

## **Guests**

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- Lance Gilliam, CM Abbie Kamin, District C
- Jack Valinski, Mayor's Assistance Office
- Olivia Lee, HD134 Rep. Ann Johnson
- Sergio Hernandez, SD6 Senator Carol Alvarado
- Christina Walsh, HD148 Rep. Penny Morales Shaw
- Marie Carlisle, SN14 (Lazybrook/Timbergrove)
- Gregory Frey, SN14 (Lazybrook/Timbergrove)
- Mark Williamson, SN15 (Greater Heights)
- Kay Walton, SN62 (Midtown)
- Lt. Geoffery Weise, TABC Enforcement Division
- Sheri Cortez, HCDAO's Office
- Mark Wilfalk, SWMD Director
- Sofia Gonzalez, Community Impact Newspaper
- Jim Von Suskil, Arlington Court
- Joan Miller, Rice Military
- Paul Benz, First Ward

## **Civic Club Representatives**

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- David Sims, Camp Logan
- Steven Vealey, Camp Logan
- Mike VanDusen, SN22 President/Crestwood
- Tamela Hamilton, Crestwood
- Abby Kincer, First Ward
- Elaine Nguyen, First Ward
- Victor Valencheck, First Ward
- Dexter Handy, Rice Military
- Stacie Fairchild, SN22 Vice President/Rice Military
- Mark Fairchild, Washington Avenue Parking Benefit District/Rice Military
- Ross Mattern, West End
- Mark Kosiara, West End

## **Meeting Minutes | June 16, 2022 @ Zoom**

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Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

### **I. Introductions & Roll Call**

### **II. Acceptance of May Minutes**

- A. Motion to accept by Dexter Handy and Mark Fairchild. No issues with minutes as submitted. Minutes accepted.

### **III. Presentations**

- A. Updates from CM Abbie Kamin's Office, Lance Gilliam
  - i. Washington / Westcott Roundabout – Met with several City of Houston teams to make improvements to the roundabout. Discussions include a range of options, from repaving to serious lane realignment and investments. Pedestrian safety improvements at Blossom are top priority, and the groups have been asked to reconsider what is necessary for pedestrian

improvements. SN22 and surrounding Civic Clubs will be notified of plans once decided. More impactful lane realignment would require community input.

- ii. Storm Water Action Team Projects – Two projects are occurring in 2023, both in SN22. The first, in Woodcrest, is a \$2.1M jointly funded project between the city and Harris County Flood Control District. The team is waiting for CenterPoint to relocate utilities before advancing to construction phase. One important issue is encroachments – 125 are identified along Asbury, Malone, and Knox. Letters went out to property owners a month ago; Public Works to speak at SN22 meeting about encroachments and impact to homeowners. If you have encroachments in the public right-of-way, the city will try to repair those, but it's not guaranteed based on need. The second project is in Cottage Grove West to fix undersized and collapsed ditches. This is a \$1.15M project at the intersection of Kansas and Sherwin. This project is in final design and implementation planning.
- iii. Council Redistricting – Maps will come out in July. The opportunity for community input starts on July 13. Check <https://www.letstalkhouston.org/redistricting> for more information and timeline.

**B. Update from SD6 Senator Carol Alvarado's Office, Sergio Hernandez**

- i. Senate Transportation committee met last month to discuss transportation, in general, but more in-depth meetings will occur around issues for bigger cities in the fall, including paper tags. Catalytic converter theft continues to be a big issue. Higher Education funds are a topic of interest for the senator. Senator Alvarado visited Uvalde after the tragic shooting, and she and other senators in the Democratic Caucus requested a special session with Governor Abbott to address background checks, ownership of assault rifles, and specifically for those between the ages of 18 and 21. So far, the governor has not granted the special session.

**C. Update and Vision of Solid Waste Management Department, Mark Wilfalk – SWMD Director**

- i. Director Wilfalk shared a presentation on the mission of SWMD – to provide Houstonians with solid waste services that are professionally managed, cost effective, environmentally safe, and anticipate future growth and changes. SWMD is responsible for 434,000 residences and makes more than 50M house calls annually. Current major initiatives include driver recruitment and advanced recycling. Per neighbor concern that trash and recycling pickup are routinely 1-2 days late, Director Wilfalk has pledged that if significant accomplishments cannot be made in 6 months, he will recommend a schedule change. SWMD is exploring options for composting services and a trash-fee structure. 311 continues to be the best way to report missed trash.

