

Capitol View / Stiff Station Neighborhood Association Meeting

November 12, 2007

2715 W. 7th Street – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Becky Kilmer called the meeting to order:

- 1) Kathleen gave the Treasurer's report in Evelyn's absence. The General Fund currently has \$1961.19 and the Public Safety Fund has a balance of \$913.78.
- 2) Ralph read the minutes from the October meeting and they were approved.
- 3) Robert Holt from L.O.V.E (www.the-solution.org, [501] 516-1602) gave a presentation on gangs and drugs. Some of the gangs being seen in the city are the Mara Salvatrucha (MS 13), Latin Kings, Nuestra Familia/Nortenos, and the Mexican Mafia/Sureno. Some of the drugs that he talked about that are becoming more prevalent are Dextromethorphan, Strawberry Meth, and "Cheese," which is a mixture of Heroin and Tylenol PM.
- 4) Mary Thomforde introduced herself. She is a home-school student who is interested in Journalism, and is interested in starting up the neighborhood newsletter again. She was looking for input on what residents would like to see in the newsletter, and some of the suggestions were: Crime statistics/arrests, a calendar of events, information and phone numbers on things like recycling and special garbage pick-ups, and neighborhood resident profiles.
- 5) A brief report was given by Lindsey East and Julie Hendrix, the new owners of the Dixie Knight Photography house at Markham and Woodrow. Preliminary plans for the house are having offices upstairs and possibly a natural foods store downstairs.
- 6) Ralph gave a report on the progress of the Historic District Ordinance. As of November 5th, the vote totals were as follows:
 - a. 123 yes votes (64.4%)
 - b. 61 no votes (31.9%)
 - c. 7 ballots returned unmarked (3.7%)

In discussions that Ralph has had with Brian Minyard of the city, it was suggested, because of the fact that we are still at least 200 votes short, that we may want to meet with members of the City Board of Directors and the Mayor individually to see if they would vote in favor of the ordinance where we stand now, if it was brought before the Board. Ralph volunteered to look into meeting with the members of the Board and the Mayor.

7) Becky gave a report on writing a letter opposing the expansion of I-630. The deadline for comments had passed, but she met with the Director of Metroplan to express our concerns. He understands our concerns; however, there are some influential people who want the project built. However, funds are not available to carry out the project, so it is not likely to happen anytime soon.

8) Fliers were handed out for the Block Party/Fish Fry which will be held on November 17th from 1-6 p.m. at the church at 2715 W. 7th.

9) Kathleen gave a report on several issues:

- a. With respect to Code Enforcement, the property at 2623 Markham is about ready to be cited, and there are no further updates on the properties at 101 Thayer, 108 Vernon, 402 Thayer, or the lot at 7th and Coates.
- b. Kathleen reported that Judge Alice Lightle is the new Environmental Judge.
- c. The Alert Center is collecting winter coats and clothes for the homeless.
- d. Community Garden Honey is for sale at the Alert Center for \$4 a bottle – please bring the exact amount if purchasing a bottle.

10) There was a brief discussion on the presence of homeless people in the neighborhood and the trashiness of Gill Street between Garland Street and the Cantrell bridge.

11) Herb reported that there is an increased number of cashiers at Kroger.

12) Robert gave a report on the Land Bank Ordinance. The Land Bank is given properties that the city receives, and is able to sell the property to people who have good proposals on what to do with it.

13) The next meeting, which will be held on December 10th (Second Monday of the month), will also include a potluck supper. The potluck will begin at 6:30 with a short meeting to follow.

The meeting was adjourned.