



## **Museum Park Super Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes**

- Council Member Attendees: Kathleen O'Reilly, Sandy Stevens, Barbara McGuffey, Doreen Stoller, Kyle Wolfe, Willard Holmes, Ruth Ann Skaff, and Paul Wilson.
- Other Attendees: Juan Antonio Sorto, Sgt. E.V. Flores, Sgt. Johnnie McGee, Dawn Malone, Nikki Knight, Jennifer Ostlind, Peter Eccles, Tammie Kahn, Shavonda Johnson, Brad Levy, Cindy Woods, Carl Davis, Geoff Carlton, Dwight Boykins, David Robinson.

**Date:** January 9, 2019

**Location:** Farish Media Center, Museum Of Fine Arts, Houston

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

### **Guest Presentations:**

#### **HPD Sargents Eric Flores and McGee**

Second trash cleanup took place yesterday, January 8, at Main and Blodgett. HPD is in touch with Navigators from the Coalition for the Homeless in order to connect the homeless with appropriate services. Several smaller encampments located under the Pierce Elevated, near Alabama & 288, near Richmond and spur 527, and at Main & Blodgett continue to create trash and unsanitary conditions. Sgt. Flores has submitted a proposal to address the encampment issues in these areas. His proposal must be cleared with the mayor's office before being made public. Midtown and Downtown use their own sanitation teams for cleanup of trash. Sgt. Flores has posed that idea to Southeast Management. Midtown spent \$157,000 for trash pick-up under Wheeler before the closure.

MFAH COO Willard Holmes reported that the museums are experiencing the same issues that neighborhoods are seeing. Museums have beefed up their security. Security officers escort trespassers off property and make a report. Sgt. Flores asked that museums keep a record for HPD.

Sgt. McGee reported that the break-in/shooting on north side of neighborhood is under investigation. Recent robberies reported at Java Lava, Barnaby's. Robberies committed by individuals posing as Uber drivers are targeting bar patrons.

#### **Council Member Dwight Boykins:**

Commended President Kathleen O'Reilly and the Super Neighborhood. Commended HPD for their work. He announced HEB-ground breaking is scheduled for February, 2019, exact date not yet determined. He invited everyone to be present.

#### **Council Member David Robinson (At-large Position 2):**

Introduced himself as an architect, who chairs the transportation/technology/infrastructure committee.

**City of Houston Planning Department Jennifer Ostlind & Peter Eccles**

Austin/La Branch are identified as priority bikeway corridors. Funding for the bikeway comes from City/County Partnership with Commissioner Rodney Ellis pledging \$10 mil. to expand high-comfort bikeways (a bikeway without high-speed/high-volume traffic). The city will lead planning, public engagement, and provide additional funding.

Regional Spines: Using bayou trails as anchors, the bikeways will connect multiple communities (Houstonbikeplan.org). The proposed Austin/La Branch Bikeway will be a rapid implementation bikeway, using existing roadways.

Austin Corridor begins at Buffalo Bayou on Austin and links Downtown to Midtown, Museum District, Hermann Park, and the Texas Medical Center.

The Bikeway crosses from Austin to La Branch at Houston Community College where it will take advantage of the Pedestrian/Bikeway through campus. Why La Branch? Traffic signals along La Branch at major intersections enhance safety. The bikeway will switch to Crawford as it approaches Binz.

Discussion followed. Topics included safety for bikers as they cross Binz, Hermann Drive. Four way stop across Hermann Drive.

Nikki Knight indicated HouSE is working on traffic calming techniques within the district.

Juan Antonio Sorto asked about funding: Commissioner Ellis is providing \$10 mil. and the city is providing \$1 mil.

Timeline for the Bikeway: Stakeholder meeting is scheduled for January 10, with 50% design completed by mid January, 90% design late February, and 100% design mid March. Construction begins in late March. Public Works Department will maintain the bikeway.

No negative impacts as a result of this program. More safely connect our neighborhood to downtown, mid-town, Buffalo Bayou, etc. Dollars invested in bikeways improves safety for everyone.

**Houston Southeast Nikki Knight:**

As the first step in implementing the Livable Centers Study, HouSE has chosen SWA to develop a conceptual design for Caroline Promenade Project. HouSE engaged SWA in November, with a project meeting scheduled in two weeks, and a stakeholder meeting scheduled two weeks after that. Timeline is six months for completion of design. The design will extend along Caroline from Hwy 59 to Hermann Drive. Funding of \$100,000 from District D has been matched by HouSE to cover the \$200,000 cost of the conceptual design. The Goodman Corp continues to look for implementation grant monies beyond the current application for Houston-Galveston Area Council, which has not yet been announced.

**Secretary's Report:** Council members asked to initial their approval of November and October minutes.

**President's Report:**

- Proposed slate of officers for 2019 includes Kathleen O'Reilly, President; Paul Wilson, Vice President, and Ruth Ann Skaff, Secretary/Treasurer (Sandy Stevens will serve as Secretary support). Willard Holmes moved that the slate be approved as presented & Barbara McGuffey seconded. Slate was approved unanimously.
- Maria Irshad reported in December that the proposed ordinances creating the Community Parking Program were still in legal. No word since then.
- Hermann Park Conservancy Doreen Stoller announced a public meeting for the Commons at Hermann Park slated for February 7, 6:00-7:00, at the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion. Plans are also underway for a dog park.

Paul moved to adjourn 7:10 p.m.