



The Washington Avenue District

Superneighborhood Twenty Two

WASHINGTON AVENUE BUSINESS LEADER'S MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, November 10, 2009

MEETING TIME: 3:00PM, 1919 Washington Avenue at The Corkscrew

Meeting was presented by SuperNeighborhood 22 (SN22), represented by:

Jane West - Vice President Super Neighborhood 22 Council

Tom Dornbusch – Vice President Super Neighborhood 22 Council & Representative from Woodcrest

Paul Nicosia - Super Neighborhood 22 Council & President of Magnolia Grove Civic Club

Business Owners:

Richard Taylor – Right Turn Marketing

Mary Jane Buschlen – Watershed Studios

Sarah Rucker - KICKS Indoor Soccer

Michael Hansen

Paul Easterwood – Art on Washington

Jon Deal – Beavers & Winter Street Studios

Aimee Woodall - Blacksheep Marketing

Robert Mize

Agenda:

Greetings: by Paul Nicosia.

- Jane West recaps City of Houston mayor White's decision to sell city property that is inside the Loop – SN22 requests a lease contract to Admiral Linen at this property at Harvard and Center Street and to use the proceeds to build a structure. There will be a December meeting with District C Councilmember Anne Clutterbuck and SN22 would like to have a large organized group be there. Refer to the handout matrix – **Washington Avenue Super Neighborhood Issues November 9, 2009; Street Parking** – in a proposed city plan that includes meters – SN22 wishes the revenue be put back into W/Ave possibly in the form of a parking management district.
- Lauren Michelle Barrash / Washington Wave talks about her shuttle service, that runs: 1) WOW Roundabout to Parking Lot H (a city lot) charge \$5/ride or \$8/night. Discount rate to zip code 77007 residents. A wave-down service, ordinance currently not allowing permanent stops; 2)WOW Roundabout to Midtown; 3) I-10 south on Westcott to Memorial and north on Shepherd.
The routes may change.
 - Washington Wave working with W/Ave businesses on the roll out. The first is on Thursday at The Lot.
 - Ribbon cutting on November 20th at The Corkscrew from 4p.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Facebook.com@WashingtonWave.com to twitter

Lauren relates a story about Houston Police Department stopping traffic on W/Ave three Saturdays ago. Apparently club go-ers have been overflowing on sidewalks and officers wearing fluorescent yellow vest were on each corner direct all traffic. They were going to let the Jitney through but she wanted to see how this traffic control was going to affect residents trying to get in and out of the area

- Paul Nicosia / SN22 liaison, gave City's update on Washington Avenue Matrix. See handout **Washington Avenue Super Neighborhood Issues November 9, 2009**
 - Decal Parking. Jane West addresses W/Ave BOG that SN22 has asked for expedited permit parking – therefore the issue is not closed contrary to what the handout says.
 - Street Parking. It is allowed on W/Ave. The city is proposing peak hour restrictions. Meter installation and signage will start in January.
 - Street Improvements. Start exploring Parking Benefit District. Jane West recommends to W/Ave BOG to start planning now for Capital Improvement (CIP) requests and maybe retiming lights at late times to move traffic westward.



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- Building Codes. Closed. Jane: HPD's Captain Holloway's idea to install double doors by both businesses AND residents.
 - Off Street Parking Ordinance. Continuing. Jane asks W/Ave BOG, "Wouldn't owners like to convert their lots to decks and be able to use city-built parking lots for customers? When neighborhoods, businesses and developers build consensus for policy change, it can happen." Andrew Adams / Corkscrew & Wash Ave Drinkery said the Corkscrew had to shut down for a week because— Andrew thinks it was because of parking issues that they got red tags. He says discrepancies seem to arise regarding code ordinances.
 - Reclassification of W/Ave Corridor as a collector street. Jane informed the W/Ave BOG there is no CIP dollars available for the W/Ave district, which is particularly painful on Sawyer Street. The current Mayor White is not favorable to W/Ave because of the downtown central business district getting the attention. Jane says the goal of changing W/Ave designation to collector is to have angled parking and make it a more pedestrian friendly area – not a thoroughfare. Jane warned that the rebuilding of 290 will adversely impact Washington Avenue if it is not made into a collector.
 - Noise. No news.
 - Public Transportation. No comment on status.
- Paul Nicosia / SN22 liaison - "Where Do We Go From Here?" – The group has been struggling with providing leadership and direction for itself. The goals and issues, from a previous meeting, were reviewed and agreed to.
 - Common group goals are;
 - Make more money
 - Newsletter, advertising and what's going on.
 - Communicate what we do & who we are
 - Communicate about common problems/issues
 - Cross marketing between businesses
 - Get information to the neighborhoods
 - Common group issues are;
 - Crime
 - Petty theft
 - Parking
 - Transit/Metro rail alignment
 - Transient population
 - Pan handlers

During January meeting, the group will need to elect their leadership with a minimum of the following positions:

- Chairperson
 - Vice Chair
 - Secretary
 - Sub-Committee Chairs
 - Marketing/Information
 - Membership
- Open Discussion
 - Andrew harassment by Houston Code inspectors and notes that this is happening to many bars & restaurants. He has asked for assistance from SN22 to make sure that the inspectors are being fair to all businesses and not singling out specific ones.



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- Announcements:
 - Vote on December 12th in the runoff elections.
 - Art on the Avenue event Saturday, Nov 14th
 - Art Crawl on Saturday November 21st... First Ward's Elder Street Lofts are the only SN22 studio that is being included in this event
 - IC Art Inner Corridor – Sign toppers are coming to First Ward street signs by the end of the year and they will say, “1st Ward Arts District Houston
 - KICKS is starting a league for W/Ave business owners on Sunday afternoons

- Next meeting to be on Tuesday, December 15th from 3:00pm to 4:30pm at the art studios of Jeanette Chinelli at 1813 Crockett, Houston TX 77007. Don't forget to bring a friend or a neighboring business leader.

- Adjournment – 4:30pm

For more information, please call Paul Nicosia, at (713) 628-5113 or send an email to egnpdn@msn.com

It is our goal to build a sense of community spirit and pride for our area. Please join us, Superneighborhood 22, the businesses and residents of our community, as we strive to foster a climate of success by building a stronger awareness of and identity for Historic Washington Avenue.