



May 12, 2021 Museum Park Super Neighborhood Council Minutes

Council Member Attendees: Kathleen O'Reilly; Paul Wilson; Ruth Ann Skaff; Sandra Stevens; Barbara McGuffey; Nick Hellyar; Jose Ferraro; Oleg Jolic; Kyle Wolfe; Dale Furrow, ex-officio; Deirdre Barrett, ex-officio; Jack Valenski; ex-officio; Cmdr. Caroleta Johnson, ex-officio; Margaret Lynch, ex-officio

Other Attendees: Marissa Aho, Chief Resilience Officer, CoH; Former CM Dwight Boykin, District D; Steven James, Lt. Lewis Parker, HPD South Central; Sgt. Chris Weiche, HPD DRT South Center; Brad Levy, HMNS; Kay Walton

President Kathleen O'Reilly, via Zoom, opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees.

HPD Report: Sgt. Chris Weiche reported that overall crime in MP for April 2021 is about the same as April 2020. HPD crime analysis office encourages residents to view crime data statistics for their neighborhood on www.communitycrimemap.com. Report will be posted on MPSN website.

Cmdr. Johnson stated current concerns are traffic around Bar 5015 and Turkey Leg Hut, and safety issues re: ATV vehicles. Caution needed in dealing with issues for public safety. South Center is networking with other divisions, and receives help from helicopters if they are already in the air. Ongoing bar and nightclub initiative yielded 195 citations and at least 151 club checks in entire South Central district by Differential Response Team (DRT) and Parking Management. Cmdr. Johnson is establishing open communication with the security personnel at the various bars and restaurants and Pct. 7 Constables. Off-duty HPD serving as security are often not in South Central nor on their radio frequency. HPD commended residents for their involvement and cooperation re: safety of MP. Lt. Parker added that partnership and collaboration is key. SNC expressed our gratitude to Cmdr. Johnson, Lt. Parker, Sgt. Weiche for their persistent hard work to resolve issues and make MP safe for residents and visitors. All parties recognize police duties require more resources. MPSN thanked Sgt. Weiche for participating in the reconstituted Safety and Security Alliance

Guest speaker- Marissa Aho, Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Houston

MPSN welcomed Marissa Aho who noted that the one-year Resilient Houston report was issued 3/21/21: <https://www.houstontx.gov/mayor/Resilient-Houston-One-Year-Report.pdf>; with 92% of the priorities are moving forward. Action 16 is focused on urban heat islands; tree planting, expanding cool and green roofs, shade structures.

MPSN noted that the Heat Data Map was sent to attendees: www.H3AT.org.

This effort was conducted with Nature Conservancy, CoH Resilient Office, Harris County Dept of Health and Houston Area Research Council (HARC). Houston/Harris County is nationally the largest Heat Mapping Campaign to date. The Urban Heat Campaign was conducted on August 8, 2020, 83 citizen science volunteers tracked 32 routes at three designated times from 6AM to 7PM. The same routes were mapped morning, afternoon and evening, showing up to a 17 °F afternoon temperature increase.

Heat Mapping Data and Climate Impact Assessment were discussed in context of Resilient Houston, using data collected over the past two years. Five critical 'Shocks and Stresses' criteria are identified: Climate, Health, Equity, Built Environment, and Economy; flood and heat mitigation are conjoined.

Integrating the data collected with building codes as City codes are updated should have a positive effect. The City of Houston Resilience Office is working with Urban Land Institute (ULI), including gathering input from a technical expert assistance panel on cooling strategies and cost benefit analysis.

Recommended actions for individual homeowners to mitigate heat include: planting trees, using permeable pavement instead of concrete, selecting a green or light colored roof, using climate-friendly design, and appropriately site new construction to maximize energy efficiencies and climate conditions of specific sites. Heat reduction measures are primary elements of the Caroline Promenade effort.

Kyle Wolfe, Hermann Park Conservancy, reported that the Commons is a three-year project. Seven acres of turf grass have been replaced with ryes, adding legumes, and will be eventually planted with native prairie grasses.

Barbara McGuffey noted the pressure of development resulting in the loss of trees, and asked if ordinances can address this ongoing concern.

President's Report: Kiosk Ordinance passed, there was significant objection. Sites of the kiosks have not been made public.
VP Report: N/A
Secretary's Report: Quorum present. March and April minutes were approved.
Committee Reports: **Safety and Security** – HPD- see above. Ms. Deidre Barrett will distribute undated Security Alliance. Next monthly meeting is June 25, thenceforth, the third Tuesday of the month.
Livable Places Action Committee- Ms. Sandy Stevens
LPAC continues to move forward on amendments to current buffering ordinances. Many of the proposals will require more robust buffering for future mid-rise (65-75' from grade to top of building) development, including distance separation standards, dumpster screening, garage screening, and outdoor lighting fixtures. The committee's buffering proposals are currently with the city's legal department for review and formulation.
METRO – Ms. Linda Trevino N/A

Ongoing Business: Community Parking Plan – Alameda Corridor
Public Parking comments will close 5/28, 5 pm
Mr. Simon Gentry – Museum Park Videographer
Please send three things that people should know about Museum Park to info@museumparksn.org

New Business: Museum Park Conservancy - MPSN will be the base 501c3 organization dba as Museum Park Conservancy. This name will more accurately convey our mission. The Conservancy would continue the MPSN focus on beneficial use of public lands and connection with nature, systematic tree and land management, and a maintenance endowment. A business model will be proposed, similar to University Place's model, to present to MPSNC, tentatively for a vote in June. University Place ED will be consulted regarding their similar model.

Stakeholder Updates: HPC announced the May 20, "Ticket to Ride" first Urban Green get together

Public Comments: Barbara McGuffey noted that Park Houston has proposed additional blocks of time-limited parking and meters.

Announcements: Former CM Dwight Boykins announced the death of Rucks Russell, his former Chief of Staff, and former Channel 11 reporter.

Jack Valenski announced that CoH budget will be discussed the next two weeks. Anticipated shortfall has been offset by federal funds.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05PM

Museum Park Mission:

- Establishing the Museum District as a top cultural destination with a strong sense of neighborhood identity.
- Collaborating strategically with all entities in Museum Park to develop a beautiful and recognizable premier cultural, educational, and mixed use district that is the most pedestrian friendly district in the City of Houston.
- Furthering education through beneficial use of public lands and natural resources in collaboration with the City, State, and cultural institutions.
- Improving health and health education through development of a measurably transformed and healthier urban environment using infrastructure and landscaping, a living laboratory that can be easily implemented in other settings.
- Promotion of safety, security, and well-being within the Neighborhood.