

General Meeting Minutes
Woodland Heights Civic Association
September 12, 2006
Zion Lutheran Church

President, Terri Guerra, called the General Meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Approximately 30 individuals attended. Attendees said the pledge of allegiance.

HPD Report

Officers Jones and Garcia from the Heights Storefront were unable to attend due to workload.

As always, please contact the storefront with any questions or to report any crime. The storefront is located at 910 North Durham and is open 6 to 4 Monday through Friday. The phone number is (713) 803-1151 and the fax number is (713) 803-1511.

Guest Speaker –

HPD Officer Carol Trautwein was the guest speaker addressing various neighborhood concerns. Carol has served the Woodland Heights area for about fourteen years.

Sex Offenders - Carol reported that there are sex offenders living in our neighborhood. A list of offenders and their locations can be obtained by typing "Texas sex offenders" in any internet search engine. Offenders who are discharged and who are not on parole can live wherever they wish. They are, however, required to register with the local police department. If they do not register, HPD can issue a warrant for their arrest.

Graffiti – HPD cannot issue citations for graffiti; however, there is a program in place that provides probationers to paint over graffiti. An El Salvadoran gang that used "MS13" as their "tag" has moved out of the area. They were mostly 18 to 30 year old. Carol reported that most graffiti is not gang related.

Burglary – Carol reported that dispatch relies heavily on reported crime to determine how many officers are dispatched to an area. Therefore, all crime should be

reported even if you feel the crime is minimal such as a stolen plant from your porch.

Evacuations – There is an internet site called "Citizens Net" where you can register for aid in case of evacuations. Register now and do not wait for an evacuation to occur. See <http://cohapp.cityofhouston.gov/citizensnet/> or call the HPD Storefront number given above.

Homeless Individuals – It is not legal to loiter at bus stops. If you see a homeless person doing so, please report it to the police. The police try to refer the homeless to social services or will encourage them to move out of a particular area.

Reported Gun Fire – It is illegal to fire a gun within the City limits, whether you are in or outside a building. Report all gun fire to the police.

Carol can be reached by calling her cell phone during normal business hours (713) 594-1395 or by contacting her via email at c.trautwein@cityofhouston.net

Centennial Report:

Pat Rutledge and Louise Moss reported that they have received bids for the Centennial Monument signs from Crowley Signs & Graphics Inc. and from Vince Spenser. They are seeking a third bid before presenting their options to the Board. They are also working with Dawn Shumway to identify possible funds available from the City through the park beautification funds. Fund raisers will include selling bricks to be used in the Monument signs.

The Committee's biggest project and major fund raiser will be the formal gala, which will be a sit down dinner and silent auction. Former Houston Heights resident, Debbie Markey, who organized the recent Houston Heights gala has moved into

Woodland Heights and has met with the Committee regarding their ideas. The Committee will meet with resident Bill Baldwin, owner of 205 Bayland, to see if he will donate his house for the gala site. Tickets to the dinner will be about \$250 per ticket. Table sponsorship will also be offered. The gala is currently planned for some time in October 2007.

The Committee is soliciting local graphic artists to help develop a centennial logo.

Officer Reports:

Terri Guerra: No report.

Tony Maluski: No report

Vicky Bettis: Not in attendance; however, Terri reported that membership stands at \$19,285.00 as of August 31, 2006, with 481 members. The recent second membership mailout netted about \$1800 in the first week after its receipt.

Sharon Greiff: Sharon reported that the Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2006 shows a Total Liabilities & Equity of \$97,295.29.

Sharon reported that about twelve volunteers attended the first Lights in the Heights® meeting. Sharon is preparing to submit the budget to the Board for approval. The budget will increase slightly due to the decision to increase the time frame for the event from three hours to four (6 pm to 10 pm). The Committee will sell merchandise, such as reindeer antlers headbands and glow-in-the-dark necklaces, for the first time this year as an additional fundraiser.

Gregg Cooper:

Regarding the blue and white tiles removed during the recent Studewood repaving, Gregg reports that we are past our deadline to move the tiles off Tx-Dot property. Gregg wants to form a committee to decide what to do with the tiles as soon as possible. Ideas discussed include removing all the tiles and having a tile professional re-build the tile street signs.

Gregg's email is <mailto:infrastructure@woodland-heights.org>

Jill Whitten: Jill met with a concrete contractor to discuss ways to remove the historic blue and white

tiles from the extracted concrete corners and return the tiles to their original street corners where possible. There are logistical challenges in that 1) for damaged and missing tiles, new replacement tile is available only in 1" as opposed to the original 3/4" 2) as to inserting the "old curb" into the new curbs, the new curbs are more curved at the corners such that the two do not align, and 3) there are fewer flat straight areas in the new curbs than there used to be due to more curb cuts and street sewers making insertion difficult. Jill suggested that people look at the corners of Harvard and 5th street (where the 400 and 500 blocks meet) where sections of old tile curb were placed in the new concrete curb. Work continues on getting pricing for various methods of returning the tiles to their original locations. Some damaged tiles may be incorporated into landscaping/artworks at the Norhill Esplanade.

Emily Guyre: Not in attendance; however, Terri reminded attendees that Emily will Chair the "Lighter in the Heights" garage sale which is a fund raiser for Lights in the Heights®. Emily will hold the garage sale on October 14th.

Beth Martin: No report

Colleen Tautfest: Not in attendance.

Deborah Dunten provided fabulous cookies, as always.

Aaron and Becca Bruhl won the door prize.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Vicky Bettis, Recording Secretary

Attachments to Hard Copy of Minutes:

- September 12 2006 Agenda prepared by Terri Guerra
- General Meeting Sign In List of Attendees
- Membership Report prepared by Vicky Bettis