



MUSEUM PARK GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Covenant Church

1. President's Report : Sandy Stevens

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.
- b. The meeting is being recorded as a pilot to assess quality (not for public posting). There is a plan to post recordings of future meetings to help accommodate those members who cannot attend.
- c. The location for next year's meetings is still TBD; Clayton Library is no longer open late on Wednesday evenings.
- d. Paul Wilson, of Covenant Church, was introduced to give a presentation of the Church's expansion plans. GSMA architects and Axis Builders are partners in the expansion project. The permitting phase is underway, and it is hoped that groundbreaking will take place by the end of November. Construction should take 6-7 months, and the current temporary building will be removed by January, 2019. Katherine Ormond of GSMA provided an overview of the overall plan. She gave a brief presentation of the plan/rendering, noting that it was a priority to maintain the Church's front yard and that existing trees will be protected. A new 2-story building, with an exterior matching that of the current building, is planned to maintain the scale of the surrounding residential neighborhood. The existing on-site parking lot will not be affected during Phase 1 of the construction. City ordinances related to church parking are based on sanctuary size, and this is not changing. Therefore, no additional on-site parking is planned. Chad Clark, CEO of Axis Builders, then discussed details of construction. He pledged to be a good neighbor and to provide information proactively. He will communicate with Sandy. In addressing noise concerns, he noted that they will adhere to City of Houston ordinance, and work will take place during the daytime hours. Noise levels will be higher earlier in the construction process. Asked about potential disruption to local streets, he stated that it is hoped this won't be necessary; however, it will depend on the ability to tie in to the sanitary line. Kathleen O'Reilly thanked all involved & recognized Paul for being a good neighbor and active MPSN Council member. Sandy acknowledged Ernesto Maldonado, founding partner of GSMA & MPSN Council member. GSMA is located at 5305 Jackson St (<http://gsmarchitects.net/>) and has received many awards locally and nationally.
- e. Recap of MPNA presentation to City Council: See website for video link of Sandy, Barbara & Cindy speaking to Council and presenting the resolution regarding the US-59 encampment. Sandy acknowledged Kathleen for suggesting that MPNA speak at Council. She also thanked members of the safety/security ad hoc committee for their work on the resolution. Mike Woods and Bob Cavnar have agreed to join the committee. Mike Woods, who attended the 10/31 hearing pertaining to the ACLU lawsuit stated that, in his opinion, the City has Museum Park's best interest at heart, but feels that their hands are tied due to the injunction. It was also noted that ACLU had ~2x the number of lawyers than CoH. Two members of the Washington Terrace Civic Association voiced their support for MP and MPNA; they were prompted to attend and extend an offer of assistance after reading Bob Cavnar's recent Op-ed in the Chronicle (<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/article/Cavnar-A-clash-between-community-those-living-12314368.php>). Ginger Driver, who also attended the hearing, encouraged residents to write letters to Judge Hoyt; Louis Selig, however, noted that CoH attorneys told him that no further information needed to be submitted. Sandy notes that MPNA will explore this issue and

communicate with members. A question was raised regarding the response, or lack thereof, of the Mexican consulate vis a vis perceived treatment of a foreign country.

f. 2018 Officer elections: Barbara McGuffey, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers. No nominations were made from the floor.

President: Sandy Stevens

Vice President: Barbara McGuffey

Secretary: Bill Powell

Treasurer: Cynthia Tang

Parliamentarian: Kim Mickelson

Quality of Life: Kathleen O'Reilly

Safety & Security: Chris Erickson

Community Engagement: Cindy Woods

Membership: Louis Selig

Preservation: Lynn Dahlberg

The slate of nominees passed unanimously.

g. MPSN Council delegates: Sandy will circulate an email providing an MPSN overview and a description of the available opportunities. A vote on new delegates will take place at a later meeting.

2. Vice-President's Report: No report

3. Secretary's Report – Sara Gladden: no report

4. Treasurer—Cynthia Tang

a. See the website for latest report.

b. Recognition of Steve Flowers for facilitating another gift (\$500) from Haliburton.

c. Hermann Park's Run in the Park is November 11; sign up & join the Museum Park Trotters.

5. Parliamentarian: No report

4. Committee Reports

a. Membership Chair – Barbara McGuffey

- If you are not a member, please consider joining. Everyone is welcome on committees.
- Barbara recognized a member of her committee, Bill Powell, who was instrumental in making the car stickers that were distributed at NNO. Additional stickers were available at tonight's meeting. The stickers are meant to promote community pride and security.

b. Community Engagement Chair – Cindy Woods

- November 3: Asia Society extended an invitation to MPNA members to attend a screening of 'Above the Drowning Sea.'
- November 10: MPNA outing at Miller Outdoor Theatre. This will be a BYO picnic; MPNA will provide drinks. Reserved tickets for the night's show, Pedal Punk (<http://milleroutdoortheatre.com/events/1033/>) will be available.
- December 4: Members-only holiday dinner at Lucille's; details are forthcoming.

c. Quality of Life and Infrastructure –Kathleen O'Reilly

- Neighborhood esplanade clean-up: Details are forthcoming, but likely December 2 or January, 2018.

- Suppression of US-59: This project is moving forward rapidly. Rice, who recently bought out the Sears lease and purchased the Fiesta property, is undertaking a study. Museum Park, Midtown, HouSE also are working to provide input into planning. Kathleen thanks CM Boykins for his support related to the planned cap over the suppressed highway. HouSE and Midtown also are supportive of this project.
- Holocaust Museum: Kathleen provided background of the 2008 purchase of Calumet between Austin and LaBranch by the museum. As the museum plans its expansion, it has proposed installing green space on Calumet adjacent to Clayton Library as a way to pay back a portion of the money owed to the City for the 2008 street purchase (more than half of the money is earmarked for Museum grounds improvement. This proposal was not open to discussion by the public. Kathleen suggests that improving the pedestrian realm and connecting museum campuses might be a better use of public funds than removing one side of Calumet (which could be a hardship for adjacent property owners). It is unclear who would pay to maintain this 'pocket park'.

d. Safety and Security – Greg Quintero: no report

e. Preservation – Sandy Stevens for Lynn Dahlberg

- Rachel Paxon, of the Riverside Terrace Civic Association, invited MP residents to attend the 1st annual Historic Riverside Terrace Home Tour on Sunday, December 3 (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-historic-riverside-terrace-home-tour-tickets-37982975101P>). This architectural tour will visit five homes, including one that is for sale.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm