

Guests:

Anna Eastman, HD148 Texas State Representative

Penny Morales Shaw, HD148 Candidate

Julia Retta, District C CM Abbie Kamin

Civic Club Representatives:

Mark Williamson, SN15 - Greater Heights

Steve Vealey, Camp Logan/SN22 Vice President

Mary Nan Huffman, Harris County DA Candidate

Dori Boone, First Ward

Farouk Plummer, At-Large 4 CM Letitia Plummer

Paul Benz, First Ward

Julia Retta, CM Abbie Kamin District C

Mike VanDusen, Crestwood/SN22 President

Mark Williamson, SN15 - Greater Heights

Dori Boone, First Ward

Marisol Valero, HD148 Chief of Staff

Janet Cooper, First Ward

Jack Valinski, Mayor's Assistance Office

Nicolas Rouckout, Memorial Heights

Kay Walton, SN62 - Midtown

George Hinkal, Old Sixth Ward

Linda Trevino, METRO

Stacie Fairchild, Rice Military/SN22 Secretary

John Zavala, SN14 - Lazybrook/Timbergrove

Mark Fairchild, Rice Military

Leigh Killgore, SN14 - Lazybrook/Timbergrove

Dexter Handy, Rice Military

Gabriela Salcedo, District H Chief of Staff

Ross Mattern, West End

Monica Campos, Commissioner Adrian Garcia

Meg Poissant, Westwood Grove

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

I. Introductions

II. Acceptance of Minutes from Meeting Held on May 20, 2020

III. New Business:

A. Cottage Grove Drainage: Palisades Park (a 13-acre development) in SN14 is being constructed adjacent to the rail yard just north of SN22. It's located within a 500-year flood plain and has triggered some Chapter 9 provisions related to elevation. There are basic infrastructure problems with it because of the amount of dirt brought in to raise the elevation between 2-7 feet. This will cause the natural water flow to go onto adjacent properties, and in this case, Timbergrove Section 5. The project has been red tagged and development has stopped because SN14 leadership brought it to the city's attention after investigation. This

is typical of some of the new development neighborhoods are beginning to see in what was traditionally industrial sites (large tracts of land) are giving way to high density residential development. Cottage Grove residents in the northwest section of the neighborhood need to be sensitive to localized flooding because of the Palisades Park development. It may impact drainage to White Oak Bayou. This northwest section of Cottage Grove is nestled in between two train tracks near Hempstead and Center Street, and tracks tend to be elevated making them mini-dams. If the lateral flow of water isn't accommodated properly, it will cause pooling and ponding which causes flooding. There is a 96-inch diameter storm sewer coming out of the north end of Cottage Grove flowing under the RR tracks, into a drainage ditch, and emptying in White Oak Bayou. The Palisades Park project will use the same drainage pipes. This is a notice to everyone who lives near large developments under construction, and in particular Cottage Grove and First Ward right now.

B. Speed Cushions: Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) was contacted by a resident in Magnolia Grove who is seeing a lot more traffic and more high speed traffic. Speed cushions are traffic-calming devices made of asphalt. Until a few years ago, the city was good about funding projects where cushions could be put in upon request. That seems to have stopped. Crestwood got three cushions last year but had to pay for them at 5-8K per cushion site. The work was inspected by the city, and once installed, the city assumed maintenance responsibility. The city is short of funds now and there are no funds available for small projects such as speed cushions. Painting the street might be an option. Jack Valinski will reach out to Ian Hlavaeck in Public Works to find out.

C. Achieving Railroad Quiet Crossings: Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) shared that [SN22 has eight on-grade crossings and five are in quiet zones](#). Two of the three not in quiet zones are National Street and the south crossing of Oliver Street affecting Memorial Heights. The third crossing without a quiet zone is Kansas Street in Cottage Grove. Oliver Street now has channeling, so Mike is working to find out who has made the application. SN22 will support it. Applications are made by the municipality, not an individual. Once the application is made, the city reaches out to the Federal RR Administration and the RR company involved, and together they come up with a treatment plan. Once a plan is created, the city contacts the applicant with the cost to implement it. To put in 100 feet of channeling costs \$30K, plus traffic signal coordination at \$150K per crossing if not already installed. The [Hempstead RR Quiet Zone application](#) to BW-8 will cost \$2M. Mike has asked the city who has made both applications in SN22 and SN14, and will share with everyone.

