

Minutes of the Lazybrook Civic Club of Houston Regular Meeting

January 23, 2024

Meeting Held in-person at LifeBrook Church w/ Teams Broadcast

Meeting Called to order – 7:03pm by Kurt Swafford, President

Meeting Minutes: Last Meeting (11/28/23) – minutes posted to the website - approved unanimously

Introduction/Roll Call & Welcome New Attendees

Karla Lehr – has volunteered to be VP for LCC and was approved by the Executive Committee via email vote in accordance with bylaws

Special Guests/Presentations

- Harris County Precinct 1 – Constable Officer & Team Introduction + Area Crime Discussion
 - Introduction to patrol team leader, shift leaders, and our officer (Deputy Alanis) patrolling the area – she will often be located centrally located in the area
 - Patrol service for approx.. 8 hrs/day but outside of those hours other units will respond
 - To get information r.e. the Constable's office, please see their [website](#) where you can also sign up for [crime alerts](#) and [vacation watch](#).
 - Recommendations based on their patrols thus far:
 - If you will be out of town or away, try to stop package deliveries or have neighbors pick them up
 - People are riding bikes, wearing vests to appear like workers (e.g., Amazon, utilities) to check out neighborhoods and steal packages
 - Call them for any concerns – even if you're not sure, it's helpful to have law enforcement presence regularly in the area (but if you have a life-threatening emergency, continue to call 911)
 - Give their number to your alarm company to aid in response; They will be able to help with follow-up information and investigation
 - If you have concerns about suspicious activities happening regularly at a particular residence/area, let them know so they can set up increased patrol/surveillance
 - There have only been 30 calls for service since starting the service – 3 arrests made (2 for DWI and 1 for domestic disturbance)
 - Contact information is 713.755.7628 (non-emergency line) and their office is at 7300 N. Shepherd.

Announcements/ Events

- Bayou Litter Pick Up – scheduled for Saturday Feb 24th from 9:30am-11:00am - TC Jester 610 to Ella – Meet up at the bench on the median (no advance sign-up needed)
 - coffee and donuts provided
 - gloves, bags, litter grabbers, and vests will be provided.
 -

Officer & Committee Reports:

Membership – Shelley White

- Please pay your dues for 2024! If you don't know if you've paid for the year, email Shelley at membership@lazybrook.org.

Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Ofsowitz & Kurt Swafford

- Review 2023 Balance Sheet – Jennifer - we took in about \$2700 more dues than we had budgeted and came in under on anticipated expenses (a few things that were not done that we'd planned) – resulted in a surplus of about \$15000 that will go towards projects planned for this year
- 2024 Budget & Plans – Kurt –
 - Dues to remain the same; it helps when people donate extra to the LCC to fund projects

- Dues go towards 18th St maintenance along the side that borders residents' homes, landscaping, mosquito treatments, etc.
- Tree planting project was approved and work has begun (see below).
- COP signs to be replaced throughout the neighborhood to improve visibility of the program

Deed Restrictions Enforcement – Kurt Swafford

- Multiple complaints about business related traffic at 2423 Lazybrook Dr. – there's a rental home being used as a mailing address and place to park commercial vehicles for a business but there does not seem to be an actual business operating there so it is not in violation of our deed restrictions
- Update on 2411 W TC Jester enforcement from city attorney – Kurt has emailed the attorney but has not yet had a response

Block Captains – Nicole needs to step down - need to fill Chair of Block Captain – primary responsibility is picking up newsletters from the printer, sorting, and getting to Block Captains.

Beautification – Jessica Swafford

- Our 3 neighborhood signs in nearby esplanades don't have irrigation systems so it has been hard to keep plantings alive – will be working on more drought-tolerant ideas
- Esplanade tree planting capital improvement project - TC Jester @ Brooktree/Lazybrook Dr - Grant application approved! – Project ongoing:
 - Dead trees have been removed – waiting for stump grinding and for new trees to be planted
 - City has given us free water for the new plantings so maintenance costs will just be mulching, etc. so, we won't have to pull the irrigation system in a few years as we'd initially planned when approved by membership (thus lowering costs to LCC)
 - Expect 100% completion by March
 - Sandra Puente from Precinct 4 in attendance – noted that they have trees available to help with planting that will be compliant with Houston requirements and an arborist to help

Security/COP – Joel DuBois

- 2023 was best year in recent history on COP Hours---Thank you volunteers! – 156 hrs total/avg 13 hrs/month
- Most reports online for our area are along 18th St, near businesses and the apartments as opposed to in Lazybrook boundaries
- Make sure to report any concerns to HPD or the Constable's office so that we can track what is happening in the neighborhood

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

- TIRZ 12 – Multiple projects/initiatives ongoing that could impact Lazybrook – check out the [website](#) for information.
 - Preliminary Mobility Plan unveiled recently –Trail & Sidewalk Connections, Gaps, etc.
 - Seamist Dr Improvement Project – Road Repairs, Underground Detention 11th to Kury Ln. – no updates yet
- City of Houston Public Works – Design is complete for Traffic Management plan on Ella near Sinclair ES – Kurt attended a meeting earlier today about this. It's a plan for a reduced traffic lane on Grovewood at Ella to help with safer crossings for pedestrians:
 - Help reduce speed rate
 - Reduce crossing distance
 - Provide median refuge
 - District C is funding this out of their discretionary funds – one week left for public comments
engage@houstontx.gov

Open Forum – Questions & Discussion

- Concerns r.e. Lazybrook Dr – no new information yet – Commissioner Briones' office will get back to us

Next Lazybrook Civic Club Meeting - Tuesday Mar 26, 2024

Adjourn – 8:08pm