

**West University Place
SENIORS BOARD MEETING
March 11, 2021 DRAFT**

Presiding: Selby Clark

The virtual meeting called to order at 2:02 p.m.

Roll call: Present Judy Faulkner, George Hilderbrandt, George Baker, Joan Johnson, Carlos De La Torre, Karen Kenny, Selby Clark (chair), Tom Brombacher, Candace TenBrink, Candyce Beneke, Susan Davis, Ann Crowley, Toby Brooks and Susan White, John Barnes (Council Liaison) Mardi Turner (GNT). **Absent** Stan McCandless, Carol O'Neill, Liz Wilder. **Guests:** Sam Parikh

Minutes: February minutes approved by Karen Kenny. Seconded by Joan Johnson.

A. Residents Comments: Sam Parikh: Running for City Council. Introduction to group.

Council Meeting Report: John Barnes

1. Thanked Public Works, Parks & Recreation, and Good Neighbor Team for work done during the Ice Storm. Over 600 residents served at the warming center.
2. Senior Survey: Of the respondents who are seniors, only 27 % reported that they were making use of Senior Services. Communications focus, going forward, for both services and emergencies. Cell service and Wi-Fi went down during the storm. Studying landline post op. Are we reaching people during an emergency, and with broad media? Highlighted: Demographics show that aging population in West U is increasing. Going forward making sure that we have appropriate labor and facilities to keep quality of service currently provided. Candace TenBrink inquired about an emergency response team; Joan Johnson mentioned the CERT team that is in place. Candace TenBrink offered her students to do a study on strategies.

Parks and Recreation: Susan White

1. Rec Center warming center, 665 people in a short time. Definitely will utilize CERT in the future, mobilized by the Fire Department.
2. Senior Survey for City Council: Still collecting additional data. Communications to be improved upon. Budget request for additional funding for the 2022 budget. Census data and qualitative data to form objectives and goals consistent with a long-term plan, a wider approach strategic in nature.
3. Revamping Special Events. March 27, 9:00 a.m. Easter Bunny will drive thru the neighborhood. Map is available on the West U website.
4. Huffington Park: City Council approved the recommendations of the Parks Board. Many Thanks to The Friends of West U Parks, who have committed up to 200,000 dollars to fund the improvements to Huffington Park. Scheduled to be completed by the end of July.

APAC Report: Karen Kenny APAC Minutes sent via email.

1. Harris County Area Agency on Aging will begin a homebound vaccine program this week, for non-ambulatory seniors. Vaccine strategy for those with disabilities as well. Priority of 27 zip codes. West U is not one of them.

Good Neighbor Team: Mardi Turner

1. Compiled a list of “At Risk” seniors within the Good Neighbor Team recipients. A Priority Contact List.
2. St. Patrick’s Day door hangars delivered.

Senior Services report: Toby Brooks

- 1 Explained that the Priority list are members within the Good Neighbor Team recipient list. This list is now complete. List will be implemented in the future for upcoming Hurricanes and disasters.
- 2 The Alert sign up process is featured in the upcoming summer edition of the Hi Neighbor newsletter.
- 3 Programs: Mardi gras, Clutter Fairy, and Holocaust events postponed due to the storm.
- 4 Cookie drive thru events are still popular, with 25, and 26 participants.
- 5 Senior Services drivers vaccinated soon. Looking to add an additional driver for Senior Transportation services. Discussion for beginning transportation ongoing.
- 6 In person or outside events under consideration.
- 7 Liz Wilder is asking to thank Sanitation Engineers for their work. She will spearhead this endeavor.
- 8 Ageism. Rebranding The Senior Center into something positive. Not using the word “Senior”. Possibility of renaming of the Senior Center, “The EngAGEment Center”. Rebrand, Reopen, Rebuild. Candace mentioned working groups and committee’s that have a mission and goal.

Old Business

- 1) None.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m. Judy Faulkner made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Candace TenBrink seconded it.

Submitted: Patricia Noren