

# HYDE PARK

DECEMBER 2016

[www.facebook.com/groups/HydeParkUnited/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/HydeParkUnited/)
[hydeparkhouston.org](http://hydeparkhouston.org)

Letter from the President

## The Holiday Season in Hyde Park



Happy Holidays,  
Hyde Parkers!

This time of year, I am grateful for my friends and family, the sun and moon, music and laughter,

and a roof over my head, one that happens to be in Hyde Park. I hope you all have an opportunity for gratitude and enjoyment of all these favorite things this season.

If you missed it last month, guest speakers from the **Houston Parks Board**, which manages our adopted Lamar Park, discussed their greenspace efforts in a very informative presentation at the November 7 association meeting. See more on page 3.

### 2017 BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

My deep appreciation is extended to **Deed Restrictions Committee Member Finus Cowan** and **Treasurer Rex Richardson** for their commitment giving back to our community through years of service on the board. Both have chosen not to run for re-election. I'm pleased to announce that two of our current board members, **Chris Delphin** and **Veronica Faubert**, were elected on Nov. 7 to new board roles, and longtime, committed volunteer **Mike McKann** was elected as a new board director and Deed Restrictions Committee member. See page 2 for more details.

### HOLIDAY PARTY ON DECEMBER 5 AT RIVA'S

Have you purchased your holiday party ticket yet? Everyone is invited to celebrate the season! \$15 advance tickets are available through December 4 at [www.hydeparkhouston.org](http://www.hydeparkhouston.org) and provide you with an unlimited buffet of salad, lasagna, meatballs, pasta, garlic bread, and dessert at Riva's Italian Restaurant on December 5 at 6:30pm. Advance tickets are strongly encouraged to ensure we have an accurate guest count and plentiful food. If you must, come at the door for \$20.

### HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG IN LAMAR PARK ON DECEMBER 15

Join us in Lamar Park on Thursday, December 15 for caroling, lead by local vocal group, Constant Billy. We'll be singing some Christmas tunes from 6 - 7PM. Bring your friends and neighbors. Hot chocolate and treats will be provided.

### JANUARY MEETING

January's monthly meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 6:30pm at Rudyard's on the second floor. The format will be an open forum, so please come and share your thoughts on priorities for the year, guest speaker requests, and more.

Wishing you and yours a safe and joyous season,  
Macy Bodenhamer

### NON-EMERGENCY CONTACTS

HPD Non-Emergency (713) 884-3131  
24/7 Montrose Management  
District Security Patrol (832) 370-9191  
Dial 311 for City Helpline

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**General Meetings**, Rudyard's British Pub:  
**DEC. 5, Mon.**, 6:30PM, HPCA Holiday Party at Riva's.

**JAN. 9, 2017, Mon.**, 6:30PM, General Meeting.

### BOARD/COMMITTEE CONTACTS

**PRESIDENT - Macy Bodenhamer**  
[president@hydeparkhouston.org](mailto:president@hydeparkhouston.org)

**VICE PRESIDENT - Vacant**  
[vicepresident@hydeparkhouston.org](mailto:vicepresident@hydeparkhouston.org)

**SECRETARY - Veronica Faubert**  
[secretary@hydeparkhouston.org](mailto:secretary@hydeparkhouston.org)

**TREASURER - Rex Richardson**  
[treasurer@hydeparkhouston.org](mailto:treasurer@hydeparkhouston.org)

**PAST PRESIDENT - George Sroka**  
[pastpresident@hydeparkhouston.org](mailto:pastpresident@hydeparkhouston.org)

**DEED RESTRICTIONS - Chris Delphin**  
[deedrestrictions@hydeparkhouston.org](mailto:deedrestrictions@hydeparkhouston.org)

**MEMBERSHIP**  
**Maryann Young, Helen Zunka**  
[membership@hydeparkhouston.org](mailto:membership@hydeparkhouston.org)

