

ALIEF SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Minutes for Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Alief Super Neighborhood # 25 held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the CenterPoint Energy Building, 12330 Bellaire Blvd.

PROGRAM

Michael Manning called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. Vice Chair, Dave Williams, conducted Roll Call of council members (See attached.). A quorum was met.

Hospitality: Donated by City Council Member-at-large #5, Jolanda “Jo” Jones. Thanks were expressed for her support of the ASNC and the Alief community and a certificate was presented.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS - Guests present included: Catherine Le (US Congressman Al Green’s Office); Sandra Fernandez (Communications Officer) and Shammi Gil (both of Houston City Library System); Veronica Hernandez (mayor’s office); Dawn Hurd (Liaison, MJ Khan’s office); Betty Martin (Houston Chronicle Reporter); Winston Dahse, (Houston Community College); Melba Martin ???(HCC, NW campus librarian), Westside beat Police officers Sepulveda and Beckworth; Council member, Jolanda Jones and assistant, Michelle Phillips.

MOTIONS MADE:

1. Ray Moon: to accept the March minutes as presented. Seconded: Dave Williams. Council voted. Motion Passed.
2. Michael Manning: to accept two changes to the bylaws (see below). Seconded: Dorothea Pindell. Council voted. Motion passed.
3. Barbara Quattro to adjourn the meeting. Marie Lee seconded. Council voted. Motion Passed.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

JOLANDA JONES, AT LARGE #5 CITY COUNCIL MEMBER. Ms. Jones, an Elsie High School alumni and athlete, class of 1984, graduated from Texas College of Law. She worked for a (prestigious) Houston area law firm before she was elected to the city council three months ago, in January 2008. Ms. Jones expressed her special interest in Alief and the way it was in the 70’s. She noted the changes that have transpired, especially in crime/gangs and demographics, and her concentration on public safety and affordable housing. She supports the new police helicopters’ expense. She is trying to help the Bellerive senior housing project’s (where a fire occurred) displaced, disabled occupants who are trying to get back their belongings—for a price. She noted that the city pays an excessive premium for contracted services. Of special importance, said Ms. Jones, is that the way to get things accomplished is for the public to register ahead of time to speak at (televised) City Council meetings. It is her opinion that the city wants the problem solved before the person complains on camera. One council member, Mike Kreinsen, noted that City Council is comprised of (publicly) elected representatives so that they (the public) should not have to go downtown to council meetings. When opened to the floor, a police officer commented about the lack of police officers for area coverage and backup. Most of their time is spent with shootings and cuttings. New police trainees are sent to work the jails. Ms. Jones insisted that a large part of the overall problem is the inefficient way that money is spent supporting the needs of her constituency. .

WINSTON DAHSE, PRESIDENT SW COLLEGE, HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Thanked the ASNC for its support and mentioned the grand opening and open house which was held April 29th. He reported updates between the old Alief and new Alief campus structure. There are five major locations in Houston serving 18,000 students. Mr. Dahse said the HCC is exploring the possibility of annexing Alief which would increase taxes (current proposed rate is 9%), but at the same time, provide education to Alief students at an “in district” vs. “out of district” fee (which would be approximately half). A sign up sheet was provided for

people (within AISD parameters) to sign to put the issue on the ballot in November. They currently have about 7000 signatures. Michael opened the floor up for questions.

COMMITTEE & STANDING REPORTS

CHAIR'S REPORT – Michael Manning stated that Ray Moon had attended a Green Program and suggested a Green ASNC meeting i.e., a speaker from the program. Ray said he would follow up.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Ray Moon reported the bank balance was over \$4500. Ray suggested moving the funds to a money market account or CD at another bank. Evidently financial statements have not been timely and the problem has not been corrected by the bank. Ray noted there is not currently a budget. He mentioned Tradition Bank might be a good bank for the ASNC to consider.

KEEP HOUSTON BEAUTIFUL CLEAN UP: The cleanup will be held Saturday, April 26th, so that students can volunteer (May gets too busy). Dawn Hurd of Councilman Khans' office gave specifics of the cleanup.

ALIEF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, the Old Alief Historical Cemetery revamp is still the major project. The Business Networking Breakfast will take place May 6th at the Knights of Columbus Bingo Hall on Beechnut near Kirkwood.

S.A.V.E. ALIEF HEALTH FAIR. Anne Williams stated the health fair will be July 26. It is early this year, the last Saturday in July, in order to avoid a repeat conflict with tax free weekend. The first planning meeting will be April 29th at 5:30PM at Alief Middle School on Cook Road.

ALIEF LIBRARY- Shammi Gil introduced Sandra Fernandez, Communications Officer for the Library System. She reported that story time was on schedule. Sandra invited everyone out for the Grand Reopening of the Library 6/21/08 and Discovery Green Park. At the park, there is free computer log-in to the library

BYLAWS COMMITTEE. Dave Williams presented a copy of the revised by laws. A motion was made to adopt the new by-laws which will include a student on the council and creation of a senior citizens provider position on the council. Dr. Stoerner suggested selecting one of the students who have been regularly attending ASNC meetings.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS – May: TX State Representative Jim Murphy, District 132.

PUBLIC SESSION - No additional input

The next ASNC meeting will be held at 7:00 P.M. on the fourth Tuesday, May 27, 2008, at the CenterPoint Energy Building, 12330 Bellaire Blvd.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 P.M.

Minutes approved on _____

Compiled by Vivien Sugar, Appointed Assistant Recording Secretary

Edited and Respectfully Submitted by
Henry Williams, Secretary, Alief Super Neighborhood Council