



General Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2016
Clayton Library Carriage House

President Greg Quintero called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Joint Meeting of MPNA/MPSN to hear Mark Loethen, Deputy Director, Public Works & Engineering, answer questions formulated by MPNA Board/MPSN Council.

Council Member Boykins announced: CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) meeting at Metropolitan CME Church, 8955 South Freeway (SH288), March 8, 6:00 p.m. CM Boykins also announced that at the Alameda/Binz intersection (bricks are coming up) will be repaired by Houston Southeast Management District.

Mark Loethen, Public Works and Engineering, began presentation regarding the closure of the 1100 block of Palm Street, by explaining that public right of way includes streets + curbing + sidewalks + 10-16 feet easement beyond the sidewalks. Included in sale of public right of way are streetlights and other city improvements.

Applications for sale of public right of way are referred to the Joint Referral Committee. Applicants typically request to abandon a street or purchase an easement. Representatives from Planning and Development, Legal, Police, and Fire Department make up the Joint Referral Committee.

After receiving a request for abandonment (abutters on both sides of street must be mutually agreeable or must own the property on both sides of street), the city posts a sign requesting input from the public. Contact letter is sent to the applicant with terms and conditions of the abandonment. Council Member in district where abandonment is requested is notified. A survey of the property and an independent appraisal are obtained. An offer letter is sent to the applicant. Once the applicant receives the offer letter, they can decide if they wish to proceed. If applicant accepts offer, recommendation for council action goes to city council. City Council must approve.

Request on Palm Street from Dr. Mann has been through Joint Committee process.

Questions from the floor:

Do council members talk to their community before we go through the process?

Mark Loethen: Encourage the applicant to make contact with district council member and encourage applicants to talk to community prior to proceeding with the application. Joint Referral Committee does not commit to something that is opposed by the community.



We are moving to a new permitting system. Currently, if you know the project number, you can find information regarding new construction. The new system will allow a person to click on a map to find information about a permit.

Under current ordinance, there is no requirement of public notice. However, Public Works and Engineering does post notices.

Question regarding Bill White Policy that stated Street Abandonment should not be the norm. Mr. Loethen indicated that he sits on many meetings of the Joint Referral Committee. We throw up a lot of requirements so applicant sometimes feels our requirements are unreasonable.

Is the money from sale of Public Right of Way funneled back into the immediate area? We make an offer based on the value of the property. The money from sale of a street goes into the general fund.

Announcements:

Roger Kenneavy announced that Dan's House of Hope will be hosting a St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser at St. Arnold's Brewery on Sunday, March 13, 5:00-8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.danshouseofhope.org> or by contacting Roger.

Cindy Woods hosted a drawing for new and renewing members from January and February. She announced that tonight's Meal after the Meeting is at Bodega's.

Penney Lindsey called attention to the numerous programs at Judson Robinson Junior Center on Hermann Park Drive and encouraged people to take advantage of them.

Kathleen announced:

- Museum Park Sunday Streets, April 24, a reschedule of our rained-out event last November.
- Hermann Park's Kite Festival will be April 3
- Maya Hyppolite, from the department of Neighborhoods will speak at our April meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Janet Fayle

MPNA Secretary