**CITIZEN PATROL - Rex Richardson**  
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**NEWSLETTER - Adrienne Wong**  
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**NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**  
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**LAMAR PARK**  
**Sharon Beausoleil**  
[lamarpark@hydeparkhouston.org](mailto:lamarpark@hydeparkhouston.org)

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**  
**Roy Brooks**  
[volunteer@hydeparkhouston.org](mailto:volunteer@hydeparkhouston.org)

Commonwealth Block Captain(s): Vacant  
Missouri Block Captain(s): Vacant  
Volunteers sought

# HPCA November 2016 Meeting Minutes

## BLOCK CAPTAINS

### Bomar

Greg Jeu & Jim Hurst 281-541-6756

### California / Westheimer

Cecilia Kammer 832-788-1586

### 2516 Commonwealth

Mark McCreary

### Fairview

Irene Dahlgren 713-299-5190

### Hyde Park / Hyde Park Apts.

Linda Carter 713-524-2952

Pat Courtney 832-860-1814

### Hyde Park Crescent

Susan Ellis 713-528-8289

Carlos Fernandez 713-520-7017

### Hyde Park Townhomes

Clint Harbert, 832-428-0158

### Indiana / Yupon

Alice McCarthy 713-521-5807

### Jackson

Nelson Vergel 713-539-1978

### Maryland

Finis Cowan 713-582-6066

### Michigan

Tom Whitworth 713-523-8035

### Missouri

Vacant

### Montrose/Waugh

Christina Ptasinski 832-516-9811

### Peden

Lori Corwin 832-582-6520

### Vermont

Sharon Lord 713-522-9427

### Welch

Scott and Lina Rigrod 713-528-2791

Cliff Jones 713-524-3055

### West Drew

Mike McKann 713-526-6777

### West Gray / Hazel

Roy Brooks 832-691-6587

### Willard

Delia Isabel Cuellar 832 819-0813

### Yoakum/Van Buren

Macy Bodenhamer 713-201-5810

### Block captains: Notify

vicepresident@hydeparkhouston.org  
of any changes in contact information.

The November Hyde Park Civic Association general meeting was held on Monday, November 7th at Rudyard's Pub. **President Macy Bodenhamer** opened at 6:39 PM. Macy announced that the 2017 board elections would take place that night. Paid members of the association were eligible to vote for the open slate of positions, which included vice president, treasurer and Deed Restrictions Committee member/board director. Macy also announced that **Treasurer Rex Richardson** would not run for re-election as his two-year term closes. She thanked him for his years of service to the community. The following candidates were nominated by the HPCA Elections Committee: **Chris Delphin**, who currently serves as the chair of the Deed Restrictions Committee, running for vice president and **Veronica Faubert**, currently serving as secretary, running for treasurer, and resident **Mike McKann** running for Deed Restrictions Committee member/board director. Ballots were handed out to the members to cast their vote anonymously.

Outreach Manager Lisa Kasianowitz and Project Manager Tom Gall from the Houston Parks Board gave a presentation about the role of the organization and their current Bayou Greenways 2020 Project. See page 3 for a recap. Macy then revealed the results of the election - all nominated candidates were unanimously elected.

**Treasurer Rex Richardson** gave the Treasurer and Citizens on Patrol Reports. The October opening balance was \$17,124 and closed at \$17,693. It costs about \$500 to print each issue of the newsletter and \$350 to maintain Lamar Park monthly. \$10,000 remains in the account as a reserve for legal fees and liabilities. Membership revenue was higher this month thanks to National Night Out. October was a slow month for Citizens on Patrol. The community logged 81 hours walking. The Houston Police Department is only interested in hours driven because it is considered safer to patrol in a car. Contact Rex if you would like to be a patroller, as there will be a training later on in the month.

**Membership Chair Helen Zunka** gave a membership update, stating that the association received 23 new members and 14 renewals from National Night Out, which brought the total number of paid members to around 210.

