



Guests

Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney
Julia Retta, CM David Robinson's Office
Laila Khalili, CM Karla Cisneros' Office
Jack Valinski, Citizens Assistance Office, DON
Brian Crimmins, Planning Department
Teresa Geisheker, Planning Department
Stana Juarez, Public Works Dept.
Rob Lazaro, Public Works Dept.
Margarita Dunlap, METRO

Super Neighborhood Representatives

Ed Browne, SNC 10
Mark Klein, SNC 12
Doug Parrish, SNC 17
Steve Ashy, SNC 17
Jane West, SNA Chairwoman, SNC 22
Mike Van Dusen, SNC 22
Greg LeGrande, SNC 24
Sherry Weesner, SN 24
Barbara Quattro, SNC 25
Jim Bigham, SNC 26
Pablo Szub, SNC 27
John Nienhuser, SNC 32
Marcy Williams, SNC 36
Cindy Chapman, SNC 37
Ray Washington, SNC 39/40
Stan Sarman, SNC 43
Ivory Mayhorn, SNC 47
Huey German Wilson, SNC 48
Albert Coleman, SNC 49/50
Steve Parker, SNC 64 and SNC 88
L.E. Chamberlain, SNC 71/76
Tomaro Bell, SNC 83
Doug Smith, SNC ?
Donna Henderson, SNC ?

I. Meeting called to order by SNA Chair Jane West at 6:30 pm. Motion to approve the Minutes from the August meeting was made by Marcy Williams and seconded by Tomaro Bell.

II. Guest Presentations

A. Planning & Development Department Representatives: Patrick Walsh, Director, Brian Crimmins, Chief of Staff Topic of Discussion - Chapter 26, Chapter 33, and Chapter 41 Amendments

1. Chapter 26 - Off Street Parking

The Planning Department is proposing to amend the off-street parking ordinance (Section 26-504 - of the City Code) to provide for administrative modification of off-street parking requirements as follows:

A. The Planning Director is authorized to approve the following modifications to the requirements of this article for an application that meets the requirements of this section. The requirements are listed below.

1. A reduction of up to five (5) parking spaces;
2. An increase of up to 150 feet in the maximum distance for an off-site parking facility.

For the Planning Director to grant an application for administrative modification of the off-street parking requirements, he or she must find:

- A. That the application document supports modification;
- B. The application will not cause spillover parking into adjacent properties or single family residential neighborhoods;
- C. The application will not be injurious to public health, safety, and welfare;
- D. The application is consistent with the Code of Ordinances.

SNA members expressed concern that the proposed amendments fail to require public notice of or opportunity for public comment on applications for administrative modification of the off-street parking requirements, and fail to provide objective criteria for the Planning Director to apply when deciding whether to grant or deny such an application. An SNA member suggested that location of any off-site parking spaces used to satisfy a business's off-street parking requirements be posted on a map in the business together with the posting of required licenses and occupancy limits..

2. Chapter 33 - Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan (MTFP): There will be Annual Review, and fees required for submission of applications for amendment of the MTFP. The Planning Commission will establish formal policies. Outdated language will be corrected. (SNA members expressed desire for the Planning Department to create a process for members of the public to submit and the Planning Department to collect, public comment and suggestions for changes to the MTFP that do not require payment of a fee and do not trigger additional costs associated with a formal applications for amendment.).

Chapter 33 - Bicycle Master Plan (BMP): The proposed amendments will create and establish a process for the adoption and amendment of a BMP.

1. The proposed process requires the Planning Director to establish an open and inclusive public engagement process for diverse and ethnic cultural comments. (SNA members expressed desire for the BMP public engagement process to be the same as that used for the MTFP, i.e., annual review with the ability for members of the public to submit applications for amendment, especially to the maps that identify specific types of bikeways to be implemented on specific streets.).
2. The proposed amendments would require only biennial review for the BMP. The review process

would be overseen by the Planning Director who will be responsible for initiating proposed amendments. Following the biennial review process, the Planning Commission will prepare a report to the mayor, the mayor will decide if amendments should be initiated and, if so, will direct the Planning Director to initiate amendments. (SNA members expressed preference for annual review as exists for the MTFP, and for a process that allows city residents to request amendment to the BMP).

3. Bicycle Advisory Committee (“BAC”) - The Planning Commission will establish formal policies for a BAC. (SNA members expressed preference for codifying the existence of the BAC to clarify eligibility requirements for service thereon, and to insure that the BAC’s operations will be open, transparent, and compliant with the open meetings act).

4. Sometime soon the Planning Commission will conduct a Public Hearing on the BMP. If there is disagreement on the plan it will be referred back to the Planning Director to make changes. If it is agreeable to the Planning Commission, then BMP will be forwarded to City Council for a public hearing and final adoption.

3. Chapter 41 - Street Name Petition Process

The City of Houston is proposing amendments to Chapter 41 of the Code of Ordinances related to Street Names and Site Addresses. The intent of the change is to establish a City-initiated process for changing a public street name. The current process allows street name changes to be initiated only by property owners. Mr. Crimmins said that the proposed change is consistent with processes used in other cities. A city-initiated application for a street name change would be made at the mayor’s direction, and the process for approving a city-initiated street name application would require at least one public meeting, a public hearing held by City Council, and by a vote by City Council. If approved there will be a 90 day waiting period before the street name would change.

SNA members did not express concern about the proposed amendments to Chapter 41.

B. County Attorney Vince Ryan

Mr. Ryan addressed the duties of his office as relates to public safety and the creation of safety zones, and also discussed the difficulties associated with enforcement of residency requirements for elected officials. Mr. Ryan stated that residency requirements for elected officials are weak and easily satisfied because members of the state legislature want the requirements to be that way. Due to the late hour Mr. Ryan’s comments were brief and he offered to come again to address the SNA at a future date. He also said that his office has a speakers bureau and is able to provide interesting programs and discussions on a variety of topics including crime victim’s compensation, mental health care, deed restriction enforcement, and public nuisances.

III. SNAllianceHouston Facebook and Twitter Accounts: This item was not reached.

IV. Committee Reports: This item was not reached.

V. Announcements and Open Comments (5 minutes)

VI. Adjournment: 8:30 p.m.