



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

- Council Member Attendees: Doreen Stoller, Sandra Stevens, Kathleen O'Reilly, Greg Quintero, Alex Triantaphyllis, Kamina Jamison, Paul Wilson, Cynthia Tang, Jose Ferrero, Kim Mickelson
- Other Attendees: Barbara McGuffey, Truong Lam, Thomas Wang, Carl Davis, Sean Quitzau, Shavonda Johnson, Cynthia Aceves-Lewis, Justin McCullough, Melissa Arrendondo, Sgt. S. Farquhar,

**Date:** August 10, 2016

**Location:** Farish Media Center

**Time:** 5:37 pm

While at Rice University, Truong Lam initiated a student coalition to reach out to the homeless. Since graduation, Truong has expanded the coalition, The Village Connect, into the community. The goal of Village Connect is to serve as a bridge between the homeless and the services available to them in Houston.

Sean Quitsau, Mayors' Office on Homeless Initiatives, indicated that the city has made strides to synthesize homeless services to achieve such a goal. Sean and Truong indicated they would follow up with a meeting.

#### **Safety and Security:**

- Sgt. Farquhar of HPD's South Central Station indicated that although the homeless have been concentrating under US 59 at Main, the number has been reduced over the last few weeks.
- Sgt. Farquhar has requested the Wendy's (Main Street) property owner to turn off the water at a spigot on the back of the building. Farquhar indicated to the owner the need to fence the property.
- Sgt. Farquhar met on 8/10 with Gerard Clishan of TxDOT to show him problems HPD was facing on TxDOT right of way under US 59. TxDOT does not like to fence areas they own or request trespassing enforcement, because the public owns the property. Sgt. Farquhar will be meeting with the safety supervisor from TxDOT August 11.
- 1968 contract between the City of Houston and TxDOT making them jointly responsible for the maintenance of TxDOT right of way within the City may be an avenue for enforcement. Sgt. Farquhar is exploring that avenue.
- Sean Quitsau indicated that outreach teams are out on a daily basis to offer services to the homeless.
- Sgt. Farquhar indicated that when law enforcement takes measures in one area (Hermann Park), it results in the homeless moving to another (under US 59).
- An art installation under the US 59 overpass at Main was suggested as a way to enhance the area. Kathleen asked Thomas Wang to take on a leadership role in developing art for the area. Jose Ferrero and Barbara McGuffey indicated they would be willing to work on the project.
- Jose Ferrero indicated seeing prostitution in the US 59 @Main overpass area. Sgt. Farquhar indicated such activity follows as the homeless community builds.
- Chronic homeless who have been on the streets for years often suffer mental health and substance abuse issues. The Mayor's Office is seeking ways to address these issues, which will likely include lobbying the state legislature.

#### **President's Report:**

- HouSE (Houston Southeast) has made available a draft copy of the *Exiting Conditions Report* as part of the *HouSE Community Plan*. Discussion followed: Suggested that HouSE connect with Midtown Management

District to coordinate plans for Caroline to insure continuity. Economic development strategies include assisting businesses with developing signage for their property. Consultants are developing gateway signage for HouSe neighborhoods not including Museum Park and the Medical Center. Suggested that MPSN Business Reps might meet with HouSe to define how to include Museum Park Businesses.

- Livable Centers Draft Final Report has been circulated to MPSN Council Members. Please submit your comments by Monday, August 15.

#### **Old Business:**

- 501c3 Application- We are proudly incorporated and 501c3 app will go in perhaps next week. 501c3 status will allow us to seek funding to implement the Livable Centers Study.

#### **New Business:**

- Business Alliance Representative changes approved by current reps, Rusty Hruska, Ernesto Maldonado, Orgena Keener.
  - Rusty Hruska will serve solely as past president.
  - Cynthia Tang, Pinson & Tang, LLC to assume Business Representative position and serve as technology consultant for MPSN.
  - Jose Ferrero, Arka Living, to assume Business Representative position.
  - Orgena Keener, Kaffeine Coffee, to move to Business Representative Alternate.

Kim Mickelson moved to accept these changes. Paul Wilson seconded. Motion carried.

- Southmore/Mann Project. City has declined to close Palm Street. Current concern is possible widening of Southmore. Discussion followed: Wider streets do not mean more through put of traffic. Any traffic back-up on Southmore is the result of timing of traffic lights because of light rail. Concern expressed that widening Southmore between San Jacinto and Fannin would result in loss of 60+ year-old trees. MPSN is working through CM Boykin's office to access draft traffic impact assessment (TIA) for the proposed widening. Also pursuing a meeting with CoH Traffic Engineering group.
- Super Bowl Opportunities. Susan Young, in her role as member of CoH Super Bowl Committee, is looking for projects during Super Bowl Week. One suggestion is for MPSN to host a series of events along Caroline. More clarification needed.

#### **Announcements:**

- Hermann Park Master Plan Update is scheduled Aug. 24, 6-8 pm, Cherie Flores Pavilion. Meeting will include discussion of goals and input from the public. A draft plan will be presented in October, with the final plan completed in December. HPC is committed to improving pedestrian connections at all four corners of the park including safer crosswalks.
- Museum District will host a meeting of Museum Directors August 25, 1:00 pm, Asia Society regarding LCS and HPC mobility plans.
- Final note on the Homeless issue. Sean Quitsau indicated that Houston has provided housing for approximately 5,000 people in the last few years. Call Metro police regarding concerns at the Wheeler Station. If someone is under the influence, Metro Police will call the transport team to take individuals to the sobering center.

**Adjourned:** 6:45 p.m.

**Upcoming Meeting:** Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Sandy Stevens, Secretary