**Volunteer Coordinator Roy Brooks** expressed his gratitude towards everyone

that volunteered at National Night Out. If anyone is interested in coordinating efforts towards bettering Lamar Park or restoring the fountain, contact Roy. Everyone's input is needed and can be combined to put together a spring or summer gathering in the park. It would be ideal to put a program board together in order to pursue these ideas. Helen also proposed a Christmas caroling event that can be organized this year or next year in combination with the annual holiday tree decorating event. Volunteers are needed as block captains to deliver newsletters to homes on Commonwealth. Those interested in serving as board secretary for 2017, which will be an appointed position, should reach out to Macy or Roy. The question of security came up in regards to having private security patrol in the neighborhood. Other nearby neighborhoods have funded similar initiatives. Macy explained that Cherryhurst Civic Association and residents, which is a significantly smaller area than Hyde Park with only about 300 households, pay for a security car to patrol. It is completely privately funded by their households. It would take many resources and volunteers for Hyde Park to fundraise the bare minimum of \$50,000 in order for our community to have a constable/security program. Given the consistently low membership participation - about 200 members out of 1,500 households - it's been viewed as an unlikely feasible effort.

**Chair of the Deed Restrictions Committee Chris Delphin** stated there weren't many deed restrictions updates besides the Chapter 42 application on West Drew and upcoming city hearing on December 1.

The meeting wrapped with an announcement about the December 5th holiday party at Riva's. Advance \$15 tickets are available online at [www.hydeparkhouston.org](http://www.hydeparkhouston.org). Tickets are available for \$20 at the door, but that is discouraged because it impacts the confirmed headcount and available food quantities. The next civic association monthly meeting will be held in early January. The meeting ended at 7:52 PM.

*Submitted by Veronica Faubert, secretary*

### NEWSLETTER:

Please submit all material for January 2017 consideration by midnight, Monday, December 19, 2016 to [newsletter@hydeparkhouston.org](mailto:newsletter@hydeparkhouston.org)

# Houston Parks Board Presentation – Lamar Park, Bayou Greenways 2020 and More

**Outreach Manager Lisa Kasianowitz** and **Project Manager Tom Gall** served as guest speakers for the November 7th Hyde Park meeting. They work for the **Houston Parks Board (HPB)**, a nonprofit dedicated to providing access to quality parks and greenspace for all people. The Board generally works with park projects all throughout Houston whether big or small, from a \$5 million bridge to a \$2,500 bench. Lisa presented the Bayou Greenways 2020 project, which is a public-private partnership between Houston Parks Board, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department and the Harris County Flood Control District. Houston Parks Board is leading the private fundraising and managing the acquisition, design and construction of the Bayou Greenways 2020 Project.

The Bayou Greenways 2020's initiative is to change people's perspective of Houston. Lisa mentioned that people tend to focus on a lot of negative aspects associated with Houston such as the traffic. Part of the project is to educate people about all the bayous that exists in addition to Buffalo Bayou. There will be new miles of hike and bike trails added so that when the project is complete, approximately 60% of Houstonians will live within 1.5 miles of a Bayou Greenway. The project will create a continuous parks system along Houston's major waterways, transform more than 3,000 underutilized acres along the bayous into public, accessible greenspace, and add more than 80 new miles of hike-and-bike trails and trail-related amenities (such as trailheads, landscaping and benches) along the bayous to



fill in the gaps. Tom Gall then spoke about the Neighborhood Partnership Program, which provides assistance to groups that want to revitalize or provide new facilities in their community parks. The goal of the program is to improve parks through a cooperative effort between community groups, HPB and Houston Parks and Recreation Department.

