

Westbury Civic Club
Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2024
Westbury Baptist Church at 7 PM

Attending: Cindy Chapman, Reagan Dunkin, Becky Edmondson, Mat Funk, Marcia Hartman, Jonathan Hansen, Alan Hirshman, Andrew Jefferson, Becky Pate, Sylvia Rosales.

Public Safety:

* Precinct 5 Constable Sgt. Derkowsky provided a security update. Reminder to call Dispatch immediately if suspicious activity or vehicle is observed. There has been an uptick in calls about suspicious vehicles and package thefts. They made 7 arrests in January, 7 in February, and none so far in March. Many were DWI (driving while intoxicated).

* The Houston Chronicle is running a series of articles about the Constable program. Comments by WCC board member Becky Edmondson were prominently featured in one article.

Announcements: Rep. Shawn Thierry spoke about the process of getting bills passed in the Texas House and bills she has worked to pass. There is a runoff in May 2024. She mentioned that property taxes are lower this year and it is important to make sure that each homeowner has applied for a homestead exemption to reduce their taxes. Richard Nguyen spoke from the city Solid Waste Dept – they have more trucks but need more drivers. Candidate Lauren Ashley Simmons spoke briefly – she is in the runoff against Rep. Thierry. Brian Pendleton from Harris County Precinct 4 invited people to provide comments for the Bayland Park and Community Center Master Plan.

Officer and WCC Office Reports:

A motion by Becky Edmondson/ Alan Hirshman to accept the meeting minutes from February 2024 was approved. Treasurer Edmondson gave an overview of the WCC financials. The biggest expense is the Constable program. The new PayHOA system is working well and it is now much easier to prepare the financial statements. Sign up for the PayHOA portal, which is great for communicating with the WCC Office. House Reviews area now being done via the portal. Mailouts should be going out soon, and the plan is to send out by section by section.

New Business:

* Keep Westbury/Houston Beautiful Day. Event will be held on April 6 from 9 am to Noon at Westbury Park. Our non-profit partner, the Westbury Area Improvement Corporation (WAIC), has approved paying up to \$500 for event expenses and plants.

* Fire at Spring Village Apartments on March 20 was discussed. The City of Houston owns this property and has relocated all residents so that a greenspace and future detention can be built at that location; however, the property is unsecured with gates, doors, and windows open. The complex is across from the high school.

Old Business:

The Westbury SuperNeighborhood Grant application submitted by our partner, the WAIC, was approved by the City and awarded \$7,000 to do two MiniMurals (repaint the MiniMural located at Willowbend@W Bellfort and add one at Chimney Rock/Burdine.) Becky Edmondson, WAIC President, mentioned that in the 1990s there was a Westbury Area Revitalization Study sponsored by the WAIC and the City. The WAIC is working on the issue of Revitalization, and reaching out via survey was the first step in the 1990s and is planned again. WCC Board Member Reagan Dunkin is involved in the Revitalization efforts, too.

Vote by Email- The WCC board approved by email to write a Letter of Support for a federal grant application by Harris County Precinct One/Four and City of Houston for a proposed Hillcroft trail.

Announcements: Easter Egg Hunt at Westbury Baptist Church. Upcoming Special Election and RunOff dates.