



**Guests**

Thomas Gray, HGAC  
Kimberly Hatter, Mayor's Office  
Marvin Odom, Hurricane Harvey Recovery Team  
Neil Golightly, Hurricane Harvey Recovery Team  
Takasha Francis, Department of Neighborhoods  
Jennifer Ostlind, Planning & Development Dept.  
Teresa Geisheker, Planning & Development Dept.  
Tom McCasland, Housing & Community Development Dept.  
Jack Valinski, Citizens Assistance Office, DON  
Lindsey Ray, City of Houston  
Amanda Timm, Local Initiative Support Corp.  
Randall Ellis, METRO  
Diane Mosier, County Commissioner R. Ellis

Super Neighborhood Representatives  
Philip Salerno, SNC 05  
Roger Gingell, SNC 10  
Ed Browne, SNC 10  
Mark Klein, SNC 12  
Pedro Ayarzagotia, SNC 15  
Greg Sergesketter, SNC 16  
Steve Ashy, SNA Secretary, SNC 17  
Michael Huffmaster, SNA Chairman, SNC 18  
Jane West, SNA Past-Chairwoman, SNC 22  
Mike Van Dusen, SNC 22  
Doug Smith, SNC 25  
Sandra Rodriguez, SNC 27  
Harold L. Harris, SNC 31  
John Nienhuser, SNC 32  
Cindy Chapman, SNC 37  
Jeff Peters, SNC 38  
Juan Sorto, SNC 49/50  
Randall Baxley, SNC 51  
Stella Mireles, SNC 51  
Keith Downey, SNC 52  
Kathleen O'Reilly, SNC 66  
Dave Durham, SNC 84  
Scott Cubbler, SNC 84

**I. Introductions and Approval of Minutes from June 12, 2017 Meeting:**

Motion to approve the Minutes from the June 12, 2017, meeting made by Pedro Ayarzagotia, seconded by Mark Klein, motion carried.

**II. Complete Communities Progress Report, Jennifer Ostlind**

Ms. Ostlind reported that kick-off meetings for the city's Complete Communities initiative are underway and have been very well attended. The meetings have demonstrated that each pilot neighborhood has unique needs and individual goals to achieve. The city is engaging the residents in each neighborhood to understand their vision and partner with members of the local community to support their efforts to achieve their goals. Some of these areas have already had the benefit of significant neighborhood planning efforts, often by community development partners such as the Local Initiatives Support Corporation ("LISC") or Avenue CDC. For those communities where planning efforts are already underway or completed, the city will look for ways to support implementation of those plans. For areas without previous neighborhood planning efforts,

the city is conducting a 6 to 9 month community engagement process to help local residents and businesses identify improvements to strengthen these communities. After completing these plans, The City will ask the local community and other organizations to partner in turning the plans into reality. There is a website with relevant information including links to individual meetings and Neighborhood Support Teams (NSTs): [www.houstontx.gov/completemunities/](http://www.houstontx.gov/completemunities/) There is also an advisory committee helping to guide the entire process. SNA Chairman Michael Huffmaster is an advisory committee member. Juan Sorto from SNC 49/50 (East Houston/Settegast) has attended all five kick-off meetings. The program's goals for 2018 are: (1) Creation of Complete Communities Plans for each neighborhood; (2) Creation of implementation strategies; and (3) begin implementation of long term projects.

### **III. HGAC High Capacity Transit Task Force and Long Range Planning, Thomas Gray Chief Transportation Planner for the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC)**

H-GAC is a 13-county regional planning organization through which local governments consider issues and cooperate in solving area wide problems. One of HGAC's tasks is to oversee a continuous transportation planning process involving the eight central counties of the 13-county HGAC region. The 2040 Regional Transportation Plan ("RTP") is the latest update to this process. The investments recommended in this plan total approximately \$75 billion (in current dollars). Although the 2040 RTP envisions reconstruction and capacity improvements to many of the region's thoroughfares, freeways and toll roads, future growth and the resulting travel is expected to surpass our ability to meet regional mobility needs by relying solely on increased roadway capacity. Consequently, the current RTP includes future high capacity transit investment in a few major transportation corridors. Since, however, the RTP is a financially constrained plan for which only limited funding is available, it does not contain a broad, long term consideration of high capacity transit as a solution to current and future congestion issues in our region. (METRO is the only transit agency in the area with a dedicated revenue stream, i.e., the 1% sales tax.)

