



The following are the minutes from the WAMM Civic Assoc. meeting held 7/11/2011

#### Attendance

- WAMM Officers Marcus Duffel and John Dascoulius
- 20 Residents
- Representatives from 3 business members:
  - Covenant House – Carolyn Garrard
  - Greek Orthodox Church – Helena Papadopolus
  - Montrose Management District – Josh Hawes
- Guest Speaker – David Robinson, President of Neartown Assoc., Member of the City Planning Comm., and candidate for City Council At-Large Position #2

David Robinson was first on the agenda and gave an update on the new borders for the City Council Districts as adopted by the City of Houston a few months ago. WAMM is in District C. Mr. Robinson also announced a Neartown Transportation Forum that is set for Saturday morning, September 17, in the Scanlan Room of Jerabeck Hall (the gymnasium facility) on the University of St. Thomas campus. It's likely the agenda will run from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. This event is open to the public. The final topics are not yet formalized but an update on various Light Rail projects and the future of the counter-flow lane of W. Alabama will be on the agenda. Mr. Robinson gave a brief description of his background and asked for support in the upcoming election.

David Garrison, a resident on Yoakum Blvd. mentioned that a real estate broker for a developer had contacted him about including his property in the purchase of the high-rise on the SW corner of Montrose and Hawthorne. There are 6 parcels in total including the condemned high rise. The broker said the developer is concerned about a repeat of the backlash and protest shown by local residents to the Ashbury high-rise project on Bissonnet.



David Robinson said that there was a new proposed City of Houston ordinance that would place restrictions on such new high-rise developments on neighborhood streets. An article appeared in the Sunday Houston Chronicle on 7/17 that outlined the proposed ordinance. The article can be found in the City and State section, page 1. The article is titled "City looks at new high-rise rules". The short version of the article is that the proposed ordinance would require more space between new high-rise buildings and single-family homes. The City of Houston Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on proposed additions to Chapter 42 of the City of Houston Code of Ordinances related to high-density development. The hearing will be held Thursday, July 21, 2011, 2:30 p.m., Houston City Hall Annex, 900 Bagby, 77002, Public Level.

On the service it appears that the proposed ordinance would not prohibit a developer from building a new high-rise in place of the old one. However, 2 of the 6 properties on Hawthorne and Yoakum are covered by our deed restrictions that would complicate positioning of the new building. I have asked David Garrison to provide me with the contact info for the real estate broker to inquire further as to their intent. I will update the WAMM members as I learn more.

Next, a discussion was held around the Texas National Night Out. This year the event will be held on October 4th. It will be a potluck style evening event at 1310 Marshall, home of Eric Perkins and Bill Caldwell. If anyone has contacts at the Montrose Kroger's, or any of the various restaurants that are located on our WAMM borders, please contact me to discuss solicitation of donations for our National Night Out.

To assist in the future distribution of general information and special announcements I requested volunteers for Block/Street Captains. I have Graustark, Yupon, Marshall, Yoakum and Hawthorne covered. Any assistance for Harold and Mt. Vernon would be appreciated.

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



Helena Papadopoulos, this year's Chairperson for the Greek Festival introduced herself, she will be the primary contact for WAMM should issues arise. Josh Hawes of the Harris County Improvement District #6, Montrose Management District gave an update on their recent activities. They are going to add an additional unmarked vehicle to patrol the Montrose business area. Their private independent officers have made over 50+ arrests. Although burglaries of Motor Vehicle have increased, major crime activities have decreased by more than 20%. More info about the Montrose Management District can be seen at <http://www.montrosedistrict.org>

And finally, residents were requested to provide me with photos of their favorite street issue. I plan to add the photo album to our file with the Public Works Dept., but also to our District C Council Member. The importance of the photos is to document the many issues we have with our neighborhood streets and keep our issues top of mind. The effort is intended to increase our chances to move up in the queue for new streets, gutters and sidewalks.

Regards

Marcus Duffel  
President  
WAMM Civic Assoc.

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