WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION - MEMORIAL PARK

Guests:	Leslie Gavriliuc, Cottage Grove
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HPD Sgt. Roger Nguyen, Patrol Region 1 Special Projects Brad Arnold, Cottage Grove

Jack Valinski, Mayor's Assistance Office Jody Wilding, First Ward

Kay Walton, SN62 - Midtown Paul Benz, First Ward

Linda Trevino, METRO Public Affairs Nate Nahmias, First Ward

Sgt. James Roque, HPD Central Command DRT Angela Tenney, Magnolia Grove

Roy Lira, SN63 - Second Ward Angie Granado, Rice Military

Ann Johnson, State Representative HD134 Stacie Fairchild, Rice Military/SN22 Secretary

Sallie Alcorn, At-Large 5 City Council Member Mark Fairchild, Rice Military

Officer Lucia Vieria, HPD Central Community Liaison Joan Miller, Rice Military

Lt. Christopher Davis, HPD Crime Suppression Unit Dexter Handy, Rice Military

Lt. Geoffery Weise, TABC Enforcement Division Ross Mattern, West End

John Zavala, SN14 - Lazybrook/Timbergrove Karen Mattern, West End

Leigh Killgore, SN14 - Lazybrook/Timbergrove Jimmy Chahine, Westwood Grove

Emma Tippett, State Representative Ann Johnson HD134 Viji Medi, Westwood Grove

Julia Retta, District C Council Member Abbie Kamin Christine Hsui, Westwood Grove

Civic Club Representatives: Nicholas Yu, Westwood Grove

Jim von Suskil, Arlington Court Mark Brown, Woodcrest

Steve Vealey, Camp Logan/SN22 Vice President Mike McAuley, Woodcrest

Mike VanDusen, Crestwood/SN22 President Philip Temple, Woodcrest

Bryan Wazbinksi, Cottage Grove Mark Hammon, Woodcrest

Katie Niemann, Cottage Grove Christina Hammon, Woodcrest

Drew Wiley, Cottage Grove Ky Exezidis, Woodcrest

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

- I. Introductions
- II. Acceptance of Minutes from Meeting Held on December 17, 2020
- **III. Presentations:**
- A. Texas Legislative Update Representative Ann Johnson; House District 134: Representative Johnson is preparing for the 2021 legislative session and the focus is on the state's budget and COVID-19 relief. Public education, redistricting, and human trafficking. Thousands of bills are being filed and the deadline to file them is March 12, 2021. Committee assignments will be given in the next few weeks. The legislature meets every other year, and this coming year's session begins in January and runs for 140 days. The state has a shortfall of \$4.5B for the current biennium. The legislature will have to quickly pass a supplemental appropriations bill to backfill the appropriations that were made in the last biennium but the tax revenue didn't come in. The revenue estimate is unknown at this time. No interim hearings were conducted because the state capitol has been closed.
- B. Proposal to Lower Residential Speed Dexter Handy; Greater Houston Coalition for Complete Streets Chair, and Leigh Killgore; SN14 Timbergrove/Lazybrook President: Dexter Handy (Rice Military) and Leigh Killgore are spearheading a community initiative for the anticipated Texas Legislation designed to allow municipalities to mandate 25 mph speed limits in residential neighborhoods. They have received support from the city and state elected officials they've reached out to but need more on board to get the bills passed. Dexter introduced both bills Senate Bill 221 and House Bill 442 and asked for Super Neighborhood 22's support and requested volunteers to write letters to our elected representatives. Dexter and Leigh are drafting a form letter that others can add to. Local news organizations are beginning to take notice and have interviewed Leigh and Dexter for future segments. A Super Neighborhood task force has been put together to disseminate the letters, campaigns and other information to the civic clubs and neighborhoods citywide. Letters from organizations are great, and letters from individuals are even better. A timeframe to submit all of the information to the state has not been given yet.