Earlier this year, HGAC's Transportation Policy Council ("TPC") created a High Capacity Transit Task Force ("HCTTF") charged with investigating the need and opportunity for high capacity transit in the HGAC region. The findings and recommendations of the Task Force will be summarized in a report to the TPC expected to be completed by August of 2018, that will be considered in the development of the next RTP update, i.e., the 2045 RTP. The HCTTF is chaired by ... from Chambers County, and its three-member leadership team include METRO Chair, Carrin Patman, and Houston CM Amanda Edwards. Membership in the HCTTF includes all members of the TPC, as well as a number of at-large invited members including the SNA's secretary and transportation committee chairman, Steve Ashy, and Philip Salerno from SNC 05 (Greater Inwood).

Building on previous planning work performed by H-GAC, METRO, the Gulf Coast Rail District and others, this Task Force has been charged with addressing the following questions: 1. What is the importance of high capacity transit to the region's future? How will it support regional mobility, growth and quality of life?

2. What current and future travel corridors would benefit most from new high capacity transit services?

a. Which of these are likely to have benefits in excess of their expected construction, operations and maintenance costs? b. Apart from development costs, what other factors may constrain or enhance the opportunity for development of high capacity transit services regionally or within specific corridors? Factors to be considered may include: right of way constraints/opportunities; environmental constraints; impact on adjacent communities; opportunities for Private/Public partnerships; and, vehicle automation.

3. What are the opportunities to obtain additional federal, state or other funds that could be used to develop and sustain high capacity transit projects? Developing case studies examining: the role of

state, federal, local and private investment; proposed local funding mechanisms; and how community and state legislative support was created. 4. Develop recommendations regarding high capacity transit recommendations for the 2045 RTP as well as coordinate with regional transit authorities on long range planning efforts and funding opportunities. SNA members are invited to provide comments via Steve Ashy and Philip Salerno. The HCTTF can be followed on-line at: <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/transportation-committees/hct/agendas.aspx>

#### **IV. Harvey Recovery Team Report, Marvin Odom and Neil Golightly**

~2.6k miles of Houston roadways with standing water, and left over 90k people not living in their homes. Mayor Turner has characterized this as a “defining moment for the city of Houston.” and said that “It’s not enough for us just to rebuild in the same way, in the same place. If we do that, then we will miss the mark and quite frankly we will miss the opportunity this storm has afforded us.” The mayor has established Houston’s Recovery Team lead by Chief Recovery Officer Marvin Odom. The Recovery Team’s mission is to secure and deploy disaster resources to accelerate Houston’s recovery, strengthen Houston resilience, and enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of Houston and its people. The City is requesting direct allocation from HUD. The Recovery Team has a goal of generating over ten million volunteer hours to help satisfy the local match requirement for federal funds. The effort to do so will be organized by neighborhood, and will be assisted by non-profits.

The recovery effort is targeting housing, city facilities and infrastructure, and small businesses. The scale of the project is huge. To date, ~192k FEMA Individual Assistant claims have been submitted; over 40% of which represent Houstonians in damaged houses. Moreover, reporting to date likely underestimates damage to multi-family homes. Resiliency is “front and center” down to micro-resiliency at the neighborhood level. Leading the neighborhood recovery effort are Department of Neighborhoods Director Takasha Francis and LISC’s Amanda Timm. The team is seeking a central place in each neighborhood to serve as a recovery resource center so that residents can go to one place for all their disaster recovery needs. The first soft launch of such a place will be in Kashmere Gardens Multi-Service Center. Collaboration at the individual neighborhood level is hoped to put Houston in better shape to respond to the next storm. Although a website for the Recovery Team is planned, it does not yet exist. Mr. Odom agreed to provide the SNA a copy of his power point presentation for posting electronically together with these minutes. Although the Super Neighborhood structure was said to be essential to the team’s work, Recovery Team Members had no response to questions about SNCs and their members can be involved.

In response to questions from the audience, Director Francis acknowledged that every neighborhood will need a unique approach, stated that the team intended to go door-to-door to identify needs, and introduced Kimberly Hatter from the Mayor’s office as the team’s executive director. Amanda Timm stated that a goal is to build support systems in neighborhoods and that her role will include making sure that neighborhood voices are heard. She also stated that the acronym LISC stands for Local Initiative Support Corporation.

