



**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 22, 2010**

PLACE – FREED MONTROSE BRANCH LIBRARY

PRESIDING: MARCUS DUFFEL, PRESIDENT

OFFICERS – JOHN DASCOULIAS, VICE PRESIDENT

SPECIAL GUESTS - CITY OF HOUSTON REPRESENTATIVES

Nelson Espitia, Director of Citizen's Assistance office

Conya Barreras, Community Liaison for Citizen's Assistance office

Moh'd Warrad, Public Works

Lindsay Lanagan, Mayor's Office

GENERAL BUSINESS:

THE ABOVE REFERENCED CITY OF HOUSTON REPRESENTATIVES EACH SPOKE ABOUT THEIR ROLE WITHIN THE CITY AND HOW THEY INTERFACE WITH THE CITIZENS OF HOUSTON. THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF THE PRESENTATION WAS THE PROCESS FOR HAVING THE STREETS REPAIRED IN THE WAMM AREA.

BASICALLY THE PROCESS INVOLVES OBTAINING 75% OF THE ABUTTING PROPERTY OWNERS TO SIGN A PETITION FORM. THE 75% IS BASED ON LINEAR FEET NOT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF HOUSES. THE PETITION IS THEN FILED WITH THE CITY AND IF APPROVED THE WAMM AREA IS ADDED TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD STREET RECONSTRUCTION (NSR) WAITING LIST. A 10 -12-YEAR WAIT IS NOT UNCOMMON. THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AREA RESIDENTS TO PAY A PERCENTAGE OF THE STREET IMPROVEMENT COSTS HAS BEEN REMOVED.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT CHANGE TO THE NSR PROCESS IS THAT PETITION APPLICATIONS WILL BE EVALUATED ON "NEED" AND "CONDITION", NOT JUST POSITION ON THE WAITING LIST. TONY TAMBORELLA, A RESIDENT OF WAMM LOCATED IN THE 3600 BLOCK OF YUPON, MADE A STRONG CASE FOR A CLOSE INSPECTION OF OUR STREETS BY PUBLIC WORKS. THE PUBLIC WORKS REPRESENTATIVE MOHAMMED WARRAD AGREED TO TOUR THE STREETS WITH WAMM REPRESENTATIVES TO ASSESS THE CONDITION OF EACH STREET PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF THE PETITION. THE STREET INSPECTION SURVEY IS SCHEDULED DURING THE MONTH OF MAY.

**WAMM Civic Association
PO Box 66674
Houston, Texas 77266-6674**



CONYA BARRERAS, COMMUNITY LIAISON FOR THE CITIZEN'S ASSISTANCE OFFICE SPOKE ABOUT HER ROLE IN ASSISTING INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTS AND CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS NAVIGATE THE VARIOUS CITY DEPARTMENTS. SHE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRST DIALING 311 TO REPORT THE ISSUE, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY OBTAINING A PROJECT OR COMPLAINT REFERENCE NUMBER. ONCE THAT REFERENCE NUMBER IS OBTAINED THEN WAMM RESIDENTS CAN CONTACT HER DIRECTLY TO SPEAK TO THE SITUATION. HER CONTACT INFORMATION AS WELL AS ALL COH STAFF IN ATTENDANCE IS AT THE END OF THE DOCUMENT.

MARCUS DUFFEL REPORTED ON THE STATUS OF THE CHALLENGE TO THE VALIDITY OF THE WAMM DEED RESTRICTIONS BY ANNUNCIATION ORTHODOX SCHOOL (AOS). THE CITY OF HOUSTON LEGAL DEPARTMENT REVIEWED THE POSITION AS OUTLINED BY THE ATTORNEY FOR AOS AND HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE WAMM DEED RESTRICTIONS ARE VALID AND WILL DEFEND THE WAMM DR'S IF NECESSARY.

THIS DISCUSSION CENTERS ON THE REQUEST BY AOS TO ADD ADDITIONAL PARKING TO THE 3617 YOAKUM PROPERTY, WHICH THEY PURCHASED WITH THE ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN 2007. THE PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY DEED RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITS VACANT LOTS BEING USED AS PARKING LOTS. MARCUS DUFFEL WAS TO MEET WITH AOS THE NEXT DAY AND ASKED THOSE IN ATTENDANCE IF ANYONE HAD AN OBJECTION TO THE PARKING EXPANSION. THOSE IN ATTENDANCE RAISED NO OBJECTIONS.

MARCUS DUFFEL THEN REPORTED ON THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF WAMM. BANKING HAS BEEN CONSOLIDATED TO THE IBC BANK ON MONTROSE. THE INVOICE FOR THE LAW FIRM HIRED IN 2009 TO ASSESS THE AOS SITUATION HAS BEEN PAID, AND ALL OTHER OBLIGATIONS ARE CURRENT. THE WAMM ACCOUNT IS NOW AT \$1,289.72. LESS THAN 20 RESIDENTS HAVE PAID THEIR 2010 ANNUAL DUES. MARCUS DUFFEL URGED THOSE IN ATTENDANCE TO RECRUIT THEIR NEIGHBORS TO JOIN WAMM, AND AT THE VERY LEAST JOIN THE WAMM YAHOO GROUPS TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH EVENTS IN THE AREA.

MARCUS DUFFEL ASKED FOR VOLUNTEERS TO TAKE THE VACANT WAMM OFFICER POSITIONS OF SECRETARY AND TREASURER. NO VOLUNTEERS CAME FORWARD SO THE WAMM OFFICER POSITIONS OF SECRETARY AND TREASURER REMAIN VACANT.

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A BRIEF UPDATE WAS MADE ON THE WILSHIRE APARTMENT SITE LOCATED AT DUNLEAVY AND W. ALABAMA. THE SITE HAS BEEN PURCHASED BY HEB AND PLANS FOR A NEW FOOD MARKET ARE IN PROGRESS. WAMM HAS JOINED OTHER LOCAL CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS IN REQUESTING A FORMAL TRAFFIC IMPACT ANALYSIS BE CONDUCTED ON W. ALABAMA, DUNLEAVY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA. SUE LOVELL, AN AREA RESIDENT, AND OUR AT-LARGE COUNCILWOMAN, CHAIRS THE COMMITTEE THAT OVERSEAS THESE ISSUES.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOINED AT 7:00.

CITY OF HOUSTON STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

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