

Super Neighborhood Alliance

Minutes of Meeting Held 10 February 2020 at 900 Bagby



Guests

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| Carolyn Evans-Shabazz, CM Dist D | Francisco Castillo, Staff for HC Pct 2 |
| Mike Knox, CM At-Large 1 | Teresa Geisheker, P&D |
| Michael Kubash, CM At-Large 3 | Dir Margaret Wallace Brown, P&D |
| Glenda Kubash | Carlos ?, DoN |
| Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney | Nicole Nguyen, SOSA rep |
| Julia Retta, Staff for CM Dist C | Catherine Flowers, Founding Dir, DoN |
| Diana Caicerto, HPL | Ellary Makuch, HCDD |
| Oscar Lee, HPD | Alyce Coffey, SWMD |
| Rhonda Sauter, DoN | Rob Lazaro, HCFC |
| Myron Jones, HCFC | Nikita Harmon, 176 Criminal Court Judge |

Super Neighborhood Representatives

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| Ricky Miller, SNC 05 | Terry Cominsky, SNC 31 |
| Philip Salerno, SNC 05 | Marcy Williams, SNC 36 |
| Ed Browne, SNC 10 | Sylvia Rivas, SNC 36 |
| Leigh Killgore, SNC 14 | Marcia Hartman, SNC 37 |
| John Zavala, SNC 14 | Cindy Chapman, SNC 37 |
| Pedro Ayarzagoitia, SNC 15 | Margo Bawin, SNC 38 |
| Randy Jones, SNC 16 | Jeff Peters, SNC 38 |
| Jeff Baker, SNC 17 | Stephen Polnaszek, SNC 38 |
| Michael Huffmaster, SNC 18 | Ray Washington, SNC 39/40 |
| Alexis Kiker, SNC 18 | Juan Antonio Sorto, SNC 49/50 |
| Jane West, SNC 22 | Machell Esthella Blackwell, SNC 51 |
| Stacie Fairchild, SNC 22 | Tina Sullivan, SNC 63 |
| Mike VanDusen, SNC 22 | Roy Lira, SNC 63 |
| Kay Warhol, SNC 24 | Joy Jones, SNC 63 |
| Doug Smith, SNC 25 | Jessica Halsey, SNC 63 |
| Sandra Rodriguez, SNC 27 | Leroy West, SNC 71/76 |
| Jenny Beech, SNC 28 | Tomaro Bell, SNC 83 |
| Kay Swint, SNC 31 | Scott Cubbler, SNC 84 |

Meeting convened at 6:31pm.

I. Introductions of Guests and Members

II. Acceptance of Minutes from General Meeting Held 13 January 2020

Doug Smith asked the minutes be amended to include commendation for Jane West for her service to the Alliance. Randy Jones asked that committee minutes be included with the general meeting minutes on the SNA website. Doug Smith moved to accept, motion was seconded, and minutes were approved.

III. Margaret Wallace Brown, Director Planning & Development Department, Presentation on the 2020 Census

Houston had 70% representation in 2010 census. Many benefits to Houston residents rely on an accurate census count to get federal dollars equitably apportioned. For each person not counted, the city estimates a loss of \$10,000/year in lost benefit to the city.

Census forms should be arriving by late March. For the first time, the census can be completed online. Completed forms should be submitted by the end of June.

The message developed by the City of Houston to promote the census is “Yes! To Census 2020”. The city is asking the Alliance to pass the word with door hangers and yard signs that are multilingual. The city will monitor census response rates from April through June, and focus on areas of low rates of response. People hardest to count are: 1) renters, 2) children under the age of 5, and 3) people who speak English as a second language. The city has researched what motivates different groups of people to respond and are tailoring approaches to each group.

It was indicated that thousands of census enumerators are being hired and will be paid \$21/hour. Training material and promotional material are available at www.harrishoustoncounts.com. Enumerators are required to be a citizen or hold a green card, cannot be a felon, cannot have a DUI conviction, and must be 18 years old, or older.

IV. Dr. Stephen Klineberg Presenting the Rice University Kinder Institute 38th Annual Houston Area Survey

In the early ‘80s, 82% of the jobs in Houston were tied to the 10-fold increase in the price of oil in the preceding 10 years. Houston was also known as imposing the least amount of controls on development of any major city in the world. When the price of oil collapsed in 1983, 100,000 people found themselves unemployed.

Today, Houston has shifted towards a knowledge based economy, based on quality education, blue collar jobs are disappearing, and ethnic diversity is greater now than ever before. The boom and bust cycles in Houston’s economy, tied to oil, may be giving way to more modest long-term growth.

The baby boom after WWII gave way to a baby bust, resulting in a generation of 76 million people moving through our society. This group is largely Anglo, with the last members turning 65 in 2030. The following generations are smaller and more ethnically diverse. Many baby boomers benefited from low-skill but well-paid blue collar jobs, supported by unions. These jobs are disappearing due to globalization and automation. And globalization has allowed a greater disparity in income than ever before.

