



## MPNA General Meeting Minutes

Date: June 6, 2018

Location: Covenant Church

Time: 6pm - Meeting brought to order by Barbara McGuffey

### President's Report: Barbara McGuffey-VP substituting for Sandy Stevens-President

- Guest: Marilyn Brown with the Coalition for the Homeless update. [See Coalition report below.](#)
- Guest: Mr. Isaiah Monroe from 311. He details how to use 311 and how it works. 311 provides information services. Open 24/7, 311 has 52 full time and 20 part time workers. 311 has 148 different types of service requests that are filled.
  - 311 App: Download the 311 app for iPhone or android and use the app to submit a problem.
  - Call 311 and talk to a 311 operator. You can report problems anonymously or you can provide your email address to have the case #/report emailed to you, which will allow you to follow the progress/completion. If you have a question, just call. Also check the website because the problem may have already been reported. Hover over the red dot on the map to see details or status.
  - [www.houston311.org](http://www.houston311.org) where you can submit a problem or check to see what problems 311 to get an answer!
  - Email 311 with a problem to: [311@houstontx.gov](mailto:311@houstontx.gov)
- **Preservation: Lynn Dahlberg**  
Bicycle Museum is relocating in October 2018. Please stop in before that and view the 6,000 square foot museum filled with bicycles.

### Barbara McGuffey VP (Presidents report continued)

- Parking Management Meetings were held May 15 & 16<sup>th</sup>. Please continue to email any comments to <http://www.parking@houstontx.gov>. Parking Management will hold additional meetings in late July.
- Green Team: (Cynthia and Jill absent) Barbara delivered report. Green Team completed 55 hours of volunteer work in May, including clearing storm drain in front of Clayton Library. You can be involved; just reach out Cynthia Tang or Jill Miller. If you know someone needs help (particularly a senior citizen), please let the Green Team know.
- Pedestrian Safety: Handout (attached below) gives details on how to reach City to request a safer crossing solution for Hermann Drive.

**MPSN Report: Kathleen O'Reilly (Absent).**

- Barbara delivered request for members to attend the Cap Parks Public Meeting, July 10. Thanks to Kathleen for all her work on getting the Cap Parks started.
- Flood Control meeting to present revised guidelines scheduled for June 9. More information at [Houstonrecovers.org](http://Houstonrecovers.org).
- Question was raised about Holocaust Museum property where the Bicycle Museum is currently located as well as where the \$275,000, originally slated for the green space behind Clayton, will be allocated. MPNA does not have additional information at this time but is investigating.

**Secretary's report: Bill Powell**

- No report

**Treasurer's Report: Cynthia Tang (Absent)**

- Barbara reported current balance of \$20,000 plus in the bank. Funding to implement Livable Center study will be needed.

**Parliamentarian- Kim Mickelson (Absent)**

- No report

**Membership: Louis Selig absent (Absent)**

- No report

**Community Engagement: Cindy Woods**

- Happy hour at Spanish Village will be held immediately following this meeting.
- August 2 is the HPD Back to School Bash
- Sept 28<sup>th</sup> is Miller Outdoor Theatre
- Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> is National Night Out

**Safety & Security report: Chris Eriksen**

- No additional update on encampment.
- Parking and Noise issue on Alameda: If you or a neighbor has concerns regarding noise coming from bars near you, please send an email noting your concerns along with your contact information to [info@museumparkna.org](mailto:info@museumparkna.org). Other Neighborhood Associations from this area have formed a group to address these concerns. Susan Puhls reported about her meeting with Parking Management, which included neighbors on her block near Alameda, to discuss their specific concerns. Susan will be working with Parking Management to schedule more meetings with neighbors near the Alameda corridor.
- Dog Walker Program, working to get HPD on board with this program.

**Announcements:**

- July 10: Cap Park Design, Public Input meeting
- August 26: Boone's Cycles 50<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration.
- Avalas Hair Stylist is new to neighborhood
- Package theft... unidentified resident, reported he has pictures of thief taking package, opening it and saw it contained books so he discarded without taking it. Barbara encouraged the resident to report to HPD.

