

**WAMM CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 12, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Lane Llewellyn, President, at 6:35 pm at the Bering United Methodist Church meeting room.

The attending officers were introduced.

Lane then introduced our speakers for the meeting, Tom Forney, Forney Construction, for an update on the Greek church and school construction, Marilyn Brown from the Coalition for the Homeless, Victor Cordova and Dale Temple, from the City of Houston Forestry and Green Space Management, and Sara Chu and Jasmine Jenkins from Houstonians for Greater Public Schools. Also Helena Johnson and George T, from the Greek Orthodox Church, gave out tickets to the Greek Festival (October 5-8) and let us know that the parking maps had not yet been released.

Marilyn Brown of the Coalition for the Homeless gave an overview of what the group does. Their main task is to find housing for the homeless and then provide the services they need. They are basically a coordinator to get the services accomplished. She said the first step in getting the homeless into housing was for the homeless person to say "yes," they wanted to get off the street. Forty percent of the homeless want to be on the street. From 2012 through the week before Hurricane Harvey they had 60% less people on the street. Obviously, Hurricane Harvey changed this statistic. She said not to confuse the homeless with the panhandlers on the street corner. Do not give money or food to any of these people, it is not in their best interest.

Victor Cordova and Dale Temple of the City of Houston Forestry and Green Space Management, first of all gave us the parameters they work between. Their team is responsible for the area from your property line to the street. They only have responsibility for City property. They gave a handout of what they do. This included items such as Street Tree Inventory, Tree Removal, Arbor Day, and many other items. They listed their email address on the handout, but they said the best way to contact them is to call 311 and register your concern. When asked about the tree removal for the construction of the new church at Annunciation, they replied that the request did not go to forestry, it went to the planning commission. This can happen. There was a discussion on the tree removal that lead to the talk by Tom Forney.

Tom Forney, Forney Construction, was here to give an update on the Annunciation Greek Church and School construction. He mainly talked about street closures (gave out a handout to show the Kipling closure) and answered questions regarding the tree removal on Kipling. At the end of the day, he said the trees that would be planted in

place of the tree removal, plus many additional trees would be much more pleasing than what was there before.

The last speakers were Sara Chu and Jasmine Jenkins from Houstonians for Great Public Schools, HoustonGPS. They mainly wanted WAMM to know about their organization and what they do. They are trying to increase public understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the school board members and to hold the members accountable for high performance. They left us with a brochure for anyone interested.

Lane once again said the current board's term would be up in December. She asked for any volunteers or nominations from the WAMM members in attendance. There were no volunteers. Lane explained that she could not run for President again without changing the By-Laws. She did not think changing the By-Laws was a good idea. She then said she would run for 1st Vice President if nominated, and Lane said Maria Morandi had said she would take on the Secretary/Treasurer combined position on the Board if nominated. Both were nominated and seconded. There was not a quorum so we could not vote. A ballot will be send out and WAMM will vote through this ballot. Details will be forthcoming.

With time running out, Maria Morandi gave the update on the shortfall of the Constable Patrol. Bottom line, the group of WAMM, Audubon Place, and Westmorland are \$19,686.00 short. If we do not collect this amount, we will terminate the Constable Patrol effective 11/30/17.

Diane Baker gave a brief announcement regarding Neighborhood Night Out. WAMM will have our NNO at Sunita Kavrie's home on October 3, 2017, 6:30-8:30, at 1313 Harold. Food and water will be provided. BYOB was announced for any one who would like to bring wine, etc. There will be a sign and balloons at the address.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.