



MUSEUM PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
General Meeting
September 6, 2016
Clayton Library Carriage House
6:00 pm

MINUTES

President's Report: Greg Quintero called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm and it was determined by show of hands that a quorum of members was present.

- Several photographs of traffic and damage to the esplanade caused by construction vehicles on Caroline Street were shown.
- The continuing problem of the homeless under the Highway 59 overpass was brought up and it was mentioned that a letter was being sent to Ellen Cohen, Houston City Council, District C, in which the overpass is located.
 - The suggestion was made that members and others send photos of ongoing problems to any of the MPNA Board members.
 - It was noted that it is counterproductive to give food or money to the homeless because there is more productive help for them at a number of agencies in the area.
- Election of Board Members will be held at the November MPNA General meeting.
 - Nomination forms may be found on the MPNA website.
 - A member may nominate him or herself for a Board position.
 - Nominations will be taken from the floor on the night of the election.
- Trees in Median of Texas 288
 - Greg introduced Raynese Edwards, Public Information Officer for Blueridge Transportation Company, the developer for the project. Construction will be done by Almeda Genoa Construction Co. TxDOT has contracted with both these companies who will maintain and repair the roadway for 50 years after which it will revert to TxDOT.
 - The \$817 million project is a 10.3-mile express toll road for cars from Hwy 59 to the Brazoria county line. It will consist of two toll lanes in each direction running through the current median on Texas 288 with ramps to access the Texas Medical Center, Loop 610, and Beltway 8.
 - It is hoped that the trees currently in the median can be saved.
 - Some will be moved to other areas in Houston.
 - It is hoped that trees can be kept in the middle of the lanes.
 - New trees may be planted.
 - A map of the project was distributed. A copy is attached to these minutes.
 - The segments are not in order
 - The section at Texas 288 and the Beltway will be started first.
 - Construction will begin October 3 and the companies have 1000 days to get to Beltway 8 which should be midsummer – fall 2020. Past Beltway to the Brazoria line will be done by Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA).
 - Another public meeting will be held at the end of September and will be posted on the website.

Vice President's Report: Sandy Stevens was not present. No Report.

Secretary's Report: Janet Fayle reported only that the minutes from the August 3 meeting were posted on the MPNA website.

Treasurer's Report: Cynthia Tang was not present.

- In her absence Greg reported that the organization has changed to a new smaller Post Office Box which will result in a refund.
- The new address is P.O. Box 8101, Houston, Texas 77288-8101. This new address is also posted on the website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee Chairman's Report: Barbara McGuffey

- Barbara asked anyone at the meeting for the first time to stand and introduce themselves.

Community Engagement Committee Chairman's Report: Cindy Woods

- Help is needed for National Night Out on October 4. A sign-up sheet was passed for those present to volunteer to help.
- The Miller Outdoor Theater Event will be held the evening of Saturday, September 17.
 - Bring your picnic supper and meet in the picnic area just north of the pavilion from 6:00 to 7:30pm. The MPNA will provide lemonade, wine, and cookies.
 - The Phare Cambodian Circus program will start at 8:00pm and tickets for the seated area will be available on a first-come-first serve basis.
- A fundraising dinner at Bodega's will be held in late October or Early November. For every dinner purchased Bodega's will give an amount to MPNA. Sign-up will be announced as soon as the date is finalized and registration and payment will be on the website.
- The annual holiday dinner at Lucille's will be on December 5.
- A drawing was held for all new or renewal members from last month. Kenneth or Shannon Kemp were the winners of a gift certificate from Scrappy Brown's.
- Greg discussed the increased focus on neighborhood security for National Night Out.
 - A color-coded map of areas in the neighborhood is planned.
 - Colored stickers matching the colors of the areas will be available for placing on a nametag.
 - When a sticker matching the colored sticker of your neighborhood area is seen on someone it will be an opportunity to meet a person who lives near you.
 - Knowing your neighbors is a first defense against crime.

Community and Infrastructure Chairman's Report: Kathleen O'Reilly was absent because she was attending the first meeting regarding the proposed HEB Grocery Store on MacGregor. Greg mentioned that the Livable Center Study had not been finalized.

Safety and Security Committee Chairman's Report: Open Position

- Greg gave a report on the Citizens-on-Patrol program (COP) progress
 - No funding has been allocated for overtime spent to train people for the COP program.
 - Training is proposed for 4-6pm with the policeman in charge of the training arranging to go in one-hour later and leave an hour later thereby negating the need for overtime.
 - No dates have been set but information will be given as soon as it is available.

Preservation Committee Chairman's Report: Kim Mickelson was absent. Greg reported that she was working on gathering historical data for the neighborhood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dale Wilson asked about a letter he had heard that MPNA had sent to CM Boykins after the June 1 meeting that included the statement that MPNA was still in opposition to the abandonment/sale of Palm Street to the Museo Plaza developer.

- In response Greg Quintero said that the Association opposed the process by which the City of Houston had approved the closure and the lack of information that was received from the developer. Greg also informed Dale Wilson that several MPNA members had subsequently and independently pursued the "greenspace" option with no recommendations. Without having any new information, the Board has not changed its position in opposition to the abandonment/sale of Palm Street
- Barbara McGuffey told Dale Wilson that he could go to our website to find a report of the process taken, the concerns/issues of the Board, documents, and more information posted there under "Palm Street Abandonment Update."
- The closure of Palm Street has been denied by the City and is not moving forward at this time although new proposals by the developer could reopen the discussion.
- Currently there is only funding for building the new medical office building.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Fayle

Secretary, Museum Park Neighborhood Association

