

Braeburn Valley Civic Association

Sections I & II

Minutes

October 17, 2023

Braeburn Valley Civic Association Meeting

Location: Bayland Park 6400 Bissonet St

Board Members: Bert Ruiz President (present)

Darren Spriggs Treasurer (present)

Jonathan Soffar Vice President (present)

Barbara Haney Secretary (present)

Christine McKeon At Large (present)

- I. 6:30 pm Welcome. President's Call to Order. Bert introduced the board and guest speaker Abraham Zorrilla from the City of Houston planning program for the Braeburn region, any new business, etc.
- II. 6:40 pm Approval of July 2023 Motion to approve by Mr. Akkerman and seconded by Mr. Chow.
- III. 6:45 pm Treasurer's Report. 2023 YTD Budget update. As of October 17, 2023, we have a current-year surplus of \$1,797. However, we are projecting a deficit for the year of \$977 due to the current year's unpaid homeowner dues of \$5,600 and unbudgeted landscaping costs for the neighborhood entrance sign of \$2,338. The current cash balance is \$83,822. The cash balance as of the last board meeting was \$90,912. The change is made up of three payments for trash pickup of \$2,420 each and three landscaping payments of \$575 each. Offset by the 2nd quarter reimbursement of \$1,746 from the City of Houston and a transfer fee of \$150.
- IV. 7:00 pm Neighborhood Resilience Initiative Overview presented by Abraham Zorrilla, City of Houston, Planning and Development. Three regions have an opportunity to participate, including Braeburn. Preliminary projects were identified for Braeburn and discussed at the first session during a past Braeburn Super Neighborhood #30 meeting. Project topics include flood mitigation and drainage, infrastructure, lighting, bridges at Gessner/Fondren, and evacuation centers. ,

The next public meeting will occur on Thursday, November 9 at 6:30pm. This is another opportunity for stakeholder input; representatives from Metro, city parks, and the transportation team will be in attendance. A final meeting will be held in January.

Funding has not been identified yet. Will work with other groups/businesses to see if they can get funding for it. Precinct 4 might be able to address drainage issues with funding. The next mayor may support this initiative, but we won't know until after the elections. East Houston was an original target, followed by Inwood, and Braeburn. There is a task team representing Braeburn. The regional scope includes the entire Braeburn Super Neighborhood. John Loe inquired if a project for the Fondren bridge widening could be part of this. Abraham shared that there are no limits and that residents should present all ideas.

- V. 7:15 pm New Business/Announcements/Presentations
 - Neighborhood Safety and Security Update. Two FLOCK cameras were purchased and installed by Pollard's office. The first camera is located on Braeburn Valley as you enter the subdivision. The second camera is on Braes Bayou on the east side. The cameras scan license plates and capture and store images for 30 days. When someone calls in a crime, HPD can review the photos or footage. But also, if a license plate has been flagged as being involved in a crime, the cameras will automatically alert the authorities. When reporting gunfire, residents are recommended to call 911.
 - Mr. Akkerman inquired about the vacant home at 8303 Brays Bayou, and would like to know what we can do as concerned citizens to address needed teardown by owners. Bert

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pointed out that a fence and sign have gone up to stop trespassing so that HPD can enforce it. Akkerman would like to know if the city can condemn the house. Bert shared that the owner maintains it enough to avoid fines and being condemned. Bert also shared that our deed restrictions have some limitations on what can be enforced, as the city must enforce the city neighborhood ordinances. Discussion amongst homeowners at the meeting ensued. Inquiry about how many homes are empty was answered by John Loe, who says it's either 8 or 9. One resident mentioned our subdivision could front the money needed to demolish the house and then put a lien on the house until the neighborhood association gets the money back. One resident mentioned that the weather is about to turn cold, and everyone needs to be aware of homeless people who may see the abandoned house as a potential shelter.

- One resident mentioned that a tree would die. It is located by the detention pond.

VI. 7:30 Community Issues:

- Traffic Speed and Volume Control Project- Traffic counters to count the number of cars coming through the neighborhood should go back up in November. Another public meeting to share data will happen, and again, residents will be asked whether the impact has been positive or negative, and another voting opportunity will happen. One resident in Bonham Acres has voiced his opinion that he is unhappy with the location of the current barrier because his driveway is being used as a turnaround. The process is to take these talking points back to the committee in charge of the project.
- Harris County is the authority over the parks. A resident has requested that a new light pole be added to Bonham Park to brighten the area at night and deter people from shooting into it.
- Rita Wilhite announced the garden club meeting on Wednesday, Oct 18, and mentioned that Centerpoint Energy is giving away free trees. www.Centerpointenergy.com/trees.
- Bert mentioned that a couple of residents have complained about loud music coming from apartments behind the homes on Nairs St and that he is speaking with the apartment complex to deal with this.
- Bert says that Bissonnet has been identified as one of the most dangerous streets in Houston. A representative from the city will be at the next Superneighborhood meeting. Residents discussed adding a stop light on Bissonnet, including one in front of Braeburn Valey Dr (front of the subdivision). Dick Akkerman says the city councilman only gets the budget to cover 2 miles in terms of road repair. Bert Ruiz mentioned there are additional resources to collect funding outside of this budget. The goal is to implement it in 2024.
- Mr. Akkerman also asked about a vacant lot at the corner Fondren/Braeswood (formerly Boardwalk Apts). Abraham Zorrilla said that it is being studied and is part of the planning commission. It was initially supposed to be a drainage pond. The city owns it. They have discussed mixed retention/green space but are also taking ideas at the next Braeburn Super Neighborhood #30 meeting at 6:30 pm on November 9th at Bayland Community Center.

- Mr. Akkerman also asked about repaving Wanda. Bert mentioned that the Council Member approved it, and that would happen. John Loe pointed out that there needs to be a plan to have a right-hand lane put in at Fondren/Braeswood to alleviate the congestion of backed-up traffic.
- Other

VII. 8:30 pm Adjourn. Motion to adjourn Rita Wilhite and Lance Rosborough seconded.