



## MPNA GENERAL I MEETING

**Date:** May 2, 2018

**Location:** Covenant Church, 4949 Crawford

**Time:** 6pm - Meeting called to order by Sandy Stevens

### President's Report: Sandy Stevens

- Guest Speakers: Sergeant Johnnie McGee and Officer Nicole Simmons. Store front office on at 10860 Southmore. Sgt. McGee reviewed some of his responsibilities. His and Officer Simmons roles are more citizen relations. His cell # is 281-615-2466.
- Officer Nicole Simmons noted:
  - PIP meetings are every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday; the next one is May 15<sup>th</sup> at the South Central Station.
  - She reviewed how to establish a Citizens Watch Patrol in the neighborhood. Need 8 people or more who can dedicate 30 hours a month, before you can be considered for one. She is contact to establish a patrol. [Nicole.Simmons@houstonpolice.org](mailto:Nicole.Simmons@houstonpolice.org).
  - They cover a large area from Med Center, to West U, East Downtown, to Navigation.
  - A resident asked about homeless sleeping on sidewalk. It is illegal between hours of 7am to 11pm. Police must warn 1<sup>st</sup> then enter into database, then issue a citation, then arrest. However, those arrested for this violation typically get out the next day.
  - They thanked MPNA for sponsoring the Easter Event.
  - On Next door - illegal dumping is an issue. Officer is sent out but must 1<sup>st</sup> write a report to Dept. of Neighborhoods.
- Guest: Marilyn Brown, President of Coalition for the Homeless, reported on recent efforts of the Coalition. Please see her report below.
- Additional introductions:
  - Sheryl Elliott Thornton candidate for JP Pct. 7 place 2.
  - Kyros Security newly opened at Tuam and San Jacinto.
  - Chena Karega from Metro Transit.
- Parking Management will host two additional meetings. Please attend if you have not. Barbara McGuffey has submitted questions you can reference. Sandy gave an overview of what is happening and what potentially could happen.
  - Phase 1- installation of additional meters, generally along Jackson south of Binz and the blocks around Asia Society.
  - Phase 2-impletmentation of time-limited parking.

- Phase 3-address spill-over parking from bar patrons along streets east and west of Alameda.

Question was asked, "What is the Core issue that caused the City to implement this Parking change". It is about Parking in the Park and near the Museums. MPNA is conferring with CM Boykins about creating a Parking Benefit District which will allow sharing parking revenue between the city and MP.

- Sandy introduced a new effort "Green Team," which Jill Miller and Cynthia Tang are spearheading. Jill reviewed the purpose of the Green Team: picking up trash, cleaning drains, endcaps work, meeting neighbors, helping senior citizens. Their work in public areas is stimulating conversation with neighbors. Projects take 1 to 2 hours. They received their first grant of \$500 from Chevron. She also announced "adopt a drain," a new initiative from the Mayor's office encouraging citizens to sign up to keep the drains on their block free of debris.

**MPSN Report: Kathleen O'Reilly (absent)**

- Sandy briefly mentioned the creation of the Midtown Innovation District, which will be housed in the old Sears building, which is currently under restoration.

**Community Engagement: Cindy Woods**

- MPNA will be sponsoring the Back to School Bash with HPD...Officer Simmons has asked if we would help
- Sept 28<sup>th</sup> is Miller Outdoor Theatre
- Bodegas event was quite a success both for the good food and chance for social time as well as the money Ryan Granger gives back to MPNA
- Meet and greet tonight after meeting at Java Lava

**Vice President: Barbara McGuffey**

- On the back table are copies of the letters to the Mayor and his response letter to us
- Neighborhood decals are on the table

**Secretary: Bill Powell**

- Minutes are on web site

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

- We have about \$18,000 in the bank. Hope to use these funds to contribute toward implementation of Livable Center Study.

**Membership: Louis Selig**

- Thanked those who have joined. Explained about the Cap Park. Hwy 59 will be suppressed below ground. Fiesta going away. Many things are planned for that area. We should have a voice in that. We need your support, your voice, and your letters.

**Quality of Life:** Kathleen O'Reilly

- Kathleen had conflict so Sandy Stevens updated on Holocaust plans for a green space behind Clayton Library. Shavonda Johnson in Councilman Boykins' office indicated that the CM has been assured by Andy Icken that rather than a green space, funds will be provided for improvements in area. We have expressed a desire to have a voice in any design for esplanade improvements to ensure compliance with the Livable Centers Study.

**Safety and Security:** Chris Eriksen

- Went to PIP – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday. Noise issue was primary topic of the meeting.
- Sandy gave update on Wheeler encampment. Sean Quitzau, in the Mayor's Office on Homeless Initiatives, reported that he would be going to the encampment on Wednesday to survey the area. Clean-up is scheduled and police will be enforcing excess property ordinance.

**Preservation:** Lynn Dahlberg

- Not able to attend but Sears retrospective has become a very large project and she is making progress.

**Announcements:**

Beginning the week of May 14<sup>th</sup> all electrical power to Covenant Church will be cut off. A generator will be used to provide power to the temporary office building, so please bear with the additional noise.

Adjourned to Java Lava.



The Coalition for the Homeless knows that permanent housing programs combined with supportive services is the answer to homelessness. The Way Home has housed more than 12,000 homeless individuals since 2012 with incredibly high rates of retention.

The Coalition for the Homeless agrees that encampments are NOT acceptable, suitable living environments for the safety and health of homeless individuals NOR for those living in the neighborhoods near them.

### May Update

- The Coalition for the Homeless has hired 4 housing navigators who are dedicated to the Wheeler Encampment for the next four months. This team will be on site at Wheeler Monday through Friday working with those eligible for housing and helping navigate them through the move-in process.
- The Navigators are: Tonoa Bond, Roy Watts, Micah Southern, Christian Galatoire
- They are using a client tracker so we know that everyone at Wheeler has been identified and all those eligible for housing have been assigned one of these Navigators.
  - One story to share – last week, a long-time Wheeler encampment resident was finally housed in permanent supportive housing. I share this because he was one of the toughest cases we have had. He had lots of barriers and had been on the street for years. This success shows the level of commitment of The Way Home and its partners.
- The Coalition for the Homeless has convened an advocacy workgroup consisting of leaders from 20+ agencies involved in The Way Home. The first issue this workgroup is addressing is the Wheeler Encampment.
  - An informative flyer on the Wheeler Encampment is being produced.
  - Council visits are being scheduled.
- Thanks to Barbara McGuffey, the Coalition was invited to meet with District Attorney Kim Ogg and Assistant District Attorney, Mental Health Bureau Chief Denise Oncken. It was a positive meeting where we shared common concerns and began planning ways to more compassionately help those with serious mental illness in the homeless population.
- The Coalition for the Homeless is working with neighborhood volunteers from Museum Park and Mid-town on a public education campaign for two specific audiences:
  - The neighbors living near the Wheeler Encampment who will receive regular updates on the work of The Way Home.
  - Individuals and groups who think they are helping but whose charitable actions actually do more harm than good.