

Minutes for the meeting of October 12, 2016

Call to Order at 7:07 p.m.

Speakers:

State Rep. Jim Murphy – described the time period between sessions as a state representative and their charge to study several issues to prepare for upcoming relevant issues for the ensuing legislative session. He reported on two purchases made for: 1) 3 acre area near the Robinson Westchase Library and 2) 2 acre plot close to Woodchase and Gessner. Happily these areas are accessible through current or future hike and bike trails. He further commented on his committee work on the corrections system and budget issues. There is a tightening of the belt as to be expected with the turn down in Oil and Gas industries with a call from the Governor for 5% cuts to all budget areas. School Finance was also described as it is a ballot item in November. He was excited to share how Texas is leading the nation in with a much needed new drone law to protect vital infrastructure. A brief Q and A session followed including International Business District worries.

COH Councilmember Amanda Edwards represented by Marchelle Cain at marchelle.cain@houstontx.gov discussed the 12 core strategies of the Plan Houston vision. This broadly scoped project is now going to be tweaked with input from stakeholders as well as public comment as it becomes validated and funded. A live survey will be available by Friday through Nov. 25, 2016 Per Ms. Cain. Paper surveys will be made available for those without internet or local library resources. Citizensnet will also have a link for this survey. Any and all responses are requested for this plan to be effective and reflect our individual issue rankings.

COH - Office of Neighborhoods/Community Liaison Mr. Rashad Cave at Rashad.cave@houstontx.gov reported to us the difficulties and frustrations on making progress with items such as mow down and graffiti. He stated that property ownership issues, and property rights can delay responses but must be followed. SN17 members suggested that not for profit groups like churches can participate for \$50.00 payment per lot can aid the situation. His department recommends that citizens use 311 app versus the phone as it is quicker and has the photo ability and GPS coordinates.

Margarita Dunlap from METRO gave information on the Free Rides program and passed out flyers. IF you have questions, please contact her as usual.

Van Hunyh from District F described the difficulties in follow-through within the city on some projects. He reviews these 311 items daily. He is planning to vigorously research the push back on the Westpark work and is in agreement with the constituents regarding frustrations in accomplishments. HE wants action just as we do regarding enforcement. He and Mr. Le are planning a daytime meeting to push things along with a variety of COH sections such as: HPD, Solid Waste, Parks, Neighborhoods and others. Information on this meeting will be on their website. He seeks 30 day completion on most projects and feels that this is a reasonable request on our part.

Old Business

Minutes from previous meeting were approved. By Law Change for July to no longer be a meeting month as is August and December was also approved.

Committee Reports:

1. Beautification /Parks & Trails (Virgie) – items discussed with COH and district councilmember's presentations
2. 311 (Judy Thompson) - none
3. Security (Johnny Lozano) - none
4. Flooding (Billie Long) - none
5. Homeless (Jack O'Connor) - none
6. Webmaster: (Bob Andrew) – check our website often for updates

New Business:

Announcements - None

Adjournment at 8:40 p.m.

Next Meeting is Wednesday, November 9, 2016 – Corps of Engineers (Richard Long) will give a presentation.

The Department of Neighborhoods (DON)

DON is dedicated to improving the quality of life in Houston neighborhoods through the delivery of services, innovative programs and strong community partnerships. The department combines the operations of five divisions, serving as a centralized resource for the resolution of neighborhood concerns, citizen access to city services, information and referrals.

Takashia L. Francis
Director

DON Divisions:

- Inspections and Public Service
- Citizens Assistance Office
- Anti-Gang Office
- Office of International Communities
- Office for People with Disabilities
- Volunteer Initiatives Program

Inspections & Public Service (IPS)

IPS improves the quality of life in Houston by reducing blight and substandard living conditions.

IPS only handles the following issues:

overgrown lots, dangerous vacant buildings, illegal dumping and trash accumulation, junk motor vehicles and other materials or appliances stored in public view, graffiti and nuisance on

private property, and signs illegally placed on city property and right of way.

To report other blight issues regarding garbage collection, yard waste and/or junk waste collection, dead animal collection, and curbside recycling, please contact the Solid Waste Management Department.

For requests to conduct inspections for apartment complexes and commercial buildings, sidewalk repair and Code enforcement for improper permitting construction, please contact the Public Works and Engineering Department.

To report a violation, call 713.837.0311 or e-mail 311@houstontx.gov

Reggie Harris
Deputy Assistant Director
Phone: 832.394.0600

Citizens Assistance Office (CAO)

CAO coordinates responses to community issues, handles requests for city services and promotes neighborhood revitalization efforts through outreach activities. CAO partners with neighborhood groups, non-profit and social service organizations, schools and church groups to coordinate neighborhood clean-ups, surveys, tours and site visits.

Rhonda Sauter
DIVISION MANAGER
Phone: 832.393.0955

Volunteer Initiatives Program (VIP)

VIP engages Houstonians in volunteer public service activities within city departments and with agencies and organizations throughout the city. The program provides information to residents on available volunteer opportunities and serves as a volunteer recruitment resource for community groups.

Patricia Harrington
Division Manager
Phone: 832.393.0931

Anti-Gang Office (AGO)

AGO provides comprehensive responses to juvenile delinquency and gang activity through direct services, collaboration, community engagement and policy development. Services include case management, resistance and skill building workshops, summer and out-of-school time programs, mentoring and education.

Patricia Harrington
Phone: 832.393.0931

Office of International Communities (OIC)

OIC brings together Houston's international communities by promoting connectedness and well-being while facilitating successful civic, economic and cultural integration into Houston. This includes educating immigrant communities about their rights and responsibilities and services offered by the City of Houston.

Terence O'Neill
Division Manager
Phone: 832.393.1010

Office for People with Disabilities (OPD)

OPD advocates for the rights and needs of citizens with disabilities. The office serves as liaison between the City and the disability community and collaborates with local entities to offer a myriad of programs and services, including agency referrals, legal clinics, financial forums and resource fairs.

Phone: 832.394.0814

Rashad L. Cave

Department of Neighborhoods
City of Houston
832-393-0970 Office
281-740-5961 Call



Department of Neighborhoods

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Visit our website:

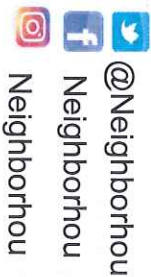
www.houstontx.gov/neighborhoods

How are we doing Survey?

<https://goo.gl/forms/6MRmhOsiknLM8Jhs1>

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www.houston311.org

CITY OF HOUSTON



Department of

NEIGHBORHOODS

is S.U.P.E.R.!

- **Service**
- **Unified**
- **Professional**
- **Excellence**
- **Responsive**

*Improving the quality of life
in Houston communities*