



Museum Park Super Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes

- Council Member Attendees: Kathleen O'Reilly, Sandy Stevens, Paul Wilson, Christopher Eriksen, Susan Young, Ruth Ann Skaff, Michael Gillespie.
- Other Attendees: Thomas Wang, Idalid Navarro, Carl Davis, Barbara McGuffey
- **Date:** February 14, 2018

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

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Approval of Minutes from December, January meetings

Idalid Navarro, intern from Amanda Edwards' office, introduced herself.

Thomas Wang introduced himself as the Republican candidate running for Texas Congressional District 147 (current representative is Garnet Coleman). His concerns include unresponsive city and state governments. He hopes to bring more cohesiveness and local control.

Thomas also reported Midtown Super Neighborhood has conducted two stakeholder meetings. They are currently finalizing their by-laws and on track to get approval from the city in May or June. The future SN is resident centric currently reaching out to churches and non-profits. Not many businesses involved at this point.

President's Report:

- Kathleen reported on recent meeting of stakeholders concerning the US59 suppression. Main Street Alliance, since 1976, has looked at big system issues regarding integration of our area. The area, where US59 crosses Main Street, Fannin, San Jacinto, and Almeda, includes a number of overlapping agencies. MSA hosted the meeting that engaged Midtown, Metro, City of Houston Public Works and Planning Department, TXDoT, and TIRZ. The Planning Department will be taking the lead on this effort.

Central Houston (501c3), representing property owners in one square mile of downtown and who helped formulate laws creating the management districts and TIRZ's, has agreed to fund the initial design concept using SWA architects.

Rice Endowment owns old Sears Building land representing about nine acres. RE has engaged HR&A to do a master plan for the properties RE owns. SWA will be organizing meetings for public input.

- 'Community Parking' seems to be on hold. Julies Farr reports that museums are requesting bus drop off (on Southmore at Asia Society and on Caroline at Holocaust). Museum District is currently exploring bus parking area under US59.

Safety and Security

Chris continues contact with HPD and TXDOT regarding the encampment under US59. He reports that wood and charcoal are the only materials that are approved to burn in open fires within the city. Residents are concerned because of black acrid smoke and continue to report fires with smoke. There have been recent reports of gunfire under the freeway. The city and ACLU are engaged in mediation; the deadline for mediation has been extended to the end of March. Sgt. Nguyen shared that HPD is still offering social services, but also being vigilant to spot drug deals and other illegal activities. If you're north of 59 call the SEAL Team (private security contracted by Midtown Management District) and who now have a relationship with PIT (Public Intoxication Team).

VP Report

Paul reported that Covenant Church annex should be finished and moved in by September.

Suggested Goals for 2018 (Discussion)

1. Parking for busses. Metered parking in the area?
2. Curbing throughout the neighborhood; improve infrastructure.
3. Reduce sign clutter; during review of parking plan, reduce parking signage and design it to be more impactful.
4. LCS: What is the vision for a culture trail? Discuss the culture trail with Montrose, Third Ward, Hermann Park, and Museum Park. Engage professional design services for that discussion. Find examples of culture trails. Museum Park will begin looking for concept money.

Can we use our public right of way to develop culture trail? Discussion followed: Use of sculpture in public ROW was suggested. The Houston Arts Alliance has a great civic art program. They might be able to facilitate a culture trail approach. Concern expressed regarding expense and maintenance of public art. The esplanades can work as part of culture trail.

Culture trail linking the three neighborhoods is an exciting concept, building in resiliency and a bike trail. Does it need to be a master plan? Grant opportunities: health, education, and environment. Would Hermann Park Conservancy have a role in this? Get a design team and then pull together an advisory group: Robert Muhammad, Jim Blackburn, Harris County Extension Service, etc.

5. Better engagement with the management district. Better safety and security.
6. Cap Parks over US59.

Adjourned 6:40p.m.