The presentations were followed by questions from the audience. One person mentioned that some of the sidewalks were washed out near Buffalo Bayou Park. There are trees and plants there that keep flooding to a minimal, but they obstruct the view of the water. Lisa reminded her that the HPB is not involved with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership. However, they do work with Harris County Flood Control District engineers for 35 months prior to placing trails. HPCA President

Macy Bodenhamer asked about the possibility of adding lighting in the park to increase safety. Tom responded that official park hours are from dawn to dusk, so the park is not intended for use after dark. He also brought up the fact that some people don't want the extra lights because they can be too bright for some people that live close to the parks and can see the lights from their bedrooms. Lighting is also quite expensive; Mandell Park was a recent million-dollar+ project that required raising a lot of money for lighting and pay for maintenance.



*Tom Gall (left) and Lisa Kasianowitz (pictured lower left) of the Houston Parks Board at the HPCA November meeting.*

The ongoing issue of homeless individuals in Lamar Park was cited, with a question about whether other parks experience the same thing. It is common to see them using the park for gathering and sleeping, as well as charging their cell phones on the park's electrical outlets. This makes many neighbors feel unsafe. Tom confirmed that the issue is common. He said that it is important to maintain relationships with the police department along with Houston Parks and Recreation Department rangers, though they do not patrol park areas and there are only 12 in Houston. They don't carry guns and their powers are somewhat limited. Reporting concerns to the city helpline at 311 is recommended.

Our local greenspace, Lamar Park, was renovated and adopted by Hyde Park Civic Association many years ago. The association is responsible for maintaining the park and liaising with HPB in order to do so. The location is unique, as it is not officially a park, but an esplanade. The Dolphin Fountain in Lamar Park existed long before the space was developed.

A concern was brought up in regards to the Bayou Project and the environmental impact it may have on the designated areas. Tom reassured everyone that they conduct environmental impact studies before implanting the projects and placing the trails. Find more information at <http://houstonparksboard.org/>.

*Submitted by Veronica Faubert, secretary*

## HPD Crime Reports for August 2016

| Activity           | Street/Block           | Name                                      | Date      | Time |
|--------------------|------------------------|---|-----------|------|
| Aggravated Assault | 1000-1099 Westheimer   | Commercial Building                       | 8/27/2016 | 10   |
| Auto Theft         | 1300-1399 Gray         | Vehicle/Auto Sales/Lease/Auto Parts Store | 8/2/2016  | 16   |
| Auto Theft         | 1400-1499 Indiana      | Road, Street, or Sidewalk                 | 8/28/2016 | 01   |
| Robbery            | 1500-1599 Jackson      | Road, Street, or Sidewalk                 | 8/17/2016 | 19   |
| Robbery            | 1000-1099 Missouri     | Road, Street, or Sidewalk                 | 8/9/2016  | 23   |
| Robbery            | 2600-2699 Waugh        | Road, Street, or Sidewalk                 | 8/27/2016 | 16   |
| Robbery            | 900-999 Westheimer     | Service or Gas Station                    | 8/4/2016  | 17   |
| Robbery            | 1300-1399 Westheimer   | Road, Street, or Sidewalk                 | 8/14/2016 | 04   |
| Theft              | 1500-1599 California   | Road, Street, or Sidewalk                 | 8/24/2016 | 22   |
| Theft              | 1700-1799 Commonwealth | Road, Street, or Sidewalk                 | 8/18/2016 | 12   |
| Theft              | 2300-2399 Commonwealth | Apartment Parking Lot                     | 8/7/2016  | 10   |
| Theft              | 1100-1199 Drew         | Road, Street, or Sidewalk                 | 8/28/2016 | 00   |
| Theft              | 1200-1299 Drew         | Residence or House                        | 8/5/2016  | 14   |
| Theft              | 1400-1499 Fairview     | Driveway                                  | 8/21/2016 | 11   |
| Theft              | 1400-1499 Fairview     | Residence or House                        | 8/22/2016 | 12   |
| Theft              | 1100-1199 Gray         | Restaurant or Cafeteria Parking Lot       | 8/18/2016 | 20   |
| Theft              | 1300-1399 Gray         | Apartment Parking Lot                     | 8/5/2016  | 12   |
| Theft              | 1300-1399 Gray         | Apartment Parking Lot                     | 8/18/2016 | 07   |
| Theft              | 1500-1599 Haddon       | Road, Street, or Sidewalk                 | 8/12/2016 | 01   |
| Theft              | 1500-1599 Haddon       | Road, Street, or Sidewalk                 | 8/13/2016 | 01   |
| Theft              | 1400-1499 Maryland     | Apartment Parking Lot                     | 8/11/2016 | 07   |
| Theft              | 2400-2499 Van Buren    | Road, Street, or Sidewalk                 | 8/25/2016 | 06   |
| Theft              | 2100-2199 Waugh        | Residence or House                        | 8/4/2016  | 19   |
| Theft              | 1400-1499 Welch        | Other Parking Lot                         | 8/17/2016 | 00   |
| Theft              | 1200-1299 Westheimer   | Road, Street, or Sidewalk                 | 8/21/2016 | 00   |
| Theft              | 2600-2699 Yupon        | Road, Street, or Sidewalk                 | 8/1/2016  | 23   |
| Theft              | 2700-2799 Yupon        | Road, Street, or Sidewalk                 | 8/23/2016 | 00   |
| Theft              | 2700-2799 Yupon        | Road, Street, or Sidewalk                 | 8/26/2016 | 10   |
| Theft              | 2700-2799 Yupon        | Road, Street, or Sidewalk                 | 8/31/2016 | 22   |

