

Westbury Area Improvement Corp (WAIC) & Westbury SuperNeighborhood Council #37

Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2025

Dr. Shannon Walker Library Conference Room

Attending: Becky Edmondson, David Roschke, Marcia Hartman, Debbie Gordon, Cindy Chapman, Cappy Selig, Skip Reeder, Stephen Polnacek, Lindsey Pollock

Guests: Chuck Connelly(resident), Veronica Hernandez (City of Houston), Sandra Cortez(City of Houston), Lucy McLaughlin(Friends of WHS Foundation), Katie Shelton (CM Alcorn), Brian Pendleton (County Commissioner Briones), and Robert Nnake (County Judge Hidalgo)

Officer Reports: President Edmondson welcomed everyone at 10:08 am with introductions all around. She noted that the nonprofit Houston Wilderness had recently been in Westbury to plant trees on a former residential lot that is now a city-owned drainage swale. The January 2025 Meeting Minutes were **APPROVED** per motion by Hartman/Pollock. Treasurer Hartman gave a 2025 Year-To-Date financial update. CDs are coming up for renewal. The Westbury Community Garden, a project of the WAIC, needed a financial audit to apply for a grant. The audit has been completed and there were no findings. The cost of the audit was \$3,400. There was discussion that the WAIC will also benefit from having this financial audit completed, after which, a motion by Hartman/Selig to split the audit cost equally with the Westbury Community Garden was **APPROVED** (thus the audit cost to the WAIC would be \$1,700 from the general funds).

Speakers:

* Debbie Gordon. The Westbury Community Garden will be celebrating its 15th anniversary in March 2025. There will be two separate events: a private catered fundraising brunch with a guest speaker and then a public celebration later in the day. In November 2024, the WAIC board voted to be an event sponsor at \$2,000. She discussed the event details.

* Sandra Cortez, City Dept of Neighborhoods, Super Neighborhood Council (SNC) Coordinator. She works with all the SNCs in the city. The SNC Handbook was finalized in November 2024. Last year our Westbury SNC received a city grant for a MiniMural and this year we received a grant for the Westbury Community Garden. Each SNC can request up to be reimbursed for up to \$2,000 for administrative costs. Examples include supplies, signage, business cards, banners, tablecloths, etc. The deadline to submit receipts is mid-May, since she will have to submit everything by end of May. She recommends that receipts be submitted as incurred. ***She notes that our SNC will need to vote to approve any expenditures for city reimbursement.*** Thus, ideally the board will vote in March on items so that they can be purchased in April to submit the receipts in a timely manner. It was also discussed that the Westbury Super Neighborhood Bylaws need to be slightly modified regarding election for Secretary and Treasurer to comply with city requirements.

ByLaws Revision: By motion by Roschke/Selig, the proposed modification to the Bylaws were **APPROVED**. See the end of these meeting minutes for the revisions.

Updates from around the Table and New Business:

* Friends of WHS Foundation (McLaughlin): Their fundraising gala will be on May 3 at the Windham Hotel on Kirby. They have a committee to review candidates for 12 scholarships. Honorees at the gala are: Bill Burhans (Helped get WHS soccer field completed), Coach Blank (final year at WHS before retiring), and Charles and Mia Simms (alumni and athletic program advocates). Motion by Pollock /Reeder to sponsor a Gala table for \$1,500 was **APPROVED**.

* General discussion and frustration with communications with HISD and local schools. The local schools used to periodically send delegates to our monthly meetings to provide updates, but this is no longer happening. The schools have new administrative teams. Lucy McLaughlin will reach out again to her contact at Westbury High School.

* Westbury Civic Club (Pollock): The WCC will be celebrating its 70th anniversary this year and they are making plans.

* Friends of Levitt Pavilion (Edmondson): The performing space is planned for the former Shell Research site on Gasmer, currently owned by the city. The city plans to retain about half of the site for a maintenance facility, and then the rest of

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the site will be for amenities. A coalition of organizations, including Levitt Pavilion Houston, Brays Oaks Management District, Company on Stage, and Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy are in discussions to create a 501c3 nonprofit organization to develop the site. It was discussed that the Willow Waterhole Stormwater Detention facility was in the 1998 Master Plan for the Westbury community. Motion by Roschke/Pollock to inquire about partnering in these ongoing efforts in the Gasmer site development was **APPROVED**.

* Becky Edmondson – The Donald Perkins Trail is a new trail that connects the trails over at Willow Waterhole to the corner of Chimney Rock and West Belfort. A possible date for the dedication ceremony is May 17.

* Katie Sheldon (CM Alcorn) – City has received report from Ernst and Young about city cost savings. Waiting to get report about the Solid Waste Dept. Budget sessions will be in April and May.

* Veronica Hernandez (Dept of Neighborhoods) – it is time to schedule a ride-a-long of the Westbury area to identify problem locations with city violations. HPD will provide an officer. The city will be opening warming centers for the upcoming freezing weather. The SW Multipurpose Center will be adding a new 2 story building onsite for WIC/Senior Services/Library using both federal and city funds.

* Lindsey Pollock (WCC) – The Westbury Civic Club will be holding its White Elephant Sale event on April 12.

* Becky Edmondson (WAIC) – Keep Houston Beautiful / Keep Westbury Beautiful Day is April 5. Event at Westbury Park.

* Stephan Polnaczek (NTTSW) – He attended the opening of the new pedestrian bridge over Brays Bayou. Trails that will connect under the road bridges in the area are in design by the Houston Parks Board. He attended the groundbreaking for the Captain Herod Memorial Plaza.

* Brian Pendleton (Harris County Precinct 4)- Black History Month events are scheduled at various locations. Register for the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) for medically fragile or disabled by calling 211.

* Lindsey Pollock – She met with the Platou Community Center advisory committee regarding condition of the center and their concerns. She has been trying to contact Parks and Recreation about the concerns.

* Skip Reeder – invited everyone to the upcoming Keegan’s Trail event on April 26 at 9 am. It is being co-sponsored by Neighborhoods to Trails SW and the Friends of Keegan’s Bayou. The role of the Riceville Community in our city’s history will be highlighted.

* Veronica Hernandez – the HPD PIP (Positive Interaction Program) has been moved to Bayland Community Center this month.

Per motion by Roschke/Selig, the meeting was ADJOURNED at 11:58 am.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Cindy Chapman, on behalf of Secretary Susan Shafer.

ATTACHMENT – ByLaw revision.

Proposed REVISION to the BYLAWS of the Westbury SuperNeighborhood Council #37

EXISTING

9. Executive Committee: The Presidents of the two organizations serve as Co chairs of the Council. They will appoint an Executive Committee to review bills before they are presented to the two legislative bodies and to coordinate the actions of the two Boards.

PROPOSED

9. Executive Committee: The Presidents of the two organizations, the Westbury Civic Club and the Westbury Area Improvement Corp., serve as Co-chairs of the Super Neighborhood Council. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer will be elected from the membership of the WAIC and WCC at the annual meeting of the WAIC in November. They will become the Secretary and Treasurer of both the WAIC as well as the Super Neighborhood. Election notices will be posted on our website (westbury37waic.org) as well as on our Facebook page. A nominating committee is formed to find interested candidates. The vote count to win is a simple majority. Officers' terms begin at the time of the election in November.

*The proposed bylaw change shown above was **APPROVED** by the board of the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 18, 2025 per motion by Roschke/Selig.*