This means most jobs today require some form of post-secondary education. Yet only 22 percent of eight-grade students in Houston in 2006 have any college education today. And the perception of the need of higher education is broadly based across most ethnic groups in Houston. When asked if more money was needed for education, more people answered yes than in past years, and many were willing to pay higher education taxes. Statistics show that more preschool education results in higher rates of high school graduation, yet Houston lags Dallas and San Antonio in preschool education. The future of prosperity in Houston will be based on knowledge, rather than commodities, such as land, cattle, trees, etc.

Until 1965, 82% of immigrants to the United States came from northern Europe. The civil rights movement in the 1960's changed this. Since then, the majority of immigrants have come from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. While Houston is the 4th largest city in the US, it is the most ethnically diverse. The current population of Houston under the age of 20 are 51% Hispanic, 19% are African Americans, 9% are Asians, and 21% are Anglo; these are the workers and tax payers of tomorrow. Moving forward, the increase in Hispanic population in Houston will be from natural birthrate, not immigration. If Houston had not had ethnic diversity, its growth would have stagnated like many other major cities. How Houston navigates continued ethnic diversity in the future will ultimately determine our success.

Quality of life will be of key importance in the future. In 2012, Houstonians passed a \$100MM bond to address flooding and drainage. The focus is was on the 9 bayous that are the biggest factors in drainage in Houston. 150 miles of linear parks are being built in the bayou ways, resulting in a parking within walking distance of many Houstonians. Fewer Houstonians have children at home (25% will have children at home), and 55% say they want to live in smaller homes within walking distance of amenities. The way Houston is achieving this is with higher density residential living.

Pedro Ayarzagoitia asked for clarification on the increase of diversity tied to the decline of the oil boom. Houston continued to grow because of business diversification and low cost of living. A question was asked about global warming. A majority of respondents stated that they thought there would be more flooding in the next ten years than in the last ten years, and that this was due to warming. The new president of the Greater Houston Partnership has said that Houston must lead the energy transition forward, and that oil companies are not ready to step forward. Tomaro Bell asked for Dr. Klineberg's opinion on the I45 project. His response was that he had not studied it carefully enough to draw a conclusion. Cindy Chapman asked if the trends in Houston apply to the rest of Texas. Dr. Klineberg responded that he thought it did.

V. SNA SWOT Analysis

Juan stated the upcoming assessment workshop would be held on Saturday, from 9am to 1pm at the MECA Center at 1900 Kane. The exercise will be to prioritize the results of the Survey Monkey and other input, and create an SNA plan that can be presented to City Council and departments. A presentation will be made regarding the super neighborhood program in Seattle and how their principals might be applicable in Houston.

Juan indicated that the format of the agenda has changed at the bottom to reflect the support from the various departments within the city. The SNA has asked these departments for better lines of communication with the Alliance. Members of the executive committee will be meeting the HTV to ask about recording and/or broadcasting Alliance meetings.

VI. Communications

Stacie raised the point of considering an SNA newsletter. Members are trying to determine if the SNA needs an individual newsletter, or if SNA business can be incorporated into an existing city department newsletter.

VII. New Business

Juan mentioned that a result of the SWOT analysis will be to restructure internal committees to resemble the committees of City Council. He mentioned that the committees may become labor intensive.

Nicole Nguyen stated she is with the SOSA organization that holds financial literacy workshops in communities. The workshops are free and address issues like retirement, college planning, estate planning, etc.

Nikita Harmon indicated she was running for reelection as judge of the 176 Criminal Court.

A representative of the district clerk's office asked for contact information for members present because the office is having a difficult time getting people to appear for jury service. He was trying to determine the issues people have with jury service.

Mike stated that council members and city departments are asking for contact information for civic clubs because of requirements mandated by the state. A member indicated she did not feel comfortable releasing people's contact information. Michael Huffmaster stated the city needs contact information to inform affected residents of changes in land use. He further indicated that the Planning Department website allows organizations to register with the city so they may receive information. Rhonda Sauter confirmed that the city was starting this initiative to collect data in a uniform way. She also encouraged SNC leaders to not use their personal email addresses since they disconnect from the SN when the leadership leave. Rhonda also indicated that district CIP meetings will be starting.

Stacie mentioned that there is an I45 survey the Planning Department is encouraging people to take regarding the TxDOT project. She also mentioned that neighborhood residents having problems with bars are encouraged to download and use the TABC phone app to report problems.

Tomaro Bell suggested individuals having problem with flooding contact their county commissioner for assistance.

Pedro Ayarzagotia stated that Greater Heights had asked the city to help with some of their hike and bike trails. In response, the city is implementing road diets on Studewood and 11th Street and that has met with mixed response in the neighborhood. Leigh Killgore said that Jennifer Ostlind from planning will be at the SN14 meeting to talk about proposed treatment of 11th and Shepherd/Durham south of I610.

Francisco Castillo mentioned that Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia has written a letter opposing the TxDOT plan for I45, encouraging the department to better respond to input from residents.

Michael Huffmaster said his SN will be implementing a Buffalo Bayou cleanup campaign on March 23, and that other similar activities are occurring in Harris and Galveston counties.

Tomaro Bell said she will be the guest speaker at the Fort Bend SN scholarship gala on Feb 28.

Juan stated that he would like to dedicate the Oct or Nov SNA meeting to highlight the accomplishments of Houston SNs; 2-3 minutes for each SN.

VIII. Adjournment at 8:18pm.