

SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD 22 COUNCIL AGENDA
January 10, 2011 MEETING

I. Call to Order and Introductions

II. Consider and Approve Minutes from Nov. 8, 2010 Meeting (5 minutes)

III. Old Business (45 minutes):

- A. SNAP/CIP: Update on 2010 SNAP requests and Submission of 2011 SNAP requests:**
http://pdinet.pd.ci.houston.tx.us/snap_public/index.asp. Any neighborhood wishing to submit a SNAP request must send completed forms to Jane West by Friday, January 14th.
- B. Traffic Studies for Walmart Site:** Nick Urbano, President, Responsible Urban Development for Houston
Nick Urban presented concerns arising from the traffic impact analysis (TIA) that the Walmart developers have provided to the city. Chief among the concerns is the 40,000 pound load limit on the Yale Street bridge over White Oak Bayou that was not mentioned in the TIA. The load limit will not accommodate multiple daily loads of 65,000 pounds needed to supply the Walmart store. Mr. Urbano also explained that the TIA report's traffic count data is incomplete and its land use specifications underestimate traffic needs around the site. Other concerns include traffic signalization, the railroad crossing and future retail development on Heights Boulevard. Mr. Urbano characterized these concerns as public safety concerns and he invited people to attend a public meeting on this issue to be held later in the month.
- C. Committee Reports**
- (1) Report of Nominating Committee** (T. Dornbusch and P. Nicosia; New officer elections will be held at the February 2011 meeting)
Tom Dornbusch and Paul Nicosia reported that the nominating committee decided to offer the following nominations for the officers' election to be held next month:
President: Jane West
Vice-President: Tom Dornbusch
Secretary: Paul Nicosia
Treasurer: Phyllis Thomason
- (2) Transportation Committee** (S. Johnson and T. Dornbusch)
Scott Johnson reported that members of the transportation committee presented SN 22's Proposed Master Plan for Transportation to Mayor Parker and Chief Development Officer Andy Icken on Friday, November 12, 2010, and that as a result of that presentation Planning Director Marlene Gafrick arranged a meeting with representatives of all the major transit stakeholders to discuss the plan, i.e., METRO, UPRR, Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), the Gulf Coast Rail District, and representatives of the City of Houston's Planning and Public Works Departments. Mr. Johnson also reported that the SN 22 Transportation Plan was presented to County Judge Ed Emmett in December. The City of Houston's application for a Livable Centers grant to study transit options near the new Code Enforcement Center (CEC) and along Washington Avenue is considered by many to be the next step in the process. The SN 22 Transportation Committee will meet soon to review the reactions received from these presentations and to consider next steps.
- (3) W/Ave Task Force: Subcommittees:**
Carlos Doroteo from CM Ed Gonzalez's office announced that Mayor Parker and her administration have decided to move forward with ordinances intended to create an Entertainment District in the Washington Avenue Corridor. These ordinances will address issues of parking and noise and general mobility. The goal is to have the ordinances ready for City Council approval within six months.
- (4) TxDOT Drainage Ponds** (T. Dornbusch, M. Perry, J. Martinez, M. Barre)
Tom Dornbusch reported that he recently attended a meeting arranged by State Representative Jessica Farrar at which he learned that TxDOT has abandoned plans for the large detention pond on the north side of I-10 at Patterson due to ground contamination that is too difficult to mitigate. Mr. Dornbusch also reported that TxDOT now intends to use the Frank Liu property at Half Moon

Bay in the Cottage Grove area for detention. Mr. Dornbusch raised concern that the highway construction is proceeding but the detention pond construction has still yet to begin.

(5) **Bikeway Plans** (F. Herrera, S. Johnson, T. Dornbusch). No update.

(6) **Capacity Building** (J. West, P. Thomason, F. Herrera)
Thanks in part to last year's efforts of the Capacity Building Committee, SN 22 is pleased to welcome a newly formed civic club: Westwood Grove Civic Club.

(7) **Crime** (J. West and J. Simmons)
Mike VanDusen reviewed the information about area crime and crime statistics that the Houston Police Department makes publically available on the internet and offered to help other SN 22 members learn how to use the information to track crime in their communities. Jim Simmons reviewed efforts that Camp Logan has taken to address area crime by developing a citizens watch group. He also discussed educational resources that are available and that SN 22 may like to consider taking advantage of for future meetings.

IV. New Business (20 minutes):

A. City of Houston's Livable Centers Grant Application for the Code Enforcement Center & Washington Ave.

Carlos Doroteo from CM Ed Gonzalez's office described the City of Houston's application for a Livable Centers Grant for the Washington Avenue Corridor. The grant was originally sought to focus on the city's new Code Enforcement Center located at the eastern end of Washington Avenue but has recently been expanded to include that section of Washington Avenue from I-45 to the WOW Roundabout. The grant will be federally funded and administered by the Houston-Galveston Area Council. The grant amount will be \$300,000. Receipt of the grant is contingent upon the ability to pay a "local match" of 20% or \$60,000. The City of Houston is willing to provide \$20,000 towards the local match mostly in the form of in-kind services, and is looking to the community to raise the remaining \$40,000. The fund raising effort is being managed and lead by Peter Brown and his non-profit organization, Better Houston. Contributions are being sought from the two TIRZs in the area (Memorial Heights and Old Sixth Ward), the Washington Avenue Developers Association (WADA), and each of SN 22's constituent neighborhoods. Each neighborhood is being challenged to contribute \$500 towards the local match for this grant. So far Woodcrest and WOW have decided to participate in this challenge. A breakfast with Mayor Parker will be held later this month for all the individuals and representatives of all the organizations that agree to participate.

B. Planning for 2011: An open discussion on possible events and activities to be held this year was held. Proposals made include a new WOW event (following on WOW the Parade and the Walk on Washington event held in 2009), candidate forums for this year's municipal elections, and a new development forum.

V. Announcements, Community Reports, and Open Comments (10 minutes) Important public hearings will be held in the coming months on the city's capital improvement plan (CIP), redistricting, and rebuild Houston efforts. The CIP hearing for District H will be held on February 22nd and the CIP hearing for District G will be held on February 23rd. Please watch the City of Houston's website for additional information about these important hearings.

Implementation of the Quiet Zone east of National Street has been delayed due to a delay in approval from federal authorities. The Quiet Zone in this area has been approved by both the City of Houston and UPRR.

VI. Adjournment: 8:30 p.m.