**IV. New Business**

- A. Officer Vacancy – SN22 secretary, Jody Wilding, is moving and has nominated Abby Kincer, President of First Ward Civic Council, to replace her. SN22 appoints a nominating committee that takes resumes from interested individuals, and who ultimately recommend a nominee. Steve Vealey and Jane West are on the committee. If you are interested, email SN22 with a resume and tell us why you want to fulfill the

role and what you want to get done. Election will be held in the July meeting.

**V. Announcements from Elected Officials**

- A. Olivia Lee, HD134 Office of State Rep. Ann Johnson – Rep. Johnson is speaking at SN22 in September. Construction around Hempstead is slated through September 2023. They're currently waiting on Union Pacific Railroad to approve some plans they have.
- B. Christina Walsh, HD148 Office of State Rep. Penny Morales Shaw – Rep. Shaw is gearing up for back-to-school events. Rep. Shaw sits on Environmental Regulation and Urban Affairs committees; please feel free to reach out about these topics or anything else.
- C. Sheri Cortez, Harris County District Attorney's Office – The office is focusing on the issue of children being left in hot cars. This is a crime, and the DA's office is required to charge perpetrators. HCDAO will be distributing reminders to businesses to check your back seat before you leave your car. The office is also concerned with guns being left in cars overnight – bring them inside so criminals cannot steal them. Harris County Precinct One Constable Alan Rosen has a program that provides free reminder mirror hangers to take kids, pets and guns and free gun locks. Sheri is available to come to community meetings with gun locks.

**VI. Civic Club Representative Rollcall**

- A. Camp Logan – No update.
- B. Crestwood, Tami Hamilton – Every Thursday morning, anyone in the community is welcome to come garden and harvest at Memorial Elementary, 7:30-9:30am.
- C. Rice Military – No update.
- D. Washington Avenue PBD, Mark Fairchild – Their first meeting in over a year occurred last week, and two positions had to be replaced.
- E. West End, Mark Kosiara – There are many projects around the city that may impact noise. Mark is looking into providing feedback as a group to impacted neighborhoods. If you're interested, reach out to Mark.
- F. Arlington Court – No update.
- G. First Ward, Abby Kincer – Abby introducee Elaine Nguyen and Victor Valencheck as representatives to SN22. Crockett Street between Sawyer and Houston is complete. Trains stalling on the Winter and Center Street tracks occurs probably once a week; we can report train stalls. Jack Valinski confirms that District I over by the East End also has a huge problem with this affecting businesses, residents and emergency personnel.

**VII. Announcements and Open Comments**

- A. Memorial Park Drive and Picnic loop are going to be closed at the end of the month for a running trail realignment. Weekend of June 27, they request people go to a different park.
- B. Houston-Galveston Area Council's survey closes June 20; please fill this out to provide feedback.
- C. CIP Shepherd/Durham is slated for completion in March 2023.
- D. Harris County Precinct One Constable Alan Rosen is offering a free women's self-defense class June 27-30, four nights from 6:00-9:00pm. More details on the SN22 Facebook page.
- E. Make Music Day is June 21. Memorial Park and Sawyer Yards are the nearest locations where you can go listen to music.
- F. Sidewalk ordinance proposed amendments are open to the public for comment through June 23. The Planning and Development department will present the amendments, and the Livable Places initiative in the August SN22 meeting.
- G. 11 cooling centers are available around the city.
- H. TABC continues to do targeted and undercover operations throughout SN22 in chronic problem establishments.
- I. Two new businesses are open in SN22 – El Venado, a Mexican restaurant that requires reservations, and Texas Original, a medical marijuana shop.
- J. Marie Carlisle from SN14 (Lazybrook/Timbergrove ) has made progress in coordinating sidewalk improvements with city officials.

**VIII. Motion to Adjourn**

- A. Mark Fairchild made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Next meeting – July 21, 2022 @ 6:30 PM.