

Nearatown Association  
May 27, 2014  
Minutes

Greg LeGrande called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

1). Security Committee Report on The Montrose Management District Security Initiative – Jason Ginsburg reviewed the Montrose Management District’s security patrol. Although it is funded by businesses and they patrol mainly business areas, they do patrol our residential streets, too, and the patrol is for anyone. Anyone can call and report problems or ask for help. (832) 370-9191. [KLW1] Your call will be answered by an HPD cop, off duty for HPD but on duty for MMD, who knows our area and will get to the location much more quickly than regular HPD dispatch, plus he understands the unique-but-rapidly-changing character of the ‘hood. The MMD also has security cameras around the area, about six, and they are moved periodically, and have helped greatly to reduce crime, mainly BMVs in secluded spots behind businesses. Officer Victor Beserra is head of the MMD’s security patrol, and is available to talk about the patrol at neighborhood association meetings.

2). Infrastructure Committee Report on Complete Streets, City of Houston Proposals – Lloyd Matzner and Sherry Weesner reviewed Houston’s 2014 Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan Amendment Request ([http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/mobility/14\\_MTFPRequests.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/mobility/14_MTFPRequests.html)) and related programs. The Amendment request has been made as part of an annual review by the City to identify sections of roads that need lengthening or widening or changing of designation. Items Reviewed and discussed were:  
It was noted that changes of road designation from local to collector or collector to thoroughfare can have the effect of increasing priority for road repairs.  
The proposed amendments are based on the 2013 Inner West Loop Mobility Study ([http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/mobility/CMP/IWL/Houston\\_IWL\\_Report.pdf](http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/mobility/CMP/IWL/Houston_IWL_Report.pdf)) which moves Houston toward the Complete Streets Model, oriented toward more pedestrian-friendly and bike-friendly streets.  
The committee, which now also includes Ben Garry, distributed a report that indicates which streets in Nearatown are part of the amendment request, and shows what reclassifications, changes in number of lanes, and right-of-way expansions are being requested.  
There was discussion about what impact the requested changes might have in the neighborhood, and a related discussion on how Rebuild Houston street repair priorities are set.

3). Other –  
The Hyde Park Association voiced concern about a 6 to 9 story high rise building with 2 levels of underground parking being permitted at the intersection of Commonwealth and Fairview. Concerns were stress on existing infrastructure, possible effect of underground excavation on adjoining property foundations and the builder’s intention on building to the nearest allowed to property boundaries and maximum allowed height. The civic association is pursuing discussions with the developer.

Jack Valinski reported that registration begins in June for the City’s Back 2 School Fest that happens in August. The City is also looking for volunteers to assist with the Fest.  
<http://www.mayorsbacktoschoolfesthouston.org/index.html>

Useful link on City of Houston Tax Allocation: <http://hfdapp.houstontx.gov/MyTaxDollar/>

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.