

## Minutes

### WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION / MEMORIAL PARK SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD 22

September 17, 2015

West End Multi-service Center 170 Heights Blvd. 6:30 - 8:30PM

#### I. Call to Order

Officers present Tom, Steve, 12 attending in all

#### II. Presentation: TxDOT Yale Street Bridge Design and Reconstruction Schedule

Alan Wang, Danny Perez, Dennis Johnson of TxDOT. The bridge was built 1931 for the City of Houston. The original design provided four 10 foot lanes and is thus 40 feet wide and 264 feet long. It is now on the National List of Historic Landmarks. It does not meet current load requirements and is unsafe for large trucks and heavy traffic. The structure can be seen to be failing from below. Growth of neighboring commercial area is increasing the traffic demand. The rebuild project is scheduled to start fourth quarter of 2016, and expected to take 18 months, at a cost of \$2,850,000. The new design will build four 11ft lanes with 1 foot separation, and sidewalk and wheelchair space of 9 feet, making it 67 feet wide in total. The elevation will not change. Six light poles and a new safety rail similar to existing rail will be installed. Support columns will resemble existing square posts at approximately the same location of the present Columns. The new design will attempt to preserve the historic character and design of the original. The bridge will be closed for the project and traffic detoured to the Heights Bridge and along the I-10 feeder road. Lone Star Construction is the contractor.

Q: Can TxDOT incorporate design features to restrict 18 wheel traffic on the existing bridge? A: No, safety enforcement is a city duty.

Q: Will historic bricks and other features be salvaged and reused in this or other restoration projects? A: If at all possible, salvaged items will be used. At present it is unknown what condition these items are in.

Q: When traffic survey was made prior to building Walmart shopping complex, why was bridge condition not factored into results? A: (Discussion continued on this point.)

#### III. Introductions to and comments from City election candidates in attendance.

Laurie Robinson, candidate for At Large Position #4 attended.

#### IV. Approval of Minutes from July 2015.

Approved.

#### V. New Business and Updates:

##### A. Cigna Sunday Streets - Phyllis Thomason

Phyllis described the preparations being made for Sunday Streets, to be hosted by Cigna, Sunday, October 4. The route will run along Washington Avenue, from Heights Blvd. to Westcott. Several large areas will be dedicated to

Cigna health presentations and activities, along with vendors and artists booths. Local businesses are planning to participate as well. Washington will be open to pedestrians and non-motorized traffic. HPD will provide lanes for emergency traffic, and direct through-going, cross-traffic at the major intersections along Yale, Shepherd, and Durham. 15,000 to 20,000 participants are expected.

Phyllis also reported that the Parking Benefits District will use the accumulated funds to build bike racks along Washington Avenue. Designs submitted for these racks will be reviewed by the Houston Arts Alliance, which will present a list of finalists for a vote of those attending Sunday Streets.

B. Discuss and vote on change to VP

SN22 Vice President Monica Savino regrets that she can no longer serve in the position and has resigned. Paul Nicosia of Magnolia Grove was nominated as replacement. The motion for the nomination was seconded and passed by all members present.

C. Candidate Forum planning update - Jane West

Jane reports that there are too many candidates for the city council positions to hold a forum, and therefore a forum will be held for the runoff candidates at the November Superneighborhood 22 meeting. A forum for the controller candidates is scheduled for October 12 at the Super Neighborhood Alliance meeting. SNA will host a mayoral forum October 9. A mayoral candidate forum hosted by multiple city stakeholder organizations is scheduled for September 26, Jane asks for strong support from SN communities to demonstrate solid public interest. See note below for details.

D. IDM Chapter 9 discussion

Jane described a disturbing detail that she discovered in the city Infrastructure Design Manual. While preparing to speak to city council on behalf of Spring Branch flood victims, she learned that Chapter 9 allows drainage from redevelopment onto neighboring lands when the flow stems from projects of less than one acre. This is in contradiction to state statute for overland flow that allows no drainage on to neighboring land from redevelopment of any size. The effect of this will have serious consequences for neighborhood flooding and personal property damage. She is presently corresponding with Mr. Dale Rudick of Public Works and Engineering, and other persons involved with the manual. Jane wishes to meet with city council to request immediate change. She also will seek Super Neighborhood Alliance representation to find three council members to call for special review of this.

In another issue Jane is looking for help to oppose variance request on October 1, involving a property in the Old Sixth Ward.

E. City Council Members and Departments updates

None offered

## VI. Old and Ongoing Business:

### A. Development Impact Committee report

Mike Van Dusen pulls all of the replat submissions in SN22 every two weeks from the City of Houston server and sends a report to Jane, Tom, and Meg. The draft agenda is usually available on Friday before the Planning Commission meeting the following Thursday. Mike highlighted three of particular interest:

The following came in this morning:

1. Wycoff Reserve on Cornish, 2015-1815, B-Replats. PD is asking for a deferment.
2. TJ Clay Partial Replat 1, 2015-1658, Variance. PD finally filed a 101 form. This is the first form Mike has seen from PD recommending the variance with no conditions.
3. Interfield Business Park Replat 1, 2015-1616, Variance. PD filed a 101 form recommending approval of the less restrictive BL. At least PD is asking for a 6' sidewalk, 3" trees, and an opaque fence no taller than 8' along Studewood.

### B. Neighborhood Greenways Committee report

None offered

### C. Other Committee and Neighborhood Association reports

None offered

## VII. Announcements, and Open Comments

None offered

## VIII. Upcoming events of community interest:

Mayoral Candidate Forum - Saturday, September 26, 9:00AM  
Houston Community College Central Auditorium  
1300 Holman Street

Cigna Sunday Streets - October 4, noon to 4:00PM - Washington  
Ave from Heights to Westcott

Note: Our November 19th meeting will feature a forum for At-large City Council candidates in run off races.

## IX. Adjourn