

Neartown Association Monthly Minutes

January 26, 2010

more than usual in attendance

called to order 7:14 P.M.

Steven Costello - Council At Large District 1, newly elected, was in attendance with his wife Debbie - he lives in Vermont Commons
he chairs the drainage & flooding committee

202 Wanda Adams was here
CIP meetings coming up
uproar over recent murder / dumping in First Montrose Commons
will get brush cut and lighting working again in that area
she chairs Neighborhood Protection & Quality of Life committee

We all introduced ourselves

Becky Chapman, who has a new neighborhood coffee business, provided refreshments

Nathan from the City talked about SNAPs
we got a hand out of what Neartown submitted for SNAPs in 2009 to review of the original submissions from all montrose neighborhoods,
12 fell under 311 guidelines
1 was a CIP
4 did not fit any category
13 (?) were sent in under SNAP requests

Jeron from Wanda Adams's office talked about SNAPs and security

Office Wayne Pate from our storefront gave a recent crime / cop update between 2:00-4:00 this very day, they got 6 guys for narcotics, possession, parole violation
VICE will be working intensely in our area soon
HPD is pushing Citizens on Patrol; Wayne does the training
Parking Management may be the culprit for parking tickets, not HPD

Jason Ginsberg from First Montrose Commons talked about the recent murder / dumping
Our area should not be somewhere where criminals feel safe

Jonathan Smulian talked about Houston's "Historic District - A Design Guild" and proposed ordinance
Houston has the weakest protection ordinance in Texas, and probably in the U.S.
we are losing 2 ½ old / historic buildings a week - will wipe them all out in just a few years
he is proposing guidelines, not requirements

try to keep new construction compatible with size, design, etc., of existing architecture in any given block
includes neighborly & environmental considerations
it's on the City's website; no hard copies available due to budget constraints
pressure is greater in Montrose than in the Heights for higher density
Montrose has 7, maybe 8 Historic Districts, out of the City's total of 14

Robert gave the PIP report

Adjourned to go drink coffee and eat cake at 8:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Julie Young
Secretary