

Westbury Civic Club  
Minutes of Monthly Meeting  
Jan. 18, 2012, Westbury High School

Becky Edmondson called the meeting to order at 7:05PM. Directors and officers in attendance were Edmondson, Hartman, Schertz, Denney, Chapman, Downey, Schexnayder, Rendon, Bryan, Brown, Eldridge, Livingston, Capps, Grimsinger, Zografos, Niles, Mata, and Douglass.

She informed the attendees that METRO was holding a question and answer session in another room, regarding the #49 METRO route, and that meeting would run concurrently with ours. Virginia Livingston brought in packets from that meeting to distribute to interested parties.

Ms. Edmondson introduced the following people:

--Donald Perkins, Chief of Staff from Councilmember Larry Green's District K office, and Barbara Hite, also from his office.

--George Greanias from METRO. Mr. Greanias spoke about changes to METRO services that are done periodically (about three times a year) to reflect changes in ridership. One currently under discussion is the #49 route through Westbury, and METRO is soliciting input from residents regarding this route and its role in our community.

--Mary Seymour from Texas Representative Borris Miles' office.

Ms. Edmondson noted that a main focus of tonight's meeting would be security, but that the subject would be covered more fully at the February meeting as well.

HPD officers Sgt. Timothy Sutton and Officer Brady were introduced, and Sgt. Sutton addressed several security issues. He said he could not add any new information to the recent murder case in Parkwest; he said it is department policy to lock down information in an ongoing investigation, and only the investigating officers have access to pertinent details. Several citizens took exception to this policy. Sgt. Sutton noted that violent crimes in Westbury were down the last two years, while burglaries and robberies were up since January 1 of this year. A discussion ensued regarding purported ADT representatives who had been operating in the area in a suspicious manner. Sgt. Sutton emphasized that residents should call the police or constables for any suspicious activity. He also recommended that citizens use reputable companies for the installation of any home security system, that we pay attention to our surroundings, and that we avail ourselves of the home security checkup offered by HPD. He gave us contact information for the Storefront (5600 South Willow, #160, 713-726-7126), non-emergency calls(713-884-3131)and his e-mail ([timothy.sutton@cityofhouston.net](mailto:timothy.sutton@cityofhouston.net)). Cindy Chapman pointed out that most of this information was already printed in the Westbury Crier. Ms. Edmondson talked about Citizen on Patrol (C.O.P.), and Sgt. Sutton urged us to be the eyes of the police. He described the C.O.P. Setup, said they would train us, and that we needed to be able to commit at least 30 hours per month per team. Don Perkins said that Councilperson Green wants his office to sponsor a C. O. P. class for the whole area.

Sgt. Sutton emphasized: If it's a crime, report it! He offered application forms for the C. O. P. program, and Ms. Edmondson said they would be available on the Westbury Civic Club web site. She said that the Civic Club cannot sponsor the program, and that it must be a separate organization from the Civic Club. Sgt. Sutton urged us to use the crime statistics available on the City of Houston/Police

Department web site.

Officer Brady talked about the Positive Interaction Program, and noted the monthly meeting information (which is available in the Westbury Crier). He gave us his e-mail: [myron.brady@cityofhouston.net](mailto:myron.brady@cityofhouston.net)

Ms. Edmondson introduced the Precinct 5 Constables who were present, and Deputy Addison addressed the attendees. He urged residents to close their garage doors at all times, lock side doors to the garage, and be aware of their surroundings. He described the Vacation Watch program, and gave us the contact number to call to get a constable (281-463-1666).

Resident Ruben Soliz came forward and talked about a disturbing incident with two pit bulls who came to his house and ultimately killed his pet. He urged that something be done about these dangerous animals who are allowed to run loose. Other residents offered their comments and frustrations about dealing with this menace. Deputy Addison said about all we could do is report it to 3-1-1, and keep registering complaints until something is done. Many people felt this was not enough. Don Perkins from Councilmember Green's office said they will make this a priority if we report it to them consistently. Apparently uncontrolled and potentially dangerous dogs are a widespread problem in District K. (Contact info: 832-393-3016 and [districtk@houstontx.gov](mailto:districtk@houstontx.gov))

Ms. Edmondson noted that not all constable vehicles are equipped with HPD radios. She suggested that we needed to think about covering the cost for these portable radios; it was determined that they needed two additional radios which would cost approximately \$200 each. Ken Downey suggested that we needed to work on paying for the constables first, before we worried about equipment. But Joe Niles moved that we look into purchasing two portable HPD radios, and Robert Capps seconded. The motion carried.

(At this point Jose Pulido from METRO broke into the meeting and said that their session had ended.)

Ms. Edmondson introduced two individuals who have stepped forward to assume directorships: Kevin Douglass for Security and Carlos Mata for Greenspace. Mr. Douglass briefly addressed the group, expressing his passion for promoting safety in the area and asking us all to participate. Marcia Hartman moved that Mr. Douglass be accepted as Security Director and Mr. Mata as Greenspace Director. William Grimsinger seconded; the motion carried.

Ms. Edmondson suggested that we reinstitute the Neighborhood Watch Program, led by block captains. More work will be done on this later.

The budget for 2012 was presented; Cindy Chapman moved that it be accepted, Ken Downey seconded the motion, and it carried.

A ParkWest 2 resident questioned the allocation of mandatory dues. A discussion ensued wherein Don Bryan talked about grandfathered mandatory dues (in his description, this meant mandatory dues for anyone moving into Westbury subsequent to adoption of the change).

At 9:05 the meeting adjourned informally because high school staff were locking the doors.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Hartman  
Vice President