IV. New Business:

- **A. Proposed Patterson Bikeway:** Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) shared that the City of Houston held a second meeting with the Magnolia Grove and West End neighborhoods was held to update the neighbors with more details. The meeting was very well attended and there's fairly good support from the affected neighborhoods. Mike offered to share the presentation that was made at a later date if anyone is interested.
- **B.** Woodcrest Stormwater Drainage: Philip Temple (Woodcrest) gave a presentation about the flooding issues Woodcrest neighbors have had over the years. Conversion of original, single story houses to townhouses has led to loss of permeable land and more driveways over ditches loss of grading. The drainage system was installed decades ago prior to the townhouses and doesn't meet current standards and drainage needs. Several high water/flooding events have occurred since 2015 where >1+ inch per hour fell. Woodcrest

neighbors have consistently entered 311 reports since 2015. They send Facebook reminders to clean drains and ditches. They've had neighborhood initiatives to clean up the neighborhood and had regular contact with the District C office through several administrations. Woodcrest has participated in CIP meetings and attended public hearings on an action plan for mitigation. They've spoken at city council meetings, done local news story interviews. They revived the Woodcrest Neighborhood Civic Association (WNCA) and SN22 participation as a result of the issues. Actions taken by the city are consistently closing 311 reports, a few instances where Public Works has come out and verified that drainage is clear, Public Works has dug and regraded ditches, upsized the culverts, constructed new driveways, changed the inlets - work that already needed to be done, none of which has helped mitigate flooding in the area. The City of Houston created a work order to address the drainage issues and for whatever reason decided not to act. Instead Council Member Abbie Kamin suggested a Hydralogic & Hydraulics study which is in the draft stages and Woodcrest is awaiting feedback from the report. Philip and the WNCA feel the maintenance performed is insufficient and there is a continued risk of flooding. They will continue to follow up with District C and SN22. Hopefully, the City of Houston will develop an action plan from the H&H study and the local drainage plan will address the issues. Philip's fear is that this will continue to drag on and he is looking for support and feedback from anyone who will listen. Julia Retta, Chief of Staff for Council Member Abbie Kamin, is working with Public Works and said the H&H study is complete. It's being reviewed by Public Works now and they will propose projects to work on in the next fiscal year. Funding would be allocated in the next budget session. If more than \$2M is needed, then the City of Houston will used a phased approach.

- C. Civic Organizations Contact Information: Jack Valinksi (Mayor's Assistance Office) said that collecting the most updated information on civic organizations across the city is not going well. Jack asked for everyone in charge of a civic organization to fill out the form at www.houstontx.gov/ourneighborhoods. Click on the form to the right to register your civic club. It helps the Department of Neighborhoods, the Planning and Development Department, Public Works and the Council Members so that they can notify you when something is happening in your neighborhood. Civic Clubs are listed at 501s with the State of Texas and it is not easy to get a comprehensive list. The city is required by the state to make certain notifications within a particular area, so it's very important to have the latest contact information.
- **D. 2021 Officer Elections:** Mike VanDusen (Crestwood/SN22 President) mentioned that SN22 would be putting together a nominating committee, and civic club officers and delegates are welcome to participate. 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.

V. Old Business:

A. Bicycle Advisory Committee: No Update

B. Planning Commission Updates: No Update

C. Quality of Life Updates: Stacie Fairchild (Rice Military/SN22 Secretary) said as the city and state reopen, SN22 is beginning to experience some cut-through traffic and illegal parking in neighborhoods bars are reapplying as restaurants. It is considerably loud, over capacity impacting the Rice Military, Westwood

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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. See 5D below for more details.

- D. City Council and Department Updates: At Large 5 Council Member Sallie Alcorn mentioned she is hosting a meeting on February 1 with city departments ARA, HPD, Municipal Courts and Legal to discuss how to solve the noise issues city neighborhoods are experiencing in policy, enforcement and adjudication. HPD's Sgt. Nguyen added a loud noise unit to Central Command for club checks and illegal parking checks. As a result of the enforcement, the bar owners are wanting to talk with the city and the neighborhoods on Washington Avenue are noticing a difference. TABC's Lt. Geoffery Weise shared that TABC issued six emergency orders in Houston this past week and several in Jefferson and Montgomery counties as well as continuing to enforce Governor Abbott's emergency orders. In addition, TABC is also working on investigations such as fatal car crashes, aggravated breaches, human trafficking, drugs, and sell to minors. A new unit has been created to trace source investigations where they can tie the incident back to a licensed premise. This allows TABC to impose sanctions, serve emergency orders due to violence beyond COVID related incidents. These violations have to be issued the order which is typically the next day.
- **E. Super Neighborhood Alliance:** The SNA monthly meetings will now be recorded by HTV Houston Television. The meetings are held at 6:30 PM online the second Monday of each month.
- 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: 8:40 PM

Next meeting: March 18, 2021 @ 6:30 PM.