

ALIEF SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Minutes for Tuesday, August 26, 2008

Alief Super Neighborhood # 25 held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 26, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the CenterPoint Energy Building, 12330 Bellaire Blvd.

PROGRAM:

Chairman, Michael Manning, called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. He requested that cell phones ringers be turned off. Secretary Henry Williams conducted the Roll Call of council members. He announced a quorum was present. (See attached.)

Hospitality: Donated by Thai Spice Asian Bistro (at Bellaire and Eldridge). Thanks were expressed for their support of the ASNC and the Alief community. A thank you certificate was presented.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Greg Nady, Hike and Bike advocate, Joe Turner, Director, City Parks & Recreation, Victoria Hernandez (City of Houston), Dawn Hurd (Councilman M.J, Khan's Office),

MOTIONS MADE:

1. Barbara Quattro to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded: Mike Kreinsen. Council voted. Motion Passed.
2. Mike Kreinsen to contribute \$250 to the Centerpoint Energy "Don D Jordan" Scholarship Fund, a 501(3)c. Seconded by Marie Lee. Motion Passed. Ray Moon abstained.
3. Dorothea Pindell, to put the ASNC name as a sponsor of the HGAC meeting on Transportation at the International Trade Center, September 16, 2008. Seconded by Barbara Quattro. Motion Passed.
4. Ray Moon: to adjourn the meeting. Seconded Susie Molina. Council voted. Motion Passed.

COMMITTEE & STANDING REPORTS –

CHAIRS REPORT - Michael Manning cautioned that any political endorsements by council members must be done as individuals, not as representatives of the council, otherwise our 501-C-3 could be jeopardized. He met with Representative Al Green regarding "earmarks". Michael asked the council to comment on how they felt about earmarking Federal funds (tax dollars) for a Hike and Bike trail from the east side of Harwin Park north to Bellaire, under the street, onward to Arthur Storey Park. In addition, Michael asked the council if they would support every community in the US using earmarks by Congressmen for hike & bike trails and funding for hospital districts. Michael stated the funding is usually 80% Federal and 20% local. The consensus was that the majority of the council could not support blanket earmarks.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Ray Moon reported the current balance is \$4668.85. He has not yet had time to research other banks for our account. Barbara Quattro suggested a high CD (4.2%) rate at Tradition bank. Ray noted the bank supports the ASNC.

ALIEF COMMUNITY Marie Lee reported the success of the Alief parade. Participation was great. In the future, a fall month would be better weather wise. A festival in conjunction with the parade was brought up. A date has not yet been set for the next annual parade meeting.

Mike Kreinsen said there is an anonymous benefactor willing to contribute to fencing around the old Alief cemetery. Marie Lee was successful in preventing a METRO bus stop from being constructed on the cemetery property.

S.A.V.E. ALIEF HEALTH FAIR. Anne Williams stated the health fair held July 26 was a success, over 1200 attended. Thank you certificates were distributed.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Mr. Greg Nady, Hike & Bike Trail Advocate. - Greg brought a map showing the current bike trails on the west side of town. He explained the various organizations he approached and people involved in fundraising/developing the trails which involved a lot of time and persistence. Shell Oil, his employer, presented them with \$100,000. His orientation is towards off road trails.. In addition, Greg expects underpasses will connect trails broken by bridges. He noted that a modest influx of \$2.6 million would connect two trails making a continuous 40 miles off road trail. Greg stated that studies indicate the establishing of trails

actually reduces crime. Maintenance cost is modest. Usage of the trails pulls more cars off the road. Greg answered questions from the floor

Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Dept. Michael Manning welcomed Mr. Turner, noting he has done a lot for Alief. Joe discussed the elements involved in building and financing trails. Flood control projects present excellent opportunities to build trails. He mentioned the various sources of funding and partnering for existing and proposed projects in Houston. There are 94 projects identified/managed through 2013. Issues of easements often complicate proposed projects. There are no CIP dollars. Joe introduced some of his staff including, among others, Mark Ross, and Lisa Johnson. There were discussions of the Alief Community Park: current conditions such as potholes, building odor, acoustics; and future improvements such as the 'Playground Without Barriers'. Michael Manning said a major concern in Alief is upgrading the soccer fields. Complicating this issue is that the park is in the floodplain and 50 parking spaces are needed per field. Boone Road Park is one of the most used parks in the area. Michael thanked Joe for the hike and bike trail that is going in there. The future of Hackberry Park was also discussed; they hope to open it this fall. Short and long term plans were noted. Concessions and after school programs were mentioned. Michael brought up debris left after mowing and edging of medians. Joe acknowledged that it was a problem he is trying to resolve. He is looking forward to establishing a city inspection report on parks, medians etc. to follow up on items like maintenance (which would be published online). Joe can be reached at <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/> or his email joeturner@cityofhouston.net.

NEW BUSINESS

SNAP for CIP: Michael asked the council for a kickoff date for the CIP. **November** was selected.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS –. **September**, Candidates- State, County and Judicial. Barbara Quattro and Elsie Smith will coordinate.

PUBLIC SESSION

Public Session and Announcements

1. In September the AISD Education Foundation will sponsor a Golf Tournament which supplies scholarships to our students
2. September 13, Al Green's office will hold meeting to discuss options to avoid foreclosure
3. LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) is sponsoring a meeting at United Way Building, Aug 27, for community development and funds for projects. Concept is "Building Sustainable Communities".
4. Boat People SOS is now located in Hong Kong Mall
5. Dawn Hurd, from MJ Khan's office, announced the councilman is hosting a HGAC Transportation meeting, September 16, 6:30, Southern News, 11122 Bellaire
6. Anne Williams requested that ALL LITERATURE (including political material) brought to meetings be removed at the end of the meeting.
7. The Quarterly Alief Breakfast meeting has been rescheduled for September 16th at the Southern News Building 11122 Bellaire.
8. Starting in October Solid Waste will now have one month for junk (even numbered months) followed by one month of tree waste (odd numbered months).

The next ASNC meeting will be held at 7:00 P.M. on the fourth Tuesday, September 23, 2008 at the Southern News Building, 11122 Bellaire Blvd. (just east of Boone on the north side of Bellaire)

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Minutes approved on _____

Compiled by V. M. Sugar
Respectfully Edited and Submitted
Henry Williams, Secretary