

Super Neighborhood Alliance

Minutes of Virtual General Meeting Held 9 May 2022



Guests

Margaret Wallace Brown, P&D Director
David Fields, COH Transportation Planner
Teresa Geisheker, P&D
Muxian Fang, P&D
Suvidha Bandi, P&D
Anna Sedillo, P&D
Rhonda Sauter, DON
Jack Valinski, DON
Betsy Varghese, HPW
Maria Bolanos, Staff for HCC Pct 2
Jordan McGinty-Frazier, Staff for CM At-Large 5
Ellary Makuch, Staff for CM Dist H
DiDi Chavis, Staff for CM Dist K
David Fields, COH Chief Transportation Planner
Travis Leamons, HTV
Linda Trevino, METRO
Margaret Dunlap, METRO
John Fleming, HHD
Sheri Cortez, HCDAO
Genesis Granados, Air Alliance Houston
Alondra Torres, Air Alliance Houston
Ricky Cardenas, TXDOT

Kyle Maronie, HCTax
Mara Gomez, LINK Houston
Ashley Johnson, LINK Houston
Edward Chuter, HISD
Christina Walsh, Staff for HD148
Deb Bonario-Martin
Bessie Mansfield
Curtis Davis
Jesus DeAnda
Leigh Killgore
John Zavala
Paula Parshall
Linda Scurlock
Jay Kleberg
Kay Walton
Alondra Torres
Rhonda Jones
Sharon Evans-Brooks
Debra DeShazor
Stella Mirales
Maya Ford

Super Neighborhood Representatives

Philip Salerno, SNC 5
Ricky Miller, SNC 5
Mark Klein, SNC 12
Marie Carlisle, SNC 14
George Frey, SNC 14
Pedro Ayarzagoitia, SNC 15
Greg Sergesketter, SNC 16
Jeff Baker, SNC 17
Stacie Fairchild, SNC 22
Kay Warhol, SNC 24
Doug Smith, SNC 25
Barbara Quattro, SNC 25
Sandra Rodriguez, SNC 27
Kathie Easterly, SNC 28
Tomaro Bell, SNC 83
Scott Cubbler, SNC 84

Terry Cominsky, SNC 31
Naomi Ostfeld, SNC 36
Sylvia Rivas, SNC 36
Cindy Chapman, SNC 37
Stephen Polnaszek, SNC 38
Barbara Blue, SNC 41
Rhonda Jones, SNC 41
Lupita Talley, SNC 46
Huey German Wilson, SNC 48
Keith Downey, SNC 52
Bridgette Murray, SNC 57
Roy Lira, SNC 63
Amy Dinn, SNC 64/88
Kathleen O'Reilly, SNC 66
Dave Durham, SNC 84
Bart Harris, SNC 86

Meeting convened at 6:30 PM. [May 9, 2022 HTV video recording](#)

- I. **Acceptance of the Minutes of the February, March and April 2022 General Meeting.** Stacie Fairchild said she received a few comments back on the initial drafts and the changes were made. Stacie made a motion to accept the minutes for all three months as amended, and Kathie Easterly seconded the motion.

- II. **Margaret Wallace Brown, City of Houston Planning & Development Director –** Director Brown gave a presentation on the upcoming redistricting town halls, proposed sidewalk changes and a general update about the Liveable Places Action Committee. Director Brown shared the dates and times for the redistricting meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to receive feedback from neighborhoods before the City drafts a citywide map. She pointed out that we do not have to attend our own district meeting but can attend any of these meetings to share our priorities to consider. Contact Rupesh Koshy to make an appointment to draft your own citywide map using the City’s drafting software. Rupesh will provide a tutorial on how to use the software. Doug Brown asked if the plan going forward was to not split District E. Director Brown said yes, in a perfect world. However, neither part of District E are large enough to be their own district – the population must be within 5-7% of 209,000. A thought would be to absorb each piece of District E into the adjacent district. Neither are being considered because it would dilute the minority voting opportunities in both Districts B and I. The reality is that District E will probably remain close to its current configuration. Phillip Salerno asked when the software package was going to be available as he tried to set up an appointment but the precinct overlays were different than expected. Director Brown suggested that Phillip contact Rupesh to get an update. Greg Sergesketter asked what time the meetings would be held. Director Brown said that all redistricting meetings begin at 6:00 PM. Redistricting will be discussed from 6:00-7:00 PM. From 7:00-8:00 PM, Public Works will go over the CIPs relevant to a particular district. Tomaro Bell asked if the City was going to take into account the areas that did not grow as expected the last 10 years into consideration when redrawing boundaries. Director Brown stated that in a perfect world they would stay as they are but if the adjacent districts are not within the population range required by the federal government then it would impact those areas. She said the City’s intent is to make as few changes as possible so not to disrupt the current layout. Stacie Fairchild asked if Director Brown and the demographer are getting the kind of feedback from the neighborhoods they need to help them redraw boundaries. Director Brown said that she’s looking for more and better input from the neighborhoods. Pedro Ayarzagotia asked for clarification on if he used the software to make suggested changes to District H that his input would not be considered. Director Brown acknowledged that Planning and Development has been unclear and they need to fix it at the meetings. She stated that if you have a limited interest, as in one district, the City will take that feedback seriously. She also noted that there are people who want to give input on redistricting the entire city which is what the software tool is for. Kathy Easterly asked if any drafting of maps is happening now. Director Brown said that they are waiting until they have all feedback from us before they put pen to paper. Linda Scurlock asked how District K will be impacted. Director Brown said that she doesn’t know but it is something the City will look at when reviewing the feedback. Roy Lira asked for clarification on the 10% - does that mean it’s plus 5% over the average or minus 5%? Director Brown said the largest cannot be more than 10% bigger than the smallest. The key is 10% difference. Stella Mirales asked when the new map is implemented how do the changes affect our current council representative. Director Brown said the redistricting process will be complete before the next

