

Neartown Association Meeting

August 25, 2015 – 7:00 PM

Cherryhurst Park Community Center, 1700 Missouri St

Minutes

Greg LeGrande called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

- 1) Introductions – Following general introductions, Tom McCasland, candidate for City Council At Large Position 1 introduced himself and provided a brief background.
- 2) Neartown Sponsored Mayor and City Council Forum – Greg announce the plan for a candidate forum scheduled for Wednesday October 21st at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church from 7PM to 8:30PM. Since early voting will have begun on the 19th, this will likely be billed as “Last Chance to be Informed Forum with Time to Mingle.” Paul Terry and Macy Bodenhamer have agreed to co-chair the event. Greg requested anyone who would like to assist to email him. Caroline Garry indicated that she would be available to help. A discussion followed on possible formats, issues to address, how to take a fresh approach, etc.
- 3) Montrose TIRZ Update – Kay Warhol gave a progress update on the proposal for a Montrose TIRZ. At an August 4, 2015 meeting of the City Council Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee, Andy Icken and Gwen Tillotson of the Mayor’s Economic Development Office presented current plans regarding the TIRZ proposals that have been put forward. Web link : <https://www.dropbox.com/s/debq1xxwygm1rb/TIRZ%20Review%20City%20Council%20Budget%20and%20Fiscal%20Affairs%20Committee%20Aug%204%202015.pdf?dl=0> .Because of a new ruling that permits the City to include industrial districts in its calculations of total taxable property value, the percentage of value represented by existing TIRZs is ~14%, well under the 25% maximum percentage permitted by state law. The value of all new TIRZs, and annexations/extensions of existing TIRZ would bring the total up to ~18%. Thus the City now intends to work toward the approval of all current TIRZ proposals, including Montrose. The extensions and annexations will likely be taken up first, with the 3 proposed new TIRZ to be considered in October.
Council Member Cohen is expected to hold public meetings to receive comments on the Montrose TIRZ – timing to be determined – and she is also requesting letters of support from each of the civic association’s member organizations of the Neartown Association and the Neartown Association, as soon as possible for presenting to the Mayor’s office. Letters should be addressed to CM Cohen; Greg will circulate key points that should be addressed to civic association presidents later this week.
- 4) Other
 - Public meeting on W. Alabama reconstruction – Caroline provided a summary of discussion at the recent meeting held by Public Works to gather input on options for configuration of W. Alabama as it is rebuilt over the next several years. Plans include removal of the reverse lane and addition of bike lanes. Caroline offered the Winlow Place blog as a source for more detailed info on the options discussed at the meeting (link: <http://www.winlowplace.org/blog/2015/8/3/share-your-opinion-on-west-alabama>). She also noted that the Planning Commission had approved the Planning Department staff recommendation for the 2015 Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan

- that W. Alabama be reclassified as a 2-lane Major Collector from a 4-lane Major Collector, although they also voted to specify a 70-ft right-of-way vs. the current 60-ft.
- Dunlavy reclassification – Paul Terry noted that three neighborhoods adjacent to Dunlavy: Lancaster Place, Mandell Place, and Winlow Place had together succeeded in demonstrating community support for the Planning Department recommendation to reclassify Dunlavy from a 4-lane Major Collector to a 2-lane Major Collector and retain the current 60-ft right-of-way, and the Planning Commission approved the staff recommendation for Dunlavy.
 - Carolyn Garrard invited all to the Covenant House “Roundtable with Ronda” at noon on September 24th – lunch with the CEO followed by a tour and youth presentation (<http://www.covenanthousetx.org/events/index.html>).
 - Holli Robinson reported that long-planned work of the Montrose Management District to redo esplanades, add signs, and install new lights on the 59 bridges will soon be underway, with plans to complete by the end of 2016 at the latest.
 - Glen Austin with the Amanda Edwards campaign for City Council At Large Position 4 spoke briefly about the candidate.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Neartown Association Attendance List

				Date:
				Page:
	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone</u>
1	GREG LEGRANDE	NEARTOWN AVONDALE	glegrande@tgrbp.com	713-598-6291
2	JACK VALINSKI	CON	JACK.VALINSKI@HoustonTX.GOV	
3	Hollie Robinson	MONTROSE MGMT DISTRICT	HRobinson@MontroseMgmtDistrict-	
4	Carolyn Garrard	COVENANT HOUSE TX	cgarrard@covenanthouse.org	713-630-5619
5	STEVE LONGMIRE	FIRST MONTROSE COMMONS	Steve.longmire@gmail.com	832-655-5257
6	Tom McCasland	City Council A+League	tom.mccasland@gmail.com	713-444-4151
7	Traci Elsner	City of Houston-DIST C	traci.elsner@houstontx.gov	832-393-3004
8	Caroline Garry	Winlow Place	carolinebgarry@gmail.com	512-659-4342
9	KAY Warhol	WINLOW PLACE	warholk@subell.net	713 529 3067
10	Sherry Weesner	East Montrose	sleeuw@gmail.com	281-610-3985
11	PAUL TERRY	LANCASTER PL	paortet@gmail.com	512-779-8450
12	Glen Austin	Amanda Edwards Campaign	glenaustin2014@gmail.com	903 277 2751
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