



Greater Heights

Super Neighborhood Council

SUMMARY NOTES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012
Houston Heights Fire Station and City Hall
Yale St. and W. 12th St., Houston, TX 77008

Prepared by Treasurer and Assistant Secretary Don Hilber for Secretary Blake Masters

Opening Proceedings

Call to Order

President Mark Williamson called the Council to order at 6:38 PM.

Introduction of New Delegates

President Mark Williamson announced that he had received a letter from Shady Acres Civic Club noting that Bob Morgan will be an alternate delegate for that organization. Bob is also able to represent Monte Beach Civic Club because he owns residences in the service area of both civic organizations.

Approval of Summary Notes from Previous Meeting

The delegates approved the minutes from the previous meeting with a few minor corrections noted by President Mark Williamson.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Don Hilber reviewed the status of donations for the current year (July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012). Three member organizations, Clark Pines Civic Association, Monte Beach Civic Club, and Shady Acres Civic Club have pledged totaling \$275. The Houston Heights Association has pledged the use of the Heights Fire Station for monthly GHSNC meetings. An invoice was sent to Shady Acres Civic Club Treasurer as requested. Norhill Neighborhood Association and Sunset Heights Civic Club will make requests at their upcoming meetings. The current account balance is \$159.67.

Announcements from Special Guests

Houston Police Department

Senior Officer Mark Leija reported final Central District crime statistics for 2011, noting decreases for all categories of reported crimes and an overall decrease from 2010 of 12 percent. Recently, there have been reports of door-to-door panhandlers claiming to be out of gas. He mentioned that it was fine to call the Storefront to report suspicious activity and gave a few successful examples of how that resulted in action against truancy, a stolen vehicle, and a home casing. He said the best way to contact him was to send an email to mark.leija@cityofhouston.net.

Senior Officer Leija also reminded the Council about upcoming PIP meetings. The February 7 meeting will highlight precious metals theft and disposition. The format for

the March 6 meeting will be different than usual. Attendees will participate in multiple direct breakout sessions.

GHSNC Crime Prevention Committee Chair Pat Nichols asked for the status of the Storefront wish list. Mark said he would relay that question to the Sergeant, but it was preferred that Pat contacts him directly.

Office of Houston Council Member Edward Gonzalez (District H)

Community Liaison Laura Thorp reported that the City is currently engaged in budget reviews.

Office of State Representative Jessica Farrar (District 148)

Constituent Services Director Sarah Melecki relayed that they are still waiting for the courts to issue a decision on redistricting and that the primary election date was on hold until that was settled.

Office of Houston Council Member Ellen Cohen (District C)

Deputy Chief of Staff David Bonem informed the GHSNC that the District C office is still being organized and it was not certain who, among the three staff and two interns, would regularly attend our monthly meeting. Delegate Pat Nichols (Shady Acres Civic Club) asked how to check on a constituent matter. David provided their office number for contacts, which is 832-393-3004. GHSNC Treasurer Don Hilber asked about the status of the Yale Street resurfacing project, whether it was indeed finished, and informed that status reports of this sort would be welcome on a monthly basis. David said he would check.

Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO)

Connie Roebuck, Community Outreach Representative, METRO, mentioned that recent service cutbacks had resulted in public outcry.

Mayor's Citizens' Assistance Office

Senior Community Liaison Ruben Vela mentioned that SNAP requests had been gathered from various SNCs and were being processed by the Department of Neighborhoods.

Committee Reports

Infrastructure Committee Update

There is currently no chair for the Infrastructure Committee.

Master Transportation Plan

Jonathan Smulian, who leads the planning team, reported that he has now visited Shady Acres Civic Club, Clark Pines Civic Association, and Houston Heights Association to introduce the project and ask that each group supply additional committee members and/or convene to solicit and supply input on transportation-related concerns and desires. He will attempt to visit the remaining member organizations before the end of February. The SWOT analysis has also been sent to all delegates, as requested at the prior month's meeting. Delegate Pat Nichols (Shady Acres Civic Club) suggested that delegates attend meetings in their area that Jonathan is lining up and help the effort by introducing him.

SNAP 2012

President Mark Williamson reported that 17 projects were submitted, coming from Montie Beach Civic Club, Shady Acres Civic Club, Norhill Neighborhood Association,

and Sunset Heights Civic Club. One project was a coordinated effort with SN 22 and the Houston Heights Association.

Bylaws Committee

Delegate Mary Abshier (Clark Pines Civic Association) chairs the Bylaws Committee. She had desired a review of the Standing Rules for 2012-2013 this month, but asked the group whether it might be more appropriate to do mid-year, at the time of elections. All delegates concurred. She will make changes to the document prior to then, circulate to the delegates, and ask that they look it over prior to the official review at the meeting.

Crime Prevention Committee Update

Delegate Pat Nicholls (Shady Acres Civic Club) chairs the Crime Prevention Committee. She has been exploring ways to better support the local HPD Storefront. She also recommended that delegates inform members of their respective organizations to attend the PIP's quarterly gathering during which breakout sessions will be used to solicit neighborhood concerns on crime. This will be held at 7:00 PM on March 6, 2012, at the Houston Police Officers Union building, which is located at 1600 State St., Houston, TX 77007-7730.

Speakers Committee

Delegate Peter Bolds, Jr., (Heights West Home Owners Group) chairs the Speakers Committee. Peter was not in attendance so there was no report.

Updates

Super Neighborhood Alliance (SNA) Report

The SNA is an umbrella organization comprised of representatives from several super neighborhood councils across Houston. Vice President Mary Abshier is our regular representative to the SNA.

Mary announced that there was no SNA meeting to report on since our December meeting. She said she would not be able to attend in January, so Mark Williamson said that he would try to do so.

Closing Proceedings

Announcements and Open Issues

Development at Studewood and 11 1/2 Streets

Delegate Mark Williamson (Houston Heights Association) mentioned that at the December GHSNC meeting, Council Member Ellen Cohen (District C) had been informed that construction progress of the development at Studewood and 11 1/2 Streets had stalled. Subsequently, her staff had found no indication of any financial reasons for the apparent delay in construction.

I-45 Coalition

Sarah Melecki, Constituent Services Director, Office of Representative Jessica Farrar (District 148), said that the I-45 Coalition's meeting to discuss the expansion of I-45 had been postponed until just before the April TxDOT meeting.

Kohler Street Development

Delegate Mark Williamson (Houston Heights Association) asked if anyone knew why the lights were missing from the bridge over White Oak Bayou. Laura Thorp answered that Paul Carr, who is monitoring the 360 agreement provisions for this development, would know.

Next GHSNC Meetings

The next general GHSNC meeting will be **Tuesday, February 21, at 6:30 PM** at the **Houston Heights Fire Station and City Hall** (Yale and West 12th Streets). The GHSNC plans to hold all 2012 meeting at the same location at 6:30 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month unless otherwise announced. The tentative dates for remaining 2012 meetings are as follows: March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20, and December 18.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.