

Minutes

Lazybrook Civic Club of Houston

May 24, 2022: Meeting Held at Lazybrook Baptist Church and on Zoom

Meeting Call to order – 7:01pm

Meeting Minutes: Last Meeting – March 22, 2022 (in-person) - approved

Introduction/Roll Call:

- Jennifer Ofsowitz – volunteered to be new Treasurer after Beth Goodner resigned. Jennifer was approved by Board via email vote
- Welcome to new neighbors at 1815 Willowby

Special Meeting Guests/Presenters:

- Sharon Fletcher – Deputy Chief of Staff for CM Abbie Kamin’s Office – District C Update
- One Safe Houston Initiative –
 - New sound and camera ordinance has passed for sexually oriented businesses, convenience stores, etc. Owners are required to have 24 hr video surveillance outdoors and must provide to HPD upon request. Fines for refusal to provide.
 - Convenience stores must provide lighting in areas where customers may be.
 - Sound ordinance for businesses that serve food and beverages within 300ft must have special permit for loud music after certain hours in the evenings and will be fined for non-compliance
- Domestic Abuse Response Team has been expanded
- Redistricting CIP meeting on 5/3/22 r.e. redistricting for the City. Our district is over the average number of homes for the City. There is a virtual meeting 5/25/22 at 6pm and information can be found on Let’s Talk Houston website: <https://www.letstalkhouston.org/>
- CM Kamin is Chair for Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee - next meeting that will be 6/16/22 at 2pm. People can attend in-person or virtually. For more information: <http://www.houstontx.gov/council/committees/publicsafety.html>
- Engage Houston (<https://www.engagehouston.org/>) and Building Houston Forward (<https://www.buildhoustonforward.org/>) sites have information about projects
- Reminder it is hurricane season so please check to make sure your flood insurance policy is current
- Working collaboratively with City and County to address panels on 18th St. The office is having another meeting later this week and project should be started within a few months.
- Please call 832.393.3004 to reach Director of Constituent Services for any concerns
- For more information about District C please visit: <http://www.houstontx.gov/council/c/index.html>

Announcements/ Events

- National Night Out – Tues October 4, 2022 – plan to have a larger neighborhood event rather than block parties. Please contact Megan Mooney at meganmooney@sbcglobal.net to get involved!
- 4th of July Parade (Mom’s Club) – in planning currently – more information will be forthcoming

Officer & Committee Reports:

President’s Update & SNC-14 Report – Kurt Swafford

- Dist C Redistricting and CIP Townhall - Held May 3 – Kurt attended and spoke r.e. capital improvements needed in the area since we have many areas in need of help (e.g., streets, sidewalks, etc.); Public comments are allowed and we encourage neighbors to attend and participate.
- TIRZ 12 Stormwater Survey –
 - Public Meeting was held May 11 to share initial results of stormwater survey that was conducted; Kurt, Megan, and others attended to provide feedback and to review survey results which appeared accurate with regards to the few problem areas within Lazybrook

- Next step will be development of a capital improvement plan; Majority of problems are related to the size of the underground pipes that are not big enough to carry the water away from the area
- New SNC-14 Board includes George Fry (VP) and Marie Carlisle (Pres)
- There are many projects that are ongoing and new initiatives so we can use more Lazybrook volunteers!
<https://www.lazybrook.org/get-involved/>
- New initiatives could include bike trails, improving esplanades (could partner with Timbergrove and Trees for Houston) but we need to have more people engaged

Membership – Shelley White

- We are at 52.4% of neighbors who are CC members; next membership drive will likely be in July; We need 60% of members join to be sustainable
- Pay your dues here: <https://www.lazybrook.org/membership/>

Block Captains – Nicole Fuhrmann

- Several Open Positions- look for the vacancies or more information here:
<https://www.lazybrook.org/block-captain/>

Treasurer's Report – Kurt & Jennifer Ofsowitz

- We have about \$138K in our account; We have to maintain about \$80K in the account per our deed restrictions
- To “break even” on projects and initiatives we need more members and donations

