

**West University Place
SENIORS BOARD MEETING
February 11, 2021**

Presiding: Selby Clark

The virtual meeting called to order at 2:01 p.m.

Roll call: Present: Stan McCandless, Judy Faulkner, George Hilderbrandt, George Baker, Joan Johnson, Carlos De La Torre, Karen Kenny, Selby Clark (chair), Carol O'Neill, Tom Brombacher, Candace TenBrink, Candyce Beneke, Susan Davis, Ann Crowley, Elizabeth Wilder, Toby Brooks and Susan White, John Barnes (Council Liaison) Mardi Turner (GNT). **Absent:** None. **Guests:** Kevin Trautner (City Council), Dr. Jami Rae Walker.

Minutes: January minutes approved by Ann Crowley. Seconded by Joan Johnson.

1. **Senior Survey:** Dr. Jami Rae Walker, with Texas A&M Agrilife, provided a PowerPoint on the Senior Survey. Highlighted: Good participation rate. 1268. Good geographic participation. Opportunity for growth in communication preferences. Opportunities to inform the general population about Senior Service programs. Senior Services respondents indicated a 95 percent satisfaction rate, with parking and sidewalks unsatisfactory (above 5%). Senior Services ranked 90% importance by all age groups. Trend of lack of knowledge of services offered by those ages 64 and lower. Ensure staffing requirements due to potential future growth if population increases in West U. Plans in place and already implemented to increase communication per Susan White. A summary will be sent to the Senior Board. Breakdown data provided to Susan White.

Council Meeting Report: John Barnes

2. Buffalo Speedway project underway. Scheduled prelim engineering March 8. Installation of new roadway, drainage, construction to begin in two block phases. One northbound lane and one southbound lane will remain open. The flood control district has closed the Buffalo Bridge at Brays Bayou to reduce congestion.
3. Drainage improvement on the west side: scheduled to begin March 8. Which will involve new lines and improvements, to substantially reduce flooding. Final projected cost of 89 million dollars.
4. Citywide traffic study: Workshop held on Feb. 8. Awaiting a 25 mile hour speed limit recommendation within the city in special areas. Extended curbs and various other things to adjust the speed in high crash areas. Data collection revealed some anomalies. Historic data has found the hot spot of crashes are at Westchester @ Bissonnet. Traffic Study expected to be completed May of 2021. Houston Metro to be considered.
5. Covid-19 Update: Per Chief Aaron Taylor, there are 10,900 new cases in Texas as of Feb. 6 trending downward. West U: 502 confirmed cases. 54 remain active. 446 recovered. 2 fatalities. 1) Age 50-58 2) over 80. Resources: Nothing currently thru the city yet to administer vaccines to West U residents. Congresswoman Fletcher contacted for opportunities to vaccinate homebound residents.
6. Virtual Gate: In progress. Concept phase completed. Working with City of Houston for placement of cameras.

7. 5 G Towers: Staff is talking with Verizon about what can and can't be done. Kevin Trautner commented: The City has in place a design policy that allows us to maintain esthetics. Provision that new poles cannot be put in place on 50 ft. or smaller roads. Residents prefer existing poles. Telecoms have not given reasons why 5 G needs to be in our area. Study will look at how wide the streets are. John Barnes: Phone Company has not submitted formal application yet. Biggest benefit of 5 G is bandwidth and speed.
8. Candace TenBrink brought up debt in Bellaire. John Barnes commented about infrastructure, Harvey, and fiscal responsibility of West U Council.

Parks and Recreation: Susan White

1. Updates: Senior Data: Park Land acquisition. Jenny Elizabeth Hughes Park. Survey respondents reported living ½ mile from a park.
2. Colonial Park East: Challenge course popular. Acknowledged Friends of West U Parks, for their fundraising.
3. Jim Hughes home made into a replica Little Free Library. Photos shown.
4. Huffington Park Project: Rendering of play structure shown. Tree removal. Colored pathway. New structure. Natural shade from trees.
5. Revamping Special Events. More visible for Easter Bunny. Looking for classic cars.

APAC Report: Karen Kenny APAC Minutes sent via email.

1. Covid-19 Update: Harris County Agency on Aging and Houston Health Department are developing a special list of seniors 75 and older. They have also opened up Mental Health program. Both agencies focused on areas underserved.

Good Neighbor Team: Mardi Turner

1. Valentines Cards went out. St. Patrick's Day gifts to be delivered. Highly recommend the Virtual Reality programs.

Senior Services report: Toby Brooks

- 1 Overview: Clayton Library 34 seniors, Cruise in for Cookie Drive Thru, 24 seniors, Puzzle Day, 15 seniors, Second Cruise in for Cookies, 25, Lecture on Heart Health, 23, Pizza Day, 24 seniors, Premier Travel, 16.
- 2 Collaborating with Bellaire to piggyback on our existing virtual programs. Offered our virtual programs to Bellaire.
- 3 Shakespeare has been a success. Kate's husband is currently in the hospital.
- 4 Cindy St. Cyr will be providing a virtual concert.
- 5 Summer newsletter in production, with possible virtual options or meet in person planning.
- 6 George Baker mentioned that his wife Mary is creating a giant mural at their home on Community.
- 7 Joan Johnson inquired about former Senior Board members, specifically John Palmer and Virginia Lootens.
- 8 Program scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 16, "Mardi gras" postponed due to inclement weather.
- 9 Good Neighbor team recipients contacted about the weather.

Old Business

- 1) None.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m. Joan Johnson made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Judy Faulkner seconded it.

Submitted: Patricia Noren