



MUSEUM PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
General Meeting
Clayton Library
February 1, 2017
6:00 pm

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Sandy Stevens at 6:04PM.

After a general welcome, Sandy introduced Council Member Boykins. CM Boykins thanked the residents for their patience as the city develops a comprehensive and holistic plan to effectively address the encampment under US-59. Mayor Turner is expected to meet with council members the week of Feb 6 to outline his plan and to answer questions. Public announcement of the mayor's plan is expected the week of Feb 13. Until the plan is rolled out, there will be a 24/7 police presence in the area as well as twice weekly trash pick up by Solid Waste Management.

Sgt. Goldwater (HPD) then presented monthly crime statistics for Museum Park [beat 10H70/Zone 30]. Sandy Stevens noted that the HPD region does not align with other available statistics aggregator. A Q& A session followed, with key points being a reminder to call the non-emergency line as police presence is determined by crime statistics and a reminder that it is possible to file watch/alert slips, e.g. areas of concern or times when one is away from town.

Marc Eichenbaum (Special Assistant to the Mayor for Homeless Initiatives) then discussed the ongoing work to develop a plan to address the current homeless situation. For the plan to work, it must be comprehensive, addressing substance abuse, mental health, panhandling, and homelessness. During the 1-day Surge before Christmas, 117 people were interviewed at the encampment: of these, 111 answered questions: 50 were homeless & of those 50, 30 were chronically homeless. The city is working to bring TxDoT back to the table with regard to trespassing.

Sandy Stevens then introduced Melonie Curry from Parking Management to discuss the Residential Parking Permit program. Residential areas are streets with at least 75% front footage along the blockface with residential property. The ordinance defines the following as residential property: single-family homes, duplexes, and condominiums and apartment complexes with eight or fewer units. Each residential address in the proposed permit area must be listed on the petition and its representative resident contacted to sign the petition regardless of support or non-support of the area. Property owners are not required to sign the petition. For duplexes or apartment buildings, a signature is needed from each unit. Multiple blocks can submit a single application, but all necessary signatures must be collected. Parking can be restricted for 12 hrs/day. Their website is <http://www.houstontx.gov/parking/resparkingpermits.html> Parking Management is working on updating the relevant ordinance, and they will distribute a draft for comment in the coming weeks. Melonie outlined the process to request residential permit parking from the application phase, the city's investigation (a 3-6 month process), and practical matters such as guest passes.

If your block is mixed use and does not qualify for residential permit parking, you can contact Public Works regarding No Parking signs.

For illegal parking situations, call 832-393-8690. Call the police if a driveway is blocked by a parked car.

Vice President: No report

Secretary: Sara introduced the formation of a Communications Committee and asked that any interested members contact her (saragladen@comcast.net). The committee would work to develop a newsletter to help MPNA better communicate with the membership.

Treasurer: We currently have \$16,096 in the bank. See website for the full report.

Parliamentarian: No report

Membership: Barbara encourages interested members to volunteer with membership efforts. Of interest: Bayou Trails, an arts programming project that aims to improve connectivity of Mason, MacGregor & Hermann Parks. This is an initiative of The Houston Arts Alliance and partner organizations (<http://houstonartsalliance.com/folklife/bayoutrails>).

Community Engagement: No report

Quality of Life: MPSN will reactivate its Security Alliance; there was very positive feedback in the past and stakeholders are enthusiastic. Save the date: Esplanade clean-up & maintenance on Feb 25.

Safety & Security: If you are interested in private security, please contact Bob Cavnar (bobcavnar@mac.com) or see their Facebook page (Museum Park Patrol Service). This would run outside of MPNA. Bob has estimated that if 500 households sign up, the cost will be \$50-100/quarter. This would be for 40 hours/wk of service.

Preservation: We want to better publicize some of the historic properties as well as the history of the neighborhood. So, if you own an old home or are a long-term resident, Lynn would like to hear from you.

From the floor, Lisa Lipscomb requests that MPNA consider repairing the broken concrete stanchion at Crawford & Calumet. Lynn will investigate and obtain an estimate.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19PM