

Guests:

HPD Assistant Chief Ban Tien, Patrol Region 1	Katie Niemann, Cottage Grove
HPD Sgt. Roger Nguyen, Patrol Region 1 Special Projects	Drew Wiley, Cottage Grove
Mark Williamson, SN15 - Greater Heights	Leslie Gavriliuc, Cottage Grove
Maria Bolanos, County Commissioner Adrian Garcia	Brad Arnold, Cottage Grove
Betty McGinnis, State Senator Carol Alvarado SD06	Jody Wilding, First Ward
Jack Valinski, Mayor's Assistance Office	Paul Benz, First Ward
Kay Walton, SN62 - Midtown	Robert Guratzsch, Magnolia Grove
Linda Trevino, METRO Public Affairs	Stacie Fairchild, Rice Military/SN22 Secretary
Sgt. James Roque, HPD Central Command DRT	Mark Fairchild, Rice Military

Civic Club Representatives:

Joan Miller, Rice Military	
Jim von Suskil, Arlington Court	Ross Mattern, West End
Steve Vealey, Camp Logan/SN22 Vice President	Karen Mattern, West End
Mike VanDusen, Crestwood/SN22 President	

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

I. Introductions

II. Acceptance of Minutes from Meeting Held on October 15 and November 19, 2020

III. New Business

A. Proposed Bikeways in Cottage Grove and Woodcrest: Mike VanDusen (SN22 President/Crestwood) Mike shared there are multiple jurisdictions (TIRZ 5, City of Houston Houston Public Works, and TxDOT) involved. The route was originally proposed by a cycling advocate - Greg Nady - a few years ago to get cyclists safely from White Oak Bayou bikeway to Memorial Park. A preliminary meeting called by TxDOT was held on December 4. Mike VanDusen represented SN22 and Drew Wiley attended on behalf of the Cottage Grove neighborhood. The TxDOT portion of responsibility is the I-10 right of way. The bike-ped bridge built in the 1960s was not up to current code to get people across I-10 safely. TxDOT plans to build a new bridge as a result because the cost is the same. Renderings of the route were shown. One issue to be addressed is how the neighborhoods on the south side of I-10 such as Woodcrest get to the new bikeway safely. Calder Street may be the safest street. Mike asked TxDOT to speak at a neighborhood meeting in the spring when

more details have been decided. SN22 can facilitate if needed. There will be an official outreach meeting by TxDOT in the summer where affected neighbors can voice their opinions.

B. TIRZ 13 Active Transportation Improvements: Mike VanDusen (SN22 President/Crestwood) Mike shared there are three TIRZs - Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone - that encompass SN22. The Uptown TIRZ is in the Galleria but it also includes Memorial Park. TIRZ 5 has many of the streets, and TIRZ 13 is residential driven that started in Old Sixth Ward and is now annexing parts of First Ward. TIRZ 13 had an outreach meeting with First Ward and Old Sixth Ward to find out what changes neighbors want to see in their neighborhood. The focus is on active transportation such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and scooters. They're currently trying to figure out north-south connectivity because of the railroad crossings. There will be more outreach meetings. [TIRZ 13 Mobility Plan](#)

C. 2021 Officer Elections: Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) said that SN22's charter states that officers must stand for election every two years. Steve Vealey has given notice that he will not run for re-election. Elections will be held on February 18, 2021. Mike VanDusen will run again for the President position, Stacie Fairchild will run for the Vice-President position, and the Secretary role is currently open. Mike VanDusen asked if any civic club officers or delegates are interested in running for an officer position to please contact him for more information.

IV. Old Business:

A. Bicycle Advisory Committee: Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) shared the Bicycle Advisory Committee is transitioning to focus more of its outreach to management districts for maintenance and TIRZs for capital expenditures. There is new leadership in place but the emphasis is still on developing more bikeways. Cyclists are asking for maintenance on existing bikeways which is a problem. Effective January 14, a new Bike Lane Ordinance will be enforced for parking violations in dedicated bicycle lanes. The fine is \$100 for any vehicle found parked in a bike lane. Drivers who receive a citation may take an online Bicycle Friendly Driver's Course to request a waiver of the fine. The fine will only be waived on the first offense.