When asked how residents trying to decide whether to stay and rebuild or move could access information about what resources will be there, i.e., which businesses, schools, housing, etc., Mr. Odom and Mr. Golightly both said that the team doesn’t yet have answers to all questions but wanted to hear as many questions as possible to help prioritize work. He also said that the team would look to Chairman Huffmaster to help insure that the team is hearing what’s on people’s minds. They also

said that there will be a gap between the time that people need answers and the time that funding becomes available. Team members acknowledged that a capacity issue exists, i.e., more people need case management services than there are case managers to provide those services. Case managers help people navigate the recovery process and typically handle approximately 30 cases at a time. People needing case management help should be advised to call 211 and ask specifically for a disaster recovery case manager. There was also discussion about post-traumatic stress suffered by people whose houses have flooded, and the need for an opportunity to talk about their experience, and possible need for mental health counseling. Team members and attendees acknowledged these needs and willingness to help address them, especially in hard-hit neighborhoods like Kashmere Gardens in NE Houston.

In response to questions about funding for housing, the Housing and Community Development Director, Tom McCasland responded that there are professionals working in this area to provide housing assistance. He also stated that the city is on track to spend existing housing funds within the next three years. Mr. Odom stated that all housing projects must meet federal guidelines for reimbursement. In response to questions about whether apartment complexes that have flooded in the past would be repaired and repopulated, Director McCasland responded that the definition of substantial damage for a multi-family property differs from that for single family residences, and asks if flood water reached the second floor. He also said that none of the substantial damage lists have been released yet. He also said that repetitive flooding is an issue for buy outs but not for permits needed to repair substantial damage. He also said that his department is now pushing for platform style development that will keep most residential units out of the flood range. He said that such units cost about \$200k per door as opposed to \$150k per door. He said that building single family residences on raised pier and beam foundations costs only about \$7k per door more than a slab foundation.

When asked about continued building in flood plains, Mr. Odom said that it could take 4-5 years to develop new flood maps, and until then the existing system will have to be used to control what's possible. He said that the first stage will be to make obvious buy-outs. When asked if the city would revise Chapter 9 of the Infrastructure Design Manual to address flooding issues in accordance with outstanding recommendations from the SNA, Mr. Odom acknowledged that he wasn't familiar with Chapter 9 but that he would look into it. He also said that the Recovery Team was not afraid of making people uncomfortable regarding changes to the building code, and that mitigation isn't just about eliminating or reducing the threat of flooding but of managing water..

In response to a request for more transparency about the work of the Redevelopment and Drainage Task Force headed by Stephen Costello, team members said that there is a communication position on the Recovery Team that has yet to be filled.

**V. SNA Activities Update: Mentoring Workshop:** Chairman Huffmaster reported that the mentoring workshop has been indefinitely postponed until sometime next year.

## **VI. New Business**

**A. Nominating Committee:** Chairman Huffmaster reported that he had appointed the following people to serve as the nominating committee for next year's officers: Doug Parrish (SNC 17); Cindy Chapman (SNC 37); and Albert Coleman (SNC 49/50).

- B. Bicycle Advisory Committee:** Chairman Huffmaster reported that the SNA had been asked to recommend nominees for the Bicycle Advisory Committee (“BAC”), and that Mike Van Dusen (SNC 22) agreed to seek a nomination to the BAC.

## **VII. Old Business**

- A. Liveability (Transportation and Parks; Steve Ashy): No report.**

- B. Infrastructure (Flooding and Drainage, Mark Klein)**

Mark Klein submitted the attached proposed 8-point Flood Mitigation Resolution to be discussed and considered at the next SNA meeting on December 11th.

- C. Growth and Economic Development (Ivory Mayhorn): No report.**

- D. Health, Public Safety, and Finance (Tomaro Bell): No report.**

- E. Transitions and Regulatory Affairs (Jane West)**

Jane West submitted the attached written report addressing (1) the administration’s proposal to create a dockless bikeshare pilot program; (2) an update on the Walkable Places Committee; (3) an update on the city’s efforts to implement recently adopted anti-encampment and anti-panhandling ordinances; and (4) report on the completion of Plan Downtown (see [www.downtowndistrict.org/projects-initiatives/plan-downtown](http://www.downtowndistrict.org/projects-initiatives/plan-downtown)).

## **VIII. Announcements and Open Comments (5 minutes)**

Chairman Huffmaster announced that the next meeting will be December 11th, and the keynote speaker will be Fire Department Chief Samuel Pena.

## **IX. Adjournment: 8:30 p.m.**