Deed Restrictions Enforcement - Ernest Fuhrmann

- Sec 2 – Possible amendment(s) to the deed restriction by petition to allow 1.5 story structures – requires a simple majority of the property owners of lots of the section to approve (every Section has its own set of rules) – Sec 2 is by Timbergrove so is surrounded by much larger homes so may benefit from being allowed to add an additional half story
- Architecture Review Cte is up to date on reviews
- For more information please visit <https://www.lazybrook.org/deed-restrictions/>

Beautification – Vennie Wolf and Renee Taylor

- Landscaping Clean up Phase 1 Complete
 - Have begun clearing out the flower beds in the esplanade near 610.
 - Lazybrook signs on TCJester and at 18th have been cleaned up and the flowers/plants have been moved
 - Forest Dept will grind tree stumps and trim the trees
- Working on quotes for repairs/replacement of 2 esplanade signs (first bid was \$31K so will keep looking)
- 18th Street Brick Sign Repairs (Metalwork & Masonry) – looking for quotes to clean/repair
 - Timbergrove/SNC14 folks in attendance may have contacts to help
- If you see JNH crews blow garbage into the streets, please contact Vennie Wolf at beautification@lazybrook.org because it is illegal and causes drainage problem
- Neighborhood Head Inspection Dept will help with some homes that are not maintaining their yards/properties – one home has gotten their case postponed until 2023
- Please get neighbors to pay their dues and join so we can continue with these projects (probably about \$10K in estimated costs)
- Landscaping is our largest line item in the budget every year
 - Last year we spent \$7K on landscaping with the majority going to maintain the areas along 18th St. (not the esplanade that is maintained by the Forest Service). Although these areas should be maintained by the homeowner, they are separated by a fence and the City prohibits owners from creating access by a driveway.
 - Estimate for this year is \$8K for the same stretch of 18th St.
 - This leaves virtually nothing for all other projects so we will evaluate better solutions of how to allocate our dollars to sustain our budget over time.

Communications/Newsletter – Jessica Swafford

- Advertising chair still vacant – Please contact Jessica at newsletter@lazybrook.org to help with this need

Security/COP – Joel DuBois

- Need more volunteers – only 2-3 people patrolling each month; working to schedule training w/ HPD
 - Please contact Joel to learn more: blockcaptain@lazybrook.org
- Working to obtain new COP signs for neighborhood entrances (\$100 per sign)
- There was a window broken at Star Sailor over the weekend (we don't report commercial properties in the neighborhood security update)
- Timbergrove has routine security patrols – maybe we could partner with them?
- Paid security companies such as SEAL are too expensive and cost-prohibitive for us

New Business:

Capital Improvements Project Updates & Discussion

- Road Repairs, Sidewalks in Lazybrook – Update from HPW, County Comm Pct 4, TIRZ 12
 - Kurt reviewed submitted proposals for sidewalk extensions that are needed on Lazybrook Dr. as well as other areas (e.g. Millwood) that would benefit (TIRZ12 Chair says we could likely have some funds to help with this)
 - Submitted map with priority road maintenance concerns within the neighborhood
- Lazybrook Decorative Street Sign Toppers – Installations coming this week; 16 to cover every entrance from a major thoroughfare – volunteers will help to install these
- Lazybrook Pedestrian Safety – Speed Cushions, Crosswalks, Radar Speed Limit Sign(s) on TC Jester
 - Will apply for grants to help with these initiatives (\$5000 City match for our funds) for TC Jester
 - Millwood has 2 speed humps that are not helping enough (too small and too spread out) & do not meet current code so will have to eventually be removed during any improvement project – there are “traffic calming options” to explore; Only 42 neighborhoods in the City were approved for speed cushions and these were all funded by the neighborhood (set of 4 humps costs \$6K)

18th Street Routine Maintenance Budgeting and Discussion

- CC Jack Cagle's office is helping with 18th St repair, sidewalks, ADA cuts in the curb

New Business: Potential proposal to raise the dues at next meeting. Any bylaws revision such as changing dues needs to be proposed and then voted on at 2 consecutive meetings

Door Prizes – Pat Koterak – provided by local businesses – please refer to the newsletter

(<http://www.lazybrook.org/newsletters/>) and tell these businesses “Thank you!” by paying them a visit and mentioning that you live in Lazybrook.

Next Lazybrook Civic Club Meeting - Tuesday September 27th, 2022

Adjournment at 8:20pm