D. Short-term Party House Rentals: Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) mentioned there are a collection of townhomes in First Ward owned by one individual that have become AirBnBs and short-term rental brokers. They've become party houses cause parking, loud noise, and other quality of life issues. When this happens, document as best you can with video and pictures. Notify all agencies and departments responsible for your area including the homeowner. Unfortunately, there isn't much regulation. These types of rentals do not fall under the hotel ordinance. However, Dexter Handy will research if there is a threshold for the number of properties owned by one individual. He stated a case in NYC where one individual owned hundreds of these short-term rentals causing health and safety problems, and the city was successful in preventing it from happening further.

E. Platting Variances: Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) mentioned that a business in West End made a parking variance application and they were refused by the Planning Commission. They're coming back again to apply on June 25, so we suspect the owner is reaching out to surrounding businesses

looking to offset parking to rent. While they may have a contract to park vehicles at a particular location. Once the contract ends, they may or may not be required to continue with the variance requirement. It's unclear at this point how that will be enforced. Mike will follow up with Planning and Development.

V. Old Business:

A. Bicycle Advisory Committee: Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) said the initial goal that Bike Houston and the Bicycle Advisory Committee had to create a series of bikeways is coming to an end. They're now focusing on identifying and creating the next 500 miles. Public engagement will begin in the next six months to a year. Funding is an issue even though painting on the streets isn't as costly. Some district council members have given money, but the Bicycle Advisory Committee and Bike Houston are looking to TIRZs and management districts. Some of it will probably be incorporated into the Vision Zero rollout. It's worth keeping an eye on to know how streets will be developed in the future. Vision Zero and Walkable Places initiatives are beginning to move through the Planning department and appear on the City Council agendas.

B. Planning Commission Updates: Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) mentioned the state mandated some changes that are now being reflected into the Chapter 42 code related to notification. The notification requirements are better defined. If you live within 150 feet of a variance you will receive notification by mail and the resident can make a legal protest. The protest will go before the Planning Commission and instead of requiring a simple majority support for approval, it requires a supermajority of 66%. It's raising the bar on approval if you happen to oppose a development within that distance.

C. Quality of Life Updates: Stacie Fairchild (Rice Military/SN22 Secretary) said as the City reopens, SN22 is beginning to experience some cut-through traffic in neighborhoods and a few bars that have turned into restaurants. The Standard and Revolver have been an issue as it relates to the state order and loud noise. Revolver is a red sign bar, and The Standard is a blue sign establishment. Both are considerably loud, impacting Camp Logan, Rice Military, Westwood Grove, and Woodcrest neighborhoods. The Quality of Life task force will continue to monitor the SN for any changes and inform city, county, and state authorities of violations where applicable.

D. City Council and Department Updates: Julia Retta (District C Chief of Staff) reminded everyone to continue asking neighbors to fill out the census. The budget passed last week. CM Kamin was able to push through two amendments to this year's budget. These steps ensure that [Houston residents' tax dollars are equitably spent](#), and that the City is [incentivizing green infrastructure](#) to mitigate flooding and address climate change. The CIP was published last week and scheduled to be on the council agenda next week. It contains funding for the SWOT program, one of the issues involves the drainage study in Rice Military and Woodcrest. The city is also rolling out a street rehab program. The funding is being appropriated to it, and it will involve money for panel replacements on major thoroughfares and local streets. Council will have input, and some will be data driven by neighborhoods. Julia encouraged everyone to track hospitalization ICU rates

E. Super Neighborhood Alliance: Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) mentioned the SNA has not been meeting with the exception of several executive committee meetings, and one meeting with Houston Public Works.

**Super Neighborhood 22 / Washington Avenue Coalition - Memorial Park
Minutes from Meeting held June 18, 2020 in MECA's Auditorium**



VI. Announcements, and Open Comments: No Comments

VII. Upcoming Events of Community Interest: No Announcements

VIII. Motion to Adjourn: 7:50 p.m.

Next meeting: June 18, 2020 @ 6:30 PM.