



## MPNA General Meeting Minutes

Date: January 2, 2019

Location: Covenant Church

Time: 6:06 pm - Meeting brought to order by Sandy Stevens

### **Guest Speaker: Amanda Edwards – City of Houston at Large Council Member**

- High Capacity Transit Recommendations – CM Edwards is on the committee of the Houston / Galveston Area Council (HGAC) Transportation Council (for the 8 county region). Upcoming public meeting Jan 25 at 11:00, 3555 Timmons to discuss vision for 2045. Her goal is to assure high capacity infrastructure is being considered for transit development such as I-45.
- Metro-Next Plan – This is an “aspirational” plan that could cost about \$35 billion. CM Edwards is a proponent of providing alternatives for congestion relief. Other larger cities are seeking Federal monies to help fund larger scale projects. Although red and purple rail line expansions are currently planned, there are no other bonds in place for future improvements. As soon as dates for a community meeting are published, it will be noted on the MPNA website. Through that upcoming link, you will be able to be put on an email notification list.
- Fire Fighters / HPD Pay Parity – Update was that a judge upheld the requirement to pay fire fighters equal to HPD even though pay negotiations for municipal employees is regulated at the State level. Whether it was legal for pay increase to have been decided by voters at the local level is the basis of the legal argument to be reviewed. A reduction in City services or municipal layoffs may be inevitable in the interim.

### **Guest Speaker: Dwight Boykins – City of Houston District D Council Member**

- CM Boykins thanked MPNA and the Board for their patience and support with the encampment issue.
- A groundbreaking will occur on a Saturday in February for the upcoming HEB at 288 and N. MacGregor (on the east side of 288). CM Boykins facilitated securing of Section 108 funding (low interest line of credit) to make this happen. The date will be published on the MPNA website. All are encouraged to attend.
- CM Boykins researched and proposed a monthly garbage collection fee similar to most major and surrounding cities as a way to offset the HFD pay parity budget impact. This will likely be one discussed approach. One recommendation was a \$20 / month fee.

### **President’s Report: Sandy Stevens**

- 2019 Officers (no changes from current slate)
  - President – Sandy Stevens
  - Vice President – Pam Campbell (not present)

- Secretary – Barbara McGuffey (not present)
- Treasurer – Cynthia Tang
- Parliamentarian – Bill Powell (not present)
- Committees:
  - Preservation – Lynn Dahlberg (not present)
  - Membership – Louis Selig (not present)
  - Community Engagement – Cindy Woods
  - Quality of Life – Kim Mickelson (not present)
    - Note that Kim will be working on developing character standards for the neighborhood. These will be non-enforceable standards for development.
  - Safety & Security – Pam Campbell (not present)
- Community Parking Plan – Sandy reported that Maria Irshad, Deputy Director of Parking Management, indicated prior to Christmas that ordinances to establish Community Parking Program and Parking Benefit District are being reviewed by the city legal department. Opportunity for public input will be scheduled prior City Council consideration.

**Vice President’s Report: Pam Campbell** (not present)

- Sandy reported for Pam that MPNA Board approved donating funds to the South Central HPD’s efforts for community outreach efforts including Christmas Celebration.
- Pam contacted Pacesetters Personnel Services (San Jacinto @ Wheeler) regarding panhandlers who congregate around their property. They reported that they reach out to HPD on a daily basis.

**Secretary’s Report: Barbara McGuffey** (not present)

- No report. Greg Quintero taking notes for the meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report: Cynthia Tang**

- Currently just over \$25,000.00 in the bank. The Treasurer’s report is available in the members section of our website.
- Green Team Report – Spring clean-up will occur around Valentine’s Day. Date and time to be announced. A yard sale will be announced. Members will be encouraged to donate items to be sold that benefit the Green Team beautification efforts.

**Parliamentarian- Bill Powell** (not present)

- No report

**Membership: Louis Selig** (not present)

- No report, but MPNA has about 170 active members

**Community Engagement: Cindy Woods**

- Meet and Greet after the meeting at Turkey Leg Hut on Alameda. MPNA members will receive discounts.

**Preservation: Lynn Dahlberg** (not present)

- Sandy reported that Lynn is working on a Sears retrospective

**Safety & Security Report: Pam Campbell** (not present)

- Panhandling – Sandy reported that MPNA has reached out to owners of the Fiesta and Pacesetters properties to encourage efforts to control panhandling, trash and loitering. Both properties continue to contact authorities, but efforts are limited to observable infractions of the law. MPNA will work to set up a meeting with these property owners to discuss ideas for increasing security. MPNA member ideas and comments are welcome. A meeting date TBD.
- The Midtown Management District conducts meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month during which safety and security items that also impact our neighborhood are discussed. Go to [info@mpna](mailto:info@mpna) to request more info.

**Announcements:**

- Russ Franks with METRO was in attendance. Related to the METRONext Plan, a bond will be forthcoming for transportation improvements. Public meetings will be conducted and announced in advance. MPNA will schedule Russ to speak at a meeting TBD.
- Yasmin with Pondi Café encouraged members to stop by the café located in Asia Society. You do not have to be a member of Asia Society to enjoy the café. She handed out coupons for a free cookie.
- At the February meeting, Mark Eichenbaum and Sean Quitzau with the Mayor's Office for Homeless Initiatives will discuss efforts to establish low-barrier shelters / bridge housing. Such shelters have less stringent requirements for homeless to qualify.
- Adjourned at 7:09 pm