Note that crimes reported to HPD takes about three months to become available for publishing.

Submitted by Rick Wannall

### CITIZENS ON PATROL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2016

Submitted by Rex Richardson

Hours patrolled by car= 75.83

Hours patrolled on foot= 115.91

Suspicious incidents reports= none for October

Thanks to all the patrollers who kept an eye out last month for the safety of our neighbors and community.

### HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS

[www.crime-stoppers.org](http://www.crime-stoppers.org)



WHILE SHOPPING

**Be aware of your surroundings. Look for suspicious persons, etc. when you are in any area.**

- Shop during the day when possible, avoid shopping alone after dark.
- Keep your purse and bags closed at all times.
- Credit cards are the safest form of payment.
- Don't buy more than you can comfortably carry or ask a store employee to assist you to your vehicle.
- Consolidate your purchase into larger bags.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry or handbags.
- If using an ATM:
  - Choose one located inside a bank, mall, grocery store, etc. rather than a stand-alone and make sure it is in a well-lit area.
  - Protect your PIN from anyone standing around you.
  - Hold on to your ATM receipt – don't leave it around the area.
  - Only withdraw the amount of cash needed – don't carry large amounts of cash.



# 'Tis the season

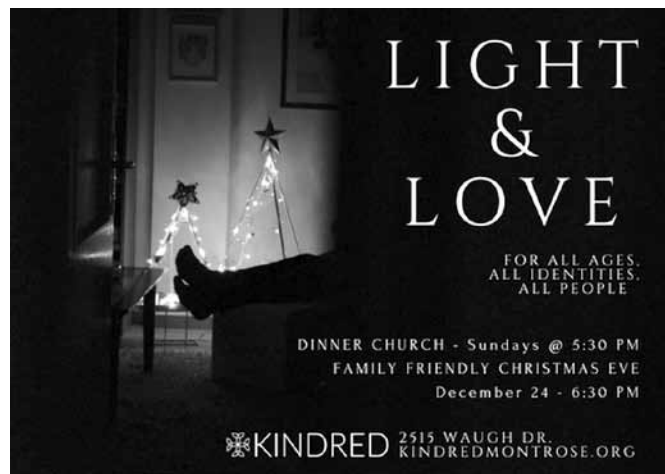
While the temperatures are chilly, there's something about this time of year that also feels warm - a spirit of joy and generosity abounds. We don our playful tacky sweaters and enjoy the festive glow of candles. We gather together with old friends and begin new traditions. I don't have any secrets for a perfect Holiday, but here are a few ideas on how you can make this season a meaningful one:

**TAKE A BREAK** While most places have snow that forces things to take a more languid pace, down here we have to make a point to go slow. The to-do list seems endless, but guess what? Add "take a break" to your list and you'll still get the satisfaction of crossing it off. Pick up that book that has been sitting on your nightstand for too long. Make a cup of hot cider and just enjoy it without simultaneously scrolling through social media, just sit and be. Go for an evening walk around the neighborhood to take in the brisk air and the twinkling lights. Say "hi" to your neighbors and introduce yourself if you haven't already met.

**GIVE** Montrose has always been a community that cares for others. Cold nights are toughest for those experiencing homelessness. Gather up blankets, hats and coats for local services like Montrose Grace Place or Covenant House. Or if you're struggling to find the right gift for someone, make a gift in their name to an organization or cause they love.

**INVITE** Keep an eye out for opportunities to invite someone you haven't before. Whether it's a neighbor, a co-worker, or long-lost friend...this is the time to share our tables, to connect with others, and to get to know folks with different life experiences than our own.

**SERVE** There are lots of opportunities to give of your time and be a part of something with a big impact. I remember volunteering as a kid to feed the hungry with City Wide Club's Christmas Eve Big Feast which still continues every year. Check out Blue Santa Houston to help make sure every kid has



something to unwrap this season. Or even simpler, take time to visit someone who would love your company - the woman down the street that lost her husband this year and will be spending her first holiday alone or the friend whose family all lives across the country and can't make it home. You don't have to make a big deal out of it, just invite them over for dinner any old day.

**CELEBRATE** Have fun, get together with loved ones, sing too loud, and tell embarrassing stories. Create a new ritual or tradition. Don't wait for the house to be "just so" before you invite folks, otherwise it may never happen. Don't worry about making things perfect, just allow yourself to enjoy this time with others.

As always, everyone is welcome to celebrate with us from +KINDRED for DINNER CHURCH on Sunday evenings at 5:30PM. Christmas Eve (December 24 at 6:30 PM) will be a simple service of songs and stories. Kids will be invited to help us tell the story, but without any of the dress rehearsal drama. Just show up and be a part of that holy night.

*Submitted by Rev. Ashley Dellagiacom, pastor, Kindred*

## VOLUNTEER *for* HYDE PARK

*Please send Roy Brooks, volunteer coordinator, an email: [volunteer@hydeparkhouston.org](mailto:volunteer@hydeparkhouston.org) with any questions or ideas you may have.*

### COMMONWEALTH BLOCK CAPTAIN(S)

### MISSOURI BLOCK CAPTAIN(S)

Volunteers are needed to deliver monthly newsletters.

(Commonwealth block is along Commonwealth from Montrose to West Gray.)

Delivery usually takes place around the last week of each month. Each block captain role can easily be split between two people. If you have a few hours to give, please consider helping out.

### BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

This committee works to enhance, maintain, and restore the beauty of Hyde Park.

Work may include planting flowers, trees, and potentially establishing public gardens, decorating and improving Hyde Park's public landscape. The committee is also charged with designating a neighborhood "Yard of the Month" in addition to educating and engaging residents in beautification, public art, and clean-up projects.

### CITIZENS ON PATROL COORDINATOR

**Citizens on Patrol** "was established in an effort to bring the citizens and the police department together for a common goal, and that is to improve the quality of life by eliminating crime." Its goal is to reduce crime while also making Hyde Park a friendlier place and encouraging crime awareness. The coordinator oversees the training as well as the reports of patrolers.



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# HPCA HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 5, 2016

\$15 advance tickets at  
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RIVA'S, 1117 MISSOURI (@ YOAKUM), 