

RPCA General Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting
- III. Open Items (*Additional Comments*)
 - a. Update on the traffic calming application submittal/ideas for next steps (pursue with Ellen Cohen or others, need a city official to accelerate it at all) – John Geiss called Cohen’s office
 - i. *Ellen Cohen’s office has not responded to John’s multiple inquiries yet; they are in receipt of the information provided to the NTMP Speed Control Program; keep contacting them to see if that traffic study/funds for traffic calming devices can be accelerated.*
 - b. Spring Block Party Recap: cost, attendance, suggestions for next year
 - i. *Favorable response; bounce house was popular with the kids; ~36 family units/addresses were represented – relatively consistent attendance from year to year for each the Spring Block parties and NNO. Encourage more residents to attend.*
 - c. Super Neighborhood Meeting – Larry Wood any updates?
 - i. *No updates*
 - d. Treasurer’s Report
 - i. *\$6000 – received several membership renewals and 2 sponsorship payments at the General Meeting; Local companies willing to sponsor will receive recognition on NNO event banners, other RPCA materials*

IV. New Business

- a. National Night Out 2018: October 2, 6-8 PM on 1800 Block of Norfolk: Allen Hill and the Oldies Band to play; Police Dept and Constable to have representation; RPCA will get some pizzas and drinks; Last name A-L can bring appetizers/entrees, M-Z can bring desserts.
 - i. *More information will be provided closer to the date; will be held on the south side of 1800 Block Norfolk at the same location as previous years*
- b. Adopt a Drain
 - i. *Go online to do so – can name the drain whatever you want; commit to 4x/year maintenance/simple cleaning of the drain*
 - ii. *Started a larger conversation about drain maintenance/conditions in the neighborhood. If major drain cleanout is needed, or if damage is observed, then report to 311. Otherwise, routine maintenance falls to the nearby homeowners. Drain at Norfolk and Woodhead discussed – layers of asphalt have constricted the drain opening. COH says that street drainage is designed to handle 2” rain/hour – beyond that, the streets will serve as detention ponds – be careful of where you park your car in advance of a large rain event.*
- c. Volunteer/committee opportunities:
 - i. Need 1700 Block Lexington Block Captain – no volunteers
 - ii. Need 1900 Block Lexington Block Captain
- d. Verizon 5G Utility Work: ongoing; should be available by year end
 - i. *Will provide wireless broadband options by year end – unsure of price; Houston one of pilot cities to receive the technology*

e. Submit ideas for **COH Department of Neighborhoods Matching Grants**: Provide \$500 to \$5,000 to support neighborhood beautification and physical improvement projects conducted by eligible nonprofit organizations. Projects funded under the program must involve residents, provide long-standing benefits to the community and be accessible to the public. The application deadline is November 2, 2018. To qualify for a matching grant, organizations must be certified as a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization by the State of Texas or must secure a partnership with a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4).

*i. Suggestion was made to pursue planting curbside trees through Trees for Houston. ~\$300/tree for 30 gallon tree (~8 ft tall); unanimous approval of members in attendance to investigate this option further and to provide a list of possible locations in the neighborhood to place the trees. Will require consent of homeowner near the proposed tree planting location – they will be needed to help water it, keep it alive after planting. Only want the trees in front of homes that will maintain/care for them. **November 2** deadline to submit to COH for matching grants.*

f. Other New Business

i. Several first time RPCA General Meeting attendees – welcome!

ii. Rebuild Houston discussed in context of street drainage – no new projects designated for Woodhead. Likely waiting for Phase III Fairmont Museum, which will likely rebuild part of the street during construction. John emailed the Marone group to check on status for starting Phase III, but no response

iii. Rebuilding sidewalks – technically the homeowner's responsibility; requirements for new build construction; John will look into whether the COH has a preferred/discounted list of contractors who would do the work at a lower cost;

RPCA does not have the funds to undertake sidewalk capital improvements; best for households/neighbors to get together and negotiate volume discount

- iv. Police patrols and crime reporting – no significant incidents reported. However, even if there are minor disturbances/street side break-ins etc. be sure to report to the police; HPD is willing to do drive throughs of the neighborhood, if there are enough reports to justify it. Not enough reports have been filed from RPCA to warrant it in the eyes of HPD. Report any issues in order to increase the report count; Utilize HPD non-emergency number to report.*
- v. Ellen Cohen's office has a block of money in conjunction with Montrose TIRZ for sidewalk "shaving" / leveling in the Montrose area. Richwood Place is outside the TIRZ, but we may see some benefit from any work done along Richmond Ave, which is covered by the Montrose TIRZ.*
- vi. Papa Mia's defunct restaurant is finally for lease.*
- vii. Unfinished/abandoned townhouse on 1900 Block of Portsmouth is finally being worked on – old wood removed, putting in windows? Progress.*
- viii. The New Resident Welcome packets are completed and available for distribution. Jerry Blum and Cliff Helmcamp will help monitor new resident arrivals/home purchases; John Geiss will insert Letter from the President; if you know of a newly arrived resident, then contact John Geiss. Packet includes 1 year free membership to try and engage new homeowners to be part of RPCA.*

V. Adjournment

The General Meeting was held upstairs at Star Pizza; we had ~25 attendees from the neighborhood.