

**Guests:**

	Jeff Garoon, Cottage Grove
Morgan Yates, Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner	Mike VanDusen, Crestwood/SN22 President
Julia Retta, District C CM Abbie Kamin	Dori Boone, First Ward
Mark Williamson, SN15 - Greater Heights	Paul Benz, First Ward
At-Large 5 Council Member Sallie Alcorn	Ken Smith, Magnolia Grove
Jordan Thomas, At-Large 4 CM Letitia Plummer	Nicolas Rouckout, Memorial Heights
Julia Retta, CM Abbie Kamin District C	Stacie Fairchild, Rice Military/SN22 Secretary
Mark Williamson, SN15 - Greater Heights	Mark Fairchild, Rice Military
Betty McGinnis, Texas State Senator Carol Alvarado	Joan Miller, Rice Military
Jack Valinski, Mayor's Assistance Office	Dexter Handy, Rice Military
Kay Walton, SN62 - Midtown	Michael Herman, Rice Military
Linda Trevino, METRO	Gary Eymer, Rice Military
<b><u>Civic Club Representatives:</u></b>	Ashley Johnson, Rice Military
Steve Vealey, Camp Logan/SN22 Vice President	Karen Mattern, West End
Matt Glenn, Cottage Grove	Ross Mattern, West End

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

**I. Introductions**

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

**III. Presentation A: District C Council Member Kamin's Office—Julia Retta, Chief of Staff**

Julia Retta (Chief of Staff to CM Kamin) started by letting SN22 know that the SN is at a 51.2% Census self-response participation rate. The deadline has moved to October 31. Please continue to encourage neighbors to self respond as this is how the City receives funding from the federal government. Each response or household is worth \$10K in funding. Julia said she will begin to break out SN22 into Census tracts and share with us. Also, hurricane season begins on June 1, and this is the first time we've shared it with a pandemic. The City is taking a number of precautions to make sure shelters are safe where social distancing can be practiced, police and firefighters are working to ensure rescues and evacuations will be safe, and the City is encouraging citizens to plan accordingly and be as safe as possible when interacting with

anyone outside our home. The [2020 Houston/Galveston Extreme Weather Ready Expo](#) will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center on August 29. Registration begins August 18. Julia offered to ask OEM's Cory Stottlemeyer to speak to SN22 about disaster preparedness. Memorial Park asks for everyone to follow the City guidelines when using the park (wearing masks, staying off playgrounds and swing sets). Julia said there may be an update in the next week or so about City parks and recreational areas reopening. The City was caught off guard by Governor Abbott's announcement of allowing bars to open at 25% capacity statewide this weekend. District C understands that bars on Washington Avenue are an issue, and will be monitoring the situation with HPD. Julia will get clarity on how to report overcapacity and other violations related to the State's order. She is not sure if reports should be directed to HPD, the Fire Marshal or another agency. Lastly, City Council had its first virtual meeting yesterday to continue practicing social distance. The Planning Commission has been operating virtually for the last few weeks and has experienced an increase in participation and viewership. City Council meetings will be virtual until further notice.

#### **IV. New Business:**

**A. How is COVID-19 Impacting Your Neighborhood:** The neighborhoods have noticed that even though people are stir crazy, they're out exercising while maintaining social distance. Online interaction has been the complete opposite with members attacking each other. Neighbors are enjoying the peace and quiet without the daily cut-through traffic, bar noise and patrons, and illegal parking. Virtual civic club meetings are working and productive.

**B. Extending/Enhancing FRA Locomotive Horn Sounding and Quiet Zone:** Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) mentioned that Nicolas Rouckout (Memorial Heights) reached out to SN22 for help in establishing a quiet zone at National and Oliver streets. The trains are making a lot of noise in the middle of the night every night (2:00 - 4:00 AM) which is preventing the Memorial Heights neighborhood from sleeping. Jack Valinski said there are six passenger trains (3 west and 3 eastbound) per week traveling through SN22 during the day. Each train has 8 cars or less and can be late up to eight hours. Mike VanDusen identified 18 on-grade crossings (no differentiation between passenger and freight) in SN22; 9 are in First Ward, one at Heights Blvd. shared by First Ward and West End, 3 in West End, 2 in Westwood Grove, one at T.C. Jester, and 2 others in Cottage Grove. All except four should be subject to a quiet zone. The FRA requires a traffic control mechanism (such as lowering arms and yellow bollards) at each quiet zone crossing, so that a vehicle has a visual alarm instead. It's possible that people are wandering onto the tracks when they shouldn't, or it could be misinformed train engineers. Areas in SN22 that have been historically industrial are becoming residential, particularly in First Ward, Olivewood, and Cottage Grove. SN22 will begin to look into making the four crossings into quiet zones. Mike VanDusen will talk with Nicolas Rouckout and Paul Benz offline to move the initiative forward, and will report back at the next meeting.

**C. Neighborhood Organization Update (Cottage Grove, Westwood Grove, Memorial Heights):** Westwood Grove is not registered with the State of Texas. Jamie Walton is working to organize the neighborhood and file with the State. Matt Glenn (Cottage Grove) is working with Jeff Garoon to obtain access to the website and database. Matt said neighbors are focused on drainage improvements, security patrol, and incorporating a community feel by adding a yard of the month, etc. Nicolas Rouckout said Memorial Heights has an HOA.

**V. Old Business:**

**A. Bicycle Advisory Committee:** Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) shared the City of Houston indicated recently they are considering extending the Patterson Street Bikeway south of Washington Avenue to Blossom Street (East) to Jackson Hill (South) to the Bicycle station at [302 Jackson Hill](#) and Scotland Street.

**B. Planning Commission Updates:** Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) mentioned there were no applications on the Planning Commission agenda affecting SN22.

**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. It's still quiet for the most part. 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:** At-Large 5 Council Member Sallie Alcorn gave an update on the FY21 \$5.1B Budget process. Controller Brown gave a bleak trends report today - Unemployment could be 20%, up to 415K jobs lost projected, we're facing a \$160M shortfall, and depleting a large portion of reserves and the rainy day fund. The goal is to keep City services strong by streamlining operations and processes to save money while building up reserves. CM Alcorn and her team are going over each line item to see where departments can share services. She also issued a budget survey for constituents on public safety, infrastructure, and health. She has already received 1,200 responses, and is looking to increase public engagement during the annual budget process. The deadline to complete the survey is June 1.

**E. Super Neighborhood Alliance:** No Update

**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.