

Washington Avenue Business Owners Group Meeting Minutes

WAve BOG Meeting Notes October 13th, 2009

3:00 p.m. Meeting Commence at 1721 Washington Avenue Art on Washington

There was no agenda for this meeting and informal discussion ensued.

1. Paul Nicosia (SN22 Liaison) informed the group that Rene Zamore (Houston Restaurant Assoc.) has stepped down as interim co-chair of WAve BOG. Lauren Michelle Barrash (Washington Wave) offered to step up in leadership position.
2. Opening discussion from question from Paul Easterwood (Art on Washington) about what is going on with transportation along Washington Corridor.
 - Desire expressed for parking garages.
 - All BO's agree rail will kill W/Ave businesses. Can Center Street be used for rail?
3. Lauren spoke about her new Jitney transport business which will run Thurs, Friday and Saturday from 6 pm to 3 am, between the downtown and Washington Ave.
 - GoRev Go wants to try to provide service to the Washington Avenue corridor.
 - Pedi Cabs another option put forward by Andrew Adams (The Corkscrew/Washington Avenue Drinkery)
4. Discussion about bicycle lanes, comparisons between Chicago, Houston and New York.
 - Problem is the turning land along Washington Avenue is blocked off on busy nights.
5. Roy Mize (Landlord Drinkery, Corkscrew, Catalina Coffee, Pilates, etc.) suggested discussing changing center turn lanes to become mixed-use lanes – standard extended car lane.
6. Paul Nicosia announces Super Neighborhood 22 Transportation meetings are being conducted on the fourth Monday of the month at MECA from 6 – 8 pm. All are welcome to participate.
7. Lauren Barrash –went to a Parking Meeting with the City today.
 - Possible solutions may be available, to work with the Jitney service
8. **WAve BOG agrees:**
 - **Using the leased parking space at Center Street Recycling Center (City of Houston leases to Admiral Linen during the day) for night-time city parking for club visitors.**
9. Discussion regarding parking Meters
 - No adamant disagreement except that Paul Easterwood sees it as a sin-tax
10. Visiting District G City Council candidate Dexter Handy asked the group what their vision of Washington Avenue is, what needs to be done;
 - Consequence management.

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- Tow trucks are not good for WAve image
 - Rob: pocket parking; meters
 - Roy/Andrew: Help with COH Club raids (Inspectors)
 - Rob: New Help with COH task force coming to W/Ave
 - Andrew: difficult of getting business owner's to come together (competition)
 - Development of Parking Management District so that funds stay in the area
11. Mary-Jane Buschlen (Watershed Studios) confirms groups approval of “WAve BOG” (Washington Avenue Business Owners Group) title.
12. W/Ave image is changing quickly. Other areas are promoting themselves as NOT being Washington Avenue.
- POW Party on Washington Website (<http://partyonwashington.com/>) website has gone up. The question was raised “ Is this the image that we want?”
 - Cassares developer has positive image of Washington Avenue on their website. How do we promote that.
13. Lauren – Major Issues for WAve BOGS
- PARKING
 - POSITIVE IMAGE EROSION
 - Broad-based events
 - Expanding group of businesses

NEXT MEETING: List ideas, more people to attend
November 10th at the Corkscrew
1919 Washington Ave
3:00pm