportunity to review the economic impact statement to be released in 2020 and submit comments. Jeff and Susan Graham need people to show up at the meeting to speak at 9:30 am, and to call HGAC committee members requesting them to delay the vote. Jeff shared that the initial expansion design 20 years ago was to bring I-45 down Houston Avenue. The I-45 Coalition led by Jim Weston in Woodland Heights was able to stop the project through their efforts. About five years ago, Michael Skelly, put a group together called Make I-45 Better, but the organization is not getting traction. So, Susan Graham, started STOP TXDOT I-45 two months ago as a result of concerns that TXDOT has a lot of information about the problems with the current design. Despite promises and presentations, TXDOT is not sharing information in writing. The project has no regard for neighborhoods, parks, businesses, air quality, and the flood plan is pre-Harvey. Please email stoptxdoti45@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list and to ask any questions. Dexter Handy, chairman of the Citizens Transportation Coalition, agreed that there are some changes that need to be made to the design and TXDOT needs to listen to citizens. Susan Graham recommended reading [Geoff Carleton's article in the Houston Chronicle: A New Vision for I-45](#). It's eye opening and what we should be doing with our tax dollars.

IV. **New Business:**

A. Light Rail on Washington Avenue Recap: Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) reminded everyone that light rail was looked at on Washington Avenue many years ago as a possible linkage between downtown and the NW Transit Center. METRO was not interested at that time, and now wants to use BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) instead. The METRO presentation in June was more about METRONext than light rail on Washington Avenue. The proposal came very late in METRO's funding window for METRONext. There was not much engagement or good feedback because it was the first time people were hearing it. At a

subsequent meeting, METRO's board recognized that something needs to be done along Washington Avenue, but the LRT (Light Rapid Transit) topic was dropped due to a lack of in-depth study by METRO and not enough community support. SN22's executive committee has decided to resurrect SN22's transportation committee to be led by Paul Nicosia. The goal would be to reach out to residents and business owners to find an enhanced transportation solution in SN22, especially on the east end of Washington Avenue. Mike asked neighborhood leaders to begin visiting with neighbors and their civic clubs to find out what kind of transportation they would like to have. If SN22 can come up with a clear way forward, the community may get sufficient support from management districts and METRO. With SN22 densifying, it is prudent to begin the conversation.

B. AARP Walk Audit Schedules: Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) informed everyone that SN22 has set a date for the first walk audit on Saturday, September 28 from 9:00-11:00 am. The team will assess the walkability of sidewalks and streets in our community. The Heights/Yale intersection at Washington Avenue will be the test case where participants learn how to examine intersections, sidewalks, driver behavior, public safety, and more. The information will be given to elected officials and other local leaders when advocating for safe street features such as sidewalks, crosswalks, and properly timed traffic lights. Mike asked anyone interested in participating in the walk audits to send an email to superneighborhood22@gmail.com.

C. Municipal Candidate Forums: Stacie Fairchild (Rice Military/SN22 Secretary) has organized the following forums available on Eventbrite to share; [District C on 9/24](#), [At-Large \(Positions 2 and 4\) on 9/30](#), [Mayoral on 10/5](#), [At-Large \(Positions 1, 3, and 5\) on 10/14](#), [District H on 10/15](#), and [District C on 10/17](#). The forums are free and open to the public, but people planning to attend are asked to register via the Eventbrite links to insure sufficient refreshments are available. Please submit questions for the candidates to stacie.fairchild@gmail.com.

V. Old Business:

A. Bicycle Advisory Committee: Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) shared that Magnolia Grove Civic Club held a Patterson Bikeway meeting on July 10 with COH to discuss concerns about the bikeway that will run through the neighborhood. [July 24, 2019 BAC Update](#)

B. Planning Commission Updates: Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) mentioned the parking variance application at 3275 Sumner Street (Studemont Ventures Apartments Project) is scheduled for review at the next meeting. The Planning Commission has rejected this variance twice and the applicant is still trying to figure out how to move forward.

C. Quality of Life Updates: Stacie Fairchild (Rice Military/SN22 Secretary) shared that Revolver Reloaded was shut down a fifth time for over occupancy by the fire marshal and city inspector. The bar holds 55, and has recently held events with as many as 500 party goers.

D. City Council and Department Updates: No Update

E. Super Neighborhood Alliance: Jane West (Old Sixth Ward/SNA Secretary) reminded everyone the Super Neighborhood Alliance ("SNA") will hold a Mayoral Candidate Forum on Saturday, October 5 from

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the auditorium on the main campus of the Houston Community College ("HCC") at 1300 Holman Street. Isiah Carey of KRIV-FOX 26 News Houston has agreed to moderate the forum. The forum will begin with a Meet & Greet Hour during which candidates and attendees can mingle and talk while enjoying light refreshments. The remaining two hours will be the Question and Answer Period during which Mr. Carey will pose prepared questions to the candidates. All active Super Neighborhood Councils ("SNCs") are invited and encouraged to participate in the forum by inviting all members of their constituent organizations to attend, and by submitting questions for the candidates to answer. The HCC auditorium seats 800, so the hope is that each active SNC will strive to have at least 10 and preferably more people in attendance. Please find attached hereto a [flyer](#) that you may use to help spread the word about the forum far and wide. Here is the published [Eventbrite link](#) to share with your constituents and contacts. The forum is free and open to the public, but people planning to attend are asked to register via the Eventbrite link to insure sufficient refreshments for all to enjoy. This forum is likely to be the only mayoral forum focused exclusively on issues that are important to neighborhoods such as the Super Neighborhood initiative and planning, transparency and civic engagement, quality of life, infrastructure, and budgeting and economic development. Please send questions that you and the other members of your SNC would like the candidates to answer either to this address (snacoh@gmail.com) and/or to Stacie Fairchild (Stacie.Fairchild@gmail.com) who is coordinating plans for the forum. Proposed questions should be submitted by Sunday, September 22nd.

VI. Announcements, and Open Comments: Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) announced that Mark Fairchild (Rice Military Security Administrator), Keith Edgar (Rice Military President), and Paul Nicosia (Magnolia Grove Past Secretary) were appointed to the Washington Avenue Parking Benefits District Board. Keith Edgar is the new board chair. The quarterly meetings are held at the West End Multi-Service Center and open to the public. SN22 will share the next meeting date as soon as it's set. The money collected from the parking meters along Washington Avenue are earmarked for projects that benefit the public ROW in the district.

VII. Upcoming Events of Community Interest: Paul Nicosia (Magnolia Grove) announced that the next CIGNA Sunday Streets event is scheduled for September 29. Washington Avenue will be closed to motor traffic from Studemont to Sabine streets from Noon-4:00 PM. Click here for [MAP](#). Cigna Sunday Streets Houston provides a family-friendly opportunity to be physically active. For four hours one Sunday a month, selected Houston streets are closed to motorized traffic allowing Houstonians to cycle, walk, run, dance, and socialize in the street.

VIII. Motion to Adjourn: 7:35 p.m.

Next meeting: September 19, 2019 @ 6:30 PM. Presentations by State Representative Sarah Davis and Messiah Lutheran Church.