## Weekly Update from the Coalition for the Homeless

June 6, 2018

- The work currently underway at Wheeler Encampment is new for The Way Home; large encampments are relatively new to our city. As outreach teams are working with clients and as the Coalition is working with the neighborhood, we are taking note of what works, what doesn't, and what new issues arise and continue to refine our actions.
  - One new issue that we have noted is what happens when clients are housed from encampments, specifically, what happens with their belongings. Housing navigators often have personal/work vehicles that are not very large, so client belongings must be moved in over multiple trips. We are currently figuring out how/if we can make this process quicker.
  - Clients may return to the encampment after they are housed for a few reasons: to collect additional belongings, and/or because they miss their friends and their communities. Depending on where clients are housed, it can be challenging for them to find new friends and groups to socialize with.
  - The Coalition is also figuring out how to balance our desire to be transparent with neighborhoods impacted by homeless encampments with clients' right to privacy. The Coalition cannot share specific client stories by name.
- Public Education Campaign update:
  - Short-term: engaging the neighborhood in advocacy to find a way to close the encampment and prevent new individuals from moving into the encampment.
  - Long-term: a "Better Way To Give" public education campaign to educate charities and groups about how to get involved with organizations who can help end homelessness instead of just managing it.
  - Homeless service agencies who are partners of The Way Home may conduct outreach at encampments in addition to other Housing and Encampment Housing Navigators. These homeless outreach partners may use food, toiletries, and other items to encourage homeless individuals to engage with them. These agencies can connect homeless individuals with housing and so are different than well-meaning individuals and charity groups who bring food and leave without making a more permanent impact.
- Update on the status of the "by-name" list of individuals experiencing homelessness and living at Wheeler encampment:
  - 71 homeless individuals were identified as living at Wheeler encampment on April 25, 2018.
    - Of those 71 homeless individuals, 10 of them are not chronically homeless and therefore don't qualify for The Way Home's housing programs – but they have been referred to Income Now so they can access employment and income as a means to resolve their homelessness.

- Of those 71 homeless individuals, 61 of them fit the definition of being chronically homeless and were referred to both a Permanent Supportive Housing program and a Housing Navigator who will help them move into that program.
  - **Of those 61 chronically homeless individuals, 25 people have been housed since April 25, 2018.**
    - Initially, the pace was quicker because of a new PSH development that had opened. That development is now full, so staff are having to re-route some referrals to housing.
    - Another reason for the slowing pace is that a large portion of the population living at the encampment are very difficult to engage with. In addition to barriers like substance abuse, mental illness, and challenging criminal backgrounds, other obstacles to housing include:
      - Someone who works full-time and is having a hard time making appointments for housing lest she lose her job,
      - Someone who is waiting on paperwork and identification documentation to arrive from out of state
      - Another person has been referred to Homeless Court but is afraid he will be arrested again (although no one gets arrested at Homeless Court).
  - Another 8 of those 61 chronically homeless individuals have left the encampment and/or can no longer be located.
- During the day, there are anywhere from 15-30 “hangers on” at Wheeler encampment who are not homeless and do not sleep in the encampment, but they loiter, prey on the homeless individuals living at Wheeler, abuse drugs, etc. Typically, these “hangers on” leave the encampment when homeless agency staff members show up.
- Since April 25, 3 new individuals have shown up to and are living at the encampment.

The Way Home housing navigators are still concentrating on the original list, but are taking note of those arriving for the next wave of outreach and engagement.

- For example, one of the new people who arrived at the encampment is a homeless Veteran; since The Way Home has effectively ended Veteran homelessness, he is being immediately connected with rental assistance through the VA’s Permanent Supportive Housing Program.

## HERMANN DRIVE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SAFETY

Several MPNA members and MPNA Board members have become increasingly concerned about pedestrian/bicycle safety when crossing Hermann Drive to go our Museum Park neighborhood into Hermann Plk.

The recent deaths of 2 bicyclists at the Sunset/Main intersection have further emphasized that our Museum Park residents need to make the City of Houston aware of any safety crossing issues along Hermann Drive.

- Vehicle traffic can be quite heavy along Hermann Drive;
- Speeds can be quite high;
- Visibility of pedestrians is compromised;
- Pedestrian crossing signs or markings are not always readily visible to drivers;
- Many drivers are unaware that Texas law requires a driver to stop at marked pedestrian crosswalks when a pedestrian enters the crosswalk.

Possible solutions can be identified but the City must first determine that a safety problem exists and your voices need to be heard!

**If you have experienced or observed safety concerns when crossing Hermann Drive, please email those concerns with specific stories, pictures, and any specific street intersection to:**

[Jeffrey.Weatherford@houstontx.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Weatherford@houstontx.gov)

Jeff Weatherford, Deputy Director, Transportation and Drainage

[Ian.Hlavacek@houstontx.gov](mailto:Ian.Hlavacek@houstontx.gov)

Ian Hlavacek, Supervising Engineer

We also encourage you to copy [info@museumparkna.org](mailto:info@museumparkna.org) on your email.

Thank you,

Museum Park Neighborhood Association