

WAVE BOG Draft Minutes 2009

3:15 p.m. Meeting Commence

1. Agenda Item – **Introduction of new committee members**

- Intros of newest attendees.
- Rene Zamore recapped the previous months SN22 W/Ave Committee social event at the Corkscrew – it was a success with 35 to 40 people attending and sharing camaraderie, along with visits from city council members. (Superneighborhood 22) District H council member Ed Gonzalez spoke in support of Washington corridor businesses and assured attendees he and his team have an open door policy. CM Gonzalez expressed his desire to work with Metro toward a trolley for the area.
- Rene Zamore expressed hopes the WAVE Business Owners Group will discuss broader issues other than just bar business although parking issues are dominating.
- Rene recapped the previous WAVE Business Owners meeting held on June 9th at MECA facility. Ruben Landa representative from Senator Mario Gallegos' office, addressed the group about the pros and cons of a Business Management District for Washington Avenue businesses. The group discussed ideas and would like to move forward with the formation of a BMD. **MEETING HANDOUT:** "Forming a Business Improvement Area".

3:24 p.m.

2. Agenda Item – **Recap of SN22 Board Meeting.** Paul Nicosia recapped pertinent agenda items from Superneighbor22 Council's last meeting on August 10th

- SN22 is in preparation for Candidate Forums for the upcoming elections on Nov 3rd.
 - i. October 7th, for City Council District G there is a candidate forum at Theresa Catholic Church at 7 p.m.
 - ii. October 12th Candidates at Large in the Heights.
- SN22 Transportation Committee has met twice and their meeting is on the 28th September at MECA (1900 Kane Street) at 6:30 p.m. Discussions are around types of transit through the neighborhood with minimal disruption – the committee is seeking representatives from WAVE Business Owners Group to join and will give the WAVE BOG regular updates on its evolution
- The SPECS controversy has gone to the county level and SN22 has stepped back from it
- The Quiet Zone update is good. Train horns should cease by March 2009 as the two Federal and local projects (Safety Zone in First Ward and Quiet Zone in the West End) are moving forward smoothly. Updates can be got at Rich Taylor's website <http://washingtonquietzone.com/>
 - i. A question was asked about the last town hall meeting which was supposed to be strictly about the Quiet Zone but was disrupted by agitated individuals who wanted to vent about other issues, particularly residential dissent over nightclub activity in their vicinity. *It is herein noted to bring up the suggestion at the next SN22 meeting to do more about communicating the progress on "Growing Number of Area Night Clubs" to the community.*

3. Agenda Item – **Becoming a Business District next steps.** Rene Zamore opened up discussion to the group. Questions asked:

- i. *What is the difference is between a TIRZ (Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones) versus a BM?* A response is that TIRZ is collected by the City and the Mayor can change the use of the dollars; in a Business Management the taxpayers have control. A Management District has to be approved by Texas State legislature. More info on Houston TIRZ at: http://houstontx.gov/planning/economic_dev/tirz.htm
- ii. *What can Management Groups sponsor?* A variety of responses covered this including, sidewalks, esplanades, it varies on how much money is available and

who makes up operating organization which has a Board, a Director and usually a few employees. Some Management District that are already in Houston are: Midtown, Downtown, Upper Kirby, Northside, Spring Branch)

- iii. *What is the difference between a Residential and Business Management District and can they be the same?* Paul Nicosia quoted Ruben Landa saying it affects the taxation on property which would be 11 cents per \$100 HCAD valuation. Management Districts can be either or both residential and business.
 - iv. *Is there an assessment of the number of businesses that are in the Washington Avenue Corridor and what the capital and budget might be?* Short answer, no assessment at hand. However,...
 - Washington Avenue Business Owners Group Co-Chair Rene Zamore is putting out a request to the WAVE BOG to formulate a task force / sub committee to do research on forming a Management District. Please email Paul if you are interested .
4. **Agenda Item – City of Houston’s Valet Parking Ordinance**
- **MEETING HANDOUTS:** “Recommended Transportation, Infrastructure and Aviation Committee Agenda for September 14, 2009 3:00 p.m. City Council Chambers 901 Bagby, 2nd Floor Houston Texas”; “Chart of Recommended Revisions to the Valet Ordinance Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances”
 - i. Rene Zamore reported that a representative of the Greater Houston Restaurant Association will attend the Transportation, Infrastructure and Aviation Committee meeting on Monday regarding issues GHRA has on the proposed changes, particularly Item #1 “Expand the prohibition against parking (storing) vehicles on street to apply to the entire City (only applies in CBD now). Sec. 26-372(d)” which would not allow bars or restaurants to store cars along the street. The belief is this item was added because of the recent outcry by residents in the Washington Avenue area about bar and restaurant customer parking. GHRA feels the amendment is too broad – it will suggest to the TIA committee that the language be changed to give residents the right to self-regulate parking issues, for example Residential Parking Permits.
5. **Agenda Item – New Business / Old Business / Announcements**
- **Washington Wagon.** Lauren Michelle Barrash presented her new “jitney” business which will be in the Washington Avenue area. A jitney is a fixed route, 15 or under passenger vehicle that can only function on a set route. Lauren has applied to the City of Houston for a permit and is close to receiving it. Her business plan for the Washington Wagon also includes a second part which will be a website business directory of businesses. The anticipated launch date is October 29th. The hours of jitney operation will be Thursday and Friday (6 p.m to 3 a.m.) and Saturday (8 p.m. to 3 a.m.). Washington Wagon will be working with bar owners in the area. Contact, 2500 Summer St. Houston 77007, cell 713-320-6622.
6. **Next WAVE Wine Social?** The suggestion was raised to hold the next social on October 15th at “Art on Washington” located at 1721 Washington Avenue from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m., owner Paul Easterwood, 713-598-6732. Details will follow. Please mark your calendars now and feel free to invite other businesses as well as friends to this gathering.
7. **New Business –** Paul Nicosia brought up the need for a WAVE Business Owners Group to do a membership drive. Rene Zamore has an email list of over 200 names and approximately 5 percent of them have attended a recent meeting. Mary-Jane Buschlen is a facebook administrator for sn22 and administers <http://sn22.org/business.htm> . She will send out invitations via facebook. Please send the best photos of your businesses to her at sn22admin@sn22.org to add to the superneighborhood22 image library.
- 4:35 p.m. WAVE Business Owners Meeting concluded