

(Attached are minutes and a roster of the board members)

ALIEF SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Minutes for Tuesday, July 22, 2008

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

PROGRAM:

Chairman, Michael Manning, called the meeting to order at 7:08 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 West Houston Medical Center. Thanks were expressed for their support of the ASNC and the Alief community. A thank you certificate was presented to Todd Caliva, West Houston Medical Center CEO.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Todd Caliva, CEO, West Houston Medical Center, Beverly Gor, Board Member Hope Clinic, Dr, Aijaz Ali Khowaja, CEO, Ibn Sina Clinic, Ricci Sanchez, Director, Alief Community Health Center; Bobby Rafael, Al Green's office; Victoria Hernandez, City of Houston; Greg Myers, Republican candidate for House of Representatives, District 149

MOTIONS MADE:

1. Barbara Quattro: to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded: James Anderson. Council voted. Motion Passed.
2. Ray Moon: To seat Mr. Sam Perlin as SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICES PROVIDER representative. Seconded: Kim Mathes. Council voted. Motion Passed.
3. Elsie Smith: to purchase signs ASNC to use in the Alief Parade. Seconded: Razi Asaduddin. Council voted. Motion Passed.
4. Marie Lee: to adjourn the meeting. Seconded: Henry Williams. Council voted. Motion Passed.

COMMITTEE & STANDING REPORTS –

CHAIR'S REPORT: Michael Manning attended a Super neighborhood Alliance meeting with the mayor. He noted the 211 number to call (a United Way effort) to register for emergency evacuation during a hurricane and provided flyers on same. He also mentioned a partnering with civic associations to plant a tree and the city will pay half.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Ray Moon reported the current balance is \$250 less than \$4,749.85. He has not yet had time to research other banks to handle our account.

NOMINATIONS/ELECTION COMMITTEE welcomed Sam Perlin to the Council as *Senior Citizen Services Provider* representative.

ALIEF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - is hosting the first annual *Alief International Parade*, Saturday, August 9th at 9AM. The route will begin at the International Trade Center travel west on Bellaire to Hastings Ninth Grade Center on Cook Road. Marie Lee reports that Rashard Lewis, star player with the Orlando Magic's basketball team, will be our Grand Marshall. A flyer was distributed with additional information. After the parade, the *Alief Alumni Group* will sponsor its First Ever Community Wide Celebration, called **The Alief Apple Celebration!** This event will be hosted by NBA's Rashard Lewis of the Orlando Magic, on Saturday, August 9, 2008, from 11 AM-5 PM at Fun Plex, 13700 Beechnut @ Eldridge.

S.A.V.E. ALIEF HEALTH FAIR. Anne Williams stated the health fair will be held this Saturday, July 26. Due to a roofing project at Alief Middle School, the location has been changed to the ALIEF HASTINGS 9TH GRADE CENTER, just across the street, at 6750 Cook Rd. She reported on the many free services that will be available. Michael Manning repeated the need for Blood donors to sign up.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Todd Cavali, CEO, West Houston Medical Center. Todd thanked the ASNC for inviting him. He gave an overview of the medical facility and handed out brochures. Notable figures include the 43,000 visits to the ER annually, 40% of which are not true emergencies. His plan is to direct the non-emergency visitors to the Hope Clinic or Alief Community Health

Center when it is completed. Current laws state that all people who go to the emergency room must be seen by a medical professional to evaluate their condition. He also mentioned that 70% of people visiting the ER have no primary doctor or insurance. West Houston (an HCA hospital) is partnering with Ben Taub on neurosurgery patients. Todd noted the high marks his hospital has received in several areas of health care including a hypothermia cooling treatment in conjunction with HFD. Todd announced a \$70 million, 3 story tower expansion at the medical center.

Beverly J Gor, EdD, RD, LD, CDE, Center for Research on Minority Health, MD Anderson Cancer Center and Board member, Hope Clinic. Ms. Gor noted that the Asian American population is the largest in Texas. There are thus numerous languages and a decreased ability to communicate with them all. She said the major health issues in that group are: cancer, poor health literacy, lack of insurance, lack of access to care. Preventative care is not readily used by this population. The HOPE CLINIC is located at 7001 Corporate Dr. and charges \$15 - \$65, on a sliding scale, for a doctor visit and services.

Dr. Aijaz Ali Khowaja, CEO, Ibn Sina Clinic Dr. Khowaja noted that Ibn Sina Clinic was established in 2001 and is 501C(3) charity. In 2007 it opened a larger more comprehensive facility, at 11226 S. Wilcrest Drive. The charge is \$25 for doctor services and medicine; however, they will work with those unable to pay. It has 3,500 outpatients with 20,000 visits, and currently operates from 9am to 9 pm. Ibn Sina works with MD Anderson to provide free or low-cost mammograms. They have established a Healthy Kids Program and continue to attempt to reach people in need. He noted social services are lacking in the community.

Ricci Sanchez, Center Director, Alief Community Health Center, Harris County Hospital District. The 12 acre county facility is located at 8901 Boone Rd. and should open in the spring of 2009. 55% of Harris County residents are uninsured; 70% of those using the county facilities are uninsured; 37% of TX residents are uninsured (the highest in the nation). Many services will be offered at the new medical clinic including: radiology, dental, and psychological. Residents will be able to register for the HARRIS CO. GOLD CARD, which enable them to qualify for free or low cost medical care at county facilities. Ms. Sanchez noted the attempts at partnering between clinics and hospitals. The issue she felt required the most attention is mental health care.

NEW BUSINESS

UPCOMING SPEAKERS –**August:** Joe Turner, Director, COH Parks and Recreation Dept. **September,** Candidates- State and County. Barbara Quattro and Elsie Smith volunteered to organize ‘Meet the Candidate Night’ on September 23.

PUBLIC SESSION

Public Session and Announcements

1. Michael Manning, Chairman of the SAVE ALIEF Blood Drive, is seeking donor signups for July 26, donations for M.D. Anderson, “Donate blood, help a cancer patient!”
2. Pat Davis: In September the Alief Education Foundation will sponsor its annual Golf Tournament, which supplies scholarships to AISD students.
3. Sidewalks in Huntington Village need repair. Veronica Hernandez, from the Mayor’s Citizen’s Assistance office, will see if they qualify for the ‘Safe Sidewalks’ program.
4. Many “For Sale” signs in the area may indicate possible mortgage loan problems.

The next ASNC meeting will be held at 7:00 P.M. on the fourth Tuesday, August 25, 2008 at the CenterPoint Energy Building, 12330 Bellaire Blvd.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Minutes approved on _____

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