



## MPNA General Meeting Minutes

Date: September 02, 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting via Crowdcast. 79 participants registered. Meeting was recorded

Call to Order: 6:07 pm (start of presentation)

### Guest Speakers Introduction: Cynthia Tang

- Sam Dike, Manager – Strategic Initiatives and Ryan LeVasseur, Managing Director – Direct Real Estate at Rice Management Company (RMC) to present status of The Ion (formerly Sears) and Innovation District. The presentation is recorded and available for viewing via the original link sent out for this meeting's invite. The highlights are as follows:
  - Rice Mgt Company supports Rice's mission through enlightened stewardship... is committed to making a positive impact on CoH. Investment in real estate which strengthens the long term financial and economic success of CoH.
  - Scheduled opening of The Ion early 2021. Event and programming spaces, academic uses, office space, cafes, flex workspace. Years 2023 – 2025 Phase 1 of Innovation District scheduled opening
  - Overall goal: Create a sense of/place for Community. Strengthen economic resiliency, Attract and retain innovative talent and companies, Foster an inclusive neighborhood, Create a vibrant, connected place
  - Master Plan expected development of 3-5 million sf of mixed use over the next decade. Areas roughly from Main to Caroline and from Wheeler to Cleburne with focus on the public realm of the lower floors (up to 40').
  - Address Public Infrastructure Investments: Public spaces, District parking, Education and Cultural Facilities, Street and road innovations, and Utilities (buried lines, etc)
  - Community Benefits include: Minority contracting and hiring, Workforce training and development, Inclusive tech entrepreneurship, and Affordable Housing
- Q&A
  - Q: Status of Fiesta and parking?  
A: Still investigating opportunities, but likely new buildings with interim consideration for temporary community spaces and activities (like a drive-in). Note that it was Fiesta that terminated their lease as an economic decision
  - Q: Affordability Housing plans?  
A: To counter gentrification. Not in the immediate surrounding area, but within ½ mile to 1 mile surrounding areas as partner
  - Q: TxDot lowering of US-59 freeway involvement?  
A: RMC is engaged, but not an active stakeholder
  - Q: Working with Metro on Wheeler station re-design and freeway "caps"?  
A: Will address with Metro
  - Q: Any enterprise funding received for infrastructure?  
A: No commitments yet from City or County, but certainly opportunities to partner

### President's Report: Sandy Stevens

- Livable Places Project: Sandy will serve on an appointed CoH Planning Committee representing MPNA and MPNA's concerns including buffering (light and noise).
-

**MPSN Report: Ruth Ann Skaff**

Several issues remain the focus:

- Caroline Promenade: Esplanade pre-design has been completed by SWA, the firm responsible for the Livable Centers Study. Wood chips will be added to the esplanade and others to begin repairing the soil. Volunteers needed. Notices will be distributed. Promenade will require funding which will include the start of the Cultural Trail.
- TxDot freeway caps: Continuing conversations.
- TOD: Impacts residents/streets within ½ mile of the train. The Ordinance passed Council August 5. On 9/17/20 at 2:30 pm, CoH Planning will host a virtual meeting regarding the proposed TOD plan. Links will be posted on both MPNA and MPSN sites
- Parking: Community Parking Plan is working well. Parking Benefit District (kicks back a modest sum to our neighborhood) is slow to start up due to pandemic.
- Will require funding in the future then the "Cultural Trail" will be launched.
- 9/7/20 will be the next MPSN virtual meeting. Dr. Kyle Shelton with the Kinder Institute will be the guest speaker to discuss 2020 State of Housing as well as Lina Sweeny with Houston Recovery Center. Send your request to participate to info@museumparkSN.org

**Vice President's Report: Pam Campbell**

- 9/15/20, 6:00 pm is next virtual PIP meeting and will feature guest speaker Sgt. Evans with the CoH Special Victims division. Check MPNA website for a link.

**Secretary's Report: Greg Quintero**

- General Meeting minutes from August virtual meeting are posted to MPNA website

**Treasurer's Report / Green Team Report: Sandy Stevens for Cynthia Tang**

- Financial report: Posted online. \$30,329 in the bank
- Green Team Report:
  - Next project: Southmore esplanade between Chenevert and Alameda. The Southmore esplanade beautification plan was designed by Will Isbell (a Master Gardener and resident on Southmore) and includes removal of some high-risk trees and new plantings. Notices will be sent to surrounding neighbors and will need CoH review and approval.

**Parliamentarian: Bill Powell**

- (no report)

**Committee Reports**

1. Preservation: Lynn Dahlberg
  - (no report)
2. Membership: Louis Selig
  - (no report)
3. Community Engagement: Cindy Woods / Cathy Ehlinger
  - Neighborhood treasure hunt has been very successful over the last two months and has now concluded. Special thanks to Lisa Lipscomb and Cindy Woods for organizing.
  - National Night Out (NNO): The Covid era format will not be our typical neighborhood event, but instead will shift to encourage small, local, socially distanced gatherings (small block gatherings, driveway gatherings, apartment building gatherings, HOA gatherings, etc.) MPNA will reach out looking for Block Captains to coordinate with your immediate neighbors and to moderate. Look for invites via e-blast and flyers. The event is currently targeted for Tuesday evening, October 6.
4. Quality of Life: Kim Mickelson / Brittani Flowers (not present)
  - (no report)
5. Safety & Security: Deirdre Barrett

- Volunteers still needed to secure a private security patrol.

**Announcements: Sandy Stevens**

- No General meeting in October (see NNO event info)
- Next virtual meeting: November 4 which will include MPNA Board elections

**Adjournment**

Time: 7:04 pm

*End of Notes by Greg Quintero*

*The notes above represent the Author's understanding of the meeting discussion. Please provide any comments or corrections to the Author within 5 days of distribution of these minutes, otherwise the notes will remain as a factual recordation of the discussion.*