



General Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2016
Clayton Library Carriage House

Before the meeting was called to order, President Greg Quintero announced that Emily Stein had resigned from her position as Chairman of the Membership Committee due to increased responsibilities in her work at Rice University. He then asked for those attending the meeting for the first time to stand up and introduce themselves.

- Kenneth Henry of Nationwide Insurance doesn't live in the neighborhood but is opening a wi-fi café at Southmore and San Jacinto.
- Pete Zachary a real-estate agent
- Becky Morlier, Nancy Kupnick, Ron Bryant, Kristen Jordan

Council Member Dwight Boykins was present and made a few comments:

- Expressed condolences to Mrs. Stone on the loss of her husband
- Addressed his stray dog program for which he set aside \$50,000 from his budget to address the problem in this district. Call his office to report a stray dog problem and call 311.
- He has started an Overtime Program for police officers and allocated \$100,000 to help with concentrated areas of crime such as homeless issues and in areas such as Sunnyside where there is a gang problem
- Parking in the yard ordinance – if there is a problem, call his office and they will send the paperwork to start putting together an ordinance to protect your area
- Coffee and Conversation – if there is a problem in the neighborhood, call his office, get on the list and will provide coffee and address the issue
- Second Chance Job Program comes up this Spring
- CIP meeting will be held on March 8 at the Metropolitan CME Church
- HEB on MacGregor still in planning stages waiting on the report from the Corps of Engineers. There is an acre of wetland there.
- Barbara McGuffy asked CM Boykins a question about developers killing trees.
- Another member asked about trash cans removed by Metro when the bus route changed, leaving residents with no place to put bagged dog poop. Can the City provide trash bins for this purpose?

President Greg Quintero called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm, and it was satisfied that a quorum of members was present.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: Sandy Stevens. No report

SECRETARY REPORT: Janet Fayle. No Report



TREASURER REPORT: Cynthia Tang. The MPNA account currently has a balance of \$12,820.

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Armin Porter. No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: This position is currently open.

Out of about 3,000 residents in our neighborhood we have 161 active members.

MPNA member stickers for automobiles are available. These are a helpful way to know which cars in the neighborhood belong to residents.

Electronic membership cards good for discounts at neighborhood establishments are emailed to all members as part of online renewal moving forward. Membership dues are \$60 for a family (2 voting members) and \$35 for an individual.

Community Engagement: Cindy Woods

There is a *Meal After the Meeting* gathering tonight at Scrappy Brown, 4830 Alameda with Happy Hour prices on drinks and a 10% discount for food for those showing a membership card.

The Community Engagement committee will meet at Cindy's home on Tuesday, February 9 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss future events such as the Easter Egg Hunt in March. Please attend if you are interested in helping with our community events.

Quality of Life: Kathleen O'Reilly

A Cigna Sunday Streets event has been rescheduled for either April 2 or May 1.

Palm Street Abandonment: Kathleen and Cindy Woods attended the City Council meeting on January 26 and were given only one minute to speak

- MPNA objects both to the closure and the process.
- This neighborhood cannot afford to lose more public right of way
- The City policy concerning abandonment of streets has been posted on the MPNA Website

Esplanade clean-up will be held on either Saturday, February 20 or 27. If you have a preference please let Kathleen know.

The Livable Center Study will be reopened next week after a pause to coordinate efforts with Rice University, MFAH, and Hermann Park Conservancy.



There will be another public meeting with TxDot in May to discuss the impact on our neighborhood of lowering US-59.

At one of our next General Meetings members of City departments of Real Estate, Planning, and Public Works will attend to provide guidance on options for protesting variance requests.

Kathleen's report engendered questions and comments from the membership audience:

- One gentleman noted that traffic is going to increase and he has noticed a great deal more speeding on Southmore and La Branch Streets. A comment was made that Southmore was to be widened to 4 lanes from Main Street to Almeda. Armin noted that this construction has been on the books for 20 years and nothing has happened. Kathleen noted that pedestrian safety and mobility is an important segment in the Liveable Center Study plan.
- Andrew Gladden noted that there has been a large increase in constables on Binz, giving tickets for speeding. Kathleen noted that the Constable program is under the jurisdiction of Houston Southeast.
- Barbara McGuffey proposed that the Board of MPNA draft a resolution from the neighborhood to City Council Members for a complete moratorium on street closure until the Liveable Center is completed and a traffic study has been done.
- Greg Quintero asked for an informal show of hands to confirm that the membership was opposed to the Palm Street abandonment and that the Board should investigate controlling unchecked development. The membership was overwhelmingly in favor.
- Several members volunteered to work with the Board to draft a formal resolution opposing the abandonment of Palm Street.
- Peter Brown noted that a message to City Council was not sufficient to impact change and that any letter had to go to the right people such as the Chair of Transportation on Mayor Turner's Transition Team.
- Kathleen requested a letter from Barbara McGuffey stating her wording on such a resolution.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Janet Fayle
MPNA Secretary