municipal elections and it may impact who we are able to vote for. Pastor Deb Bonario-Martin asked if the virtual meeting will be interactive. Director Brown said the City are accepting feedback during the virtual meeting. Amy Dinn wanted confirmation that the process would not impact the Super Neighborhood boundaries especially joint SNCs. Director Brown said no, it would not affect current SNC boundaries, however, she asked joint SNCs to highlight that they operate in tandem when providing input. Terry Cominsky asked what was involved in the 209,000 count. Director Brown said that it's persons living in a particular district. For the sake of time, Director Brown said she would skip the Liveable Places update and go over the sidewalk changes quickly. She briefly reminded us the COH changed the requirements for the dimension and construction of sidewalks expanding the width of most sidewalks when a new structure is required. If you're building a new structure in the Central Business District the sidewalk must be 8 feet with a 4-foot buffer. If the new structure is in a neighborhood, then the sidewalk must be 5-feet wide and the buffer 4-feet. If the new structure is on a major thoroughfare, the sidewalk width requirement is 6-feet wide with a 4-foot buffer. New sidewalks are required if a 1) new single-family home (SFH) is constructed, 2) non-SFH building is constructed or expanded by > 25%, new parking lot is constructed or expanded > 25% or by more than 10 parking spaces, or a 4) pedestrian route is established for off-site parking. Since the ordinance was amended the COH has learned over time there are some things they'd like to improve, so their giving property owners the option to opt out of building a sidewalk especially in areas where they would not connect to anything for a number of years. The proposed rules will provide more options to promote a complete sidewalk network. Also, proposed is to establish a sidewalk fund for each sidewalk sector. So, if the property owner chooses to opt out of building a sidewalk, 70% of that fee would go into the same sidewalk sector and 30% spent citywide. Sidewalk project priorities would then be established. Factors to prioritize projects include the existing transportation plan, sidewalk conditions on street, high demand (population, transit options), pedestrian safety, high foot traffic area, and funding availability. Greg Sergesketter asked what forecast is the COH showing for a fee in lieu of sidewalks on an annual basis. Director Brown said they have not projected the amount that would go into the fund but the fee will be based on the cost of construction. Kathie Easterly asked if property owners pay the exemption fee is it non-refundable? Director Brown said that the fee is not refundable.

- III. **SNA Survey** – Roy Lira, SNA Vice President, said the survey was distributed by email to all of the known SNCs. This is a good opportunity to identify some of the themes we are experiencing and what are some of the patterns that we can work on together. The survey focuses on four key areas. 1) What is the SNA doing well, 2) What can we do better, 3) What are the key concerns for your Super Neighborhood, and 4) Identify topics that impact multiple Super Neighborhood so that we can have a larger impact at City Council, 5) Who's willing to give more of their time. Please share the survey with your Super Neighborhood Councils and apply it at the SNC level to understand what the SNA needs to focus on. The data will be shared with the SNA at the August meeting. Roy also mentioned this is a great opportunity for anyone interested to become involved at the Alliance level and pursue the topics you're passionate about. Please contact Roy with any questions.
- IV. **City Budget Meetings** – Doug Smith shared that Mayor Turner will have a press conference on May 10 presenting the proposed FY23 budget followed by two weeks of 26 city department meetings and the airport system that are covered in the general fund. The meetings are open to the public both in person and virtually. He mentioned this is an important process and our opportunity

to ask questions and/or propose items you'd like included in the budget. The department heads are required to attend all meetings in person in City Council chambers.

- V. **Announcements** – Stacie Fairchild reminded everyone of the May Primary Runoffs and encouraged everyone to vote.

Jay Kleberg, Democratic candidate for Texas Land Commissioner shared his platform for office. He mentioned he's putting some policy forward to make sure we are planning before disasters happen.

Ashley Johnson with LINK Houston mentioned that May 23-24 there will be a Vision Zero summit at the Match Center. Local, state and federal stakeholders will attend. Texas leads the nation in traffic fatalities even during the pandemic. He said that LINK Houston is keeping an eye on the METRO Inner Katy BRT project and the sidewalk changes Director Brown shared.

Kathleen O'Reilly said that the ION is holding a festival this week and encouraged everyone to attend.

Huey German Wilson said she's still concerned about the functionality of the 311 app. She said the app is crucial to her SNC reporting illegal dumping which can be 20-30 incidents per month. She asked for the Alliance to obtain confirmation that the COH is moving back to the SeeClickFix app.

- VI. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.