B. Planning Commission Updates: No Update

C. Quality of Life Updates: Concrete Cowboy is still under its 60-day suspension but we've seen movement inside the building and in the parking lot with lots of new chairs and tables. It's hard to tell if they're taking the downtime to renovate and/or put COVID-19 protocols in place. Memorial Trail Ice House opened this month in the Woodcrest neighborhood. We're watching it closely as we heard from neighbors the construction process was more inconvenient than anticipated. The owner lives in Woodcrest so we're hopeful the establishment will be a good neighbor. HAZE Nightclub, the second floor of Axis & Alibi, opened in November and the base resonance is a real issue for Rice Military residents directly behind the building every night except Mondays. Wednesday nights are their biggest night in terms of loud noise, crowds, spinning tires and street racing. Central Commander Mark Lentini has addressed the issues from us bringing it to his attention and things have gotten better. Residents, however, do not believe it will be a long-term solution because the owner ignores their requests repeatedly. HPD Assistant Chief Tien and Sgt. Nguyen asked for more details and promised to do an assessment next week. Since the Regulatory and Neighborhood Affairs meeting in November, we have noticed a decrease in activity along Washington

Avenue and an increased HPD presence. It's possible there are a number of factors contributing to the decreased activity but there's been a notable difference since the meeting. The Standard Bar is not using the unpermitted portion of the deck even though it's still there. HFD is making regular checks to ensure the unpermitted portion is not being used. HPD is issuing regular citations at \$2,000 per citation for having the build intact. Mark Fairchild of Rice Military will work with HPD's Sgt. Roque to get a final decision about whether or not the deck should be torn down since it's in the public right-of-way. Patrol Region 1 committed to do a live assessment tomorrow.

D. City Council and Department Updates: Julia Retta (District C Chief of Staff) encouraged everyone to get COVID-19 tested and shared a new location in Memorial Park Running Trails Center at 7575 N. Picnic Lane. It's a walk-up, mouth self-swab test that gives results in two days. An appointment is not required. Jordan McGinty-Frazier (At-Large 5 Council Member Sallie Alcorn) mentioned that since the RNA meeting her office has reached out to all of the council members, HFD and HPD to gather more information on bad actor establishments. A letter was sent to the Mayor summarizing the meeting and there needs to be relief for residents and the current enforcement isn't working. CM Alcorn meets with Mayor Turner next week to discuss classifying these bad actors into their own category. She has done a ride-along during peak hours on Washington Avenue with Sgt. Hicks and it was very informative.

E. Super Neighborhood Alliance: Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) stated the Super Neighborhood Alliance (SNA) held its monthly meeting on December 14 where the Houston Health Department gave a presentation on the status of Houston and the pandemic. Two slides of the presentation gauged a lot of interest and questions - COVID Active Cases and COVID Deaths. SN22 has one of the highest number of active cases (more than or equal to 372) and the lowest number of fatalities (less than or equal to 11). The takeaway is SN22 has a lot of infections and not many deaths. The SNA is carried monthly by HTV Houston Television.

VI. Announcements, and Open Comments: Linda Trevino (METRO Public Affairs) shared the Downtown District is expecting only 25% of their workforce to return to offices. Masks are required on all METRO buses. If you do not have one, METRO will provide one for you. Buses and Rail are at 50% capacity with seats marked off. METRO is cleaning all buses and rails twice daily with sanitizer and sanitized again each night. Service schedules have gone from a bus every 15 minutes to 30 minutes. January 11 Park-N-Rides will have a service change to 30-minutes. METRO wanted to drop service to every hour but they received too much pushback from riders so METRO settled on service every 30 minutes at all 15 Park-N-Rides. METRO will hold a meeting with TxDOT on January 21 on METRONext projects. The focus will be on the I-10 BRT section and both entities will ask for community input. Linda will reach out to everyone in advance of the meeting.

VII. Upcoming Events of Community Interest: No events.

VIII. Motion to Adjourn: 8:00 PM

Next meeting: January 21, 2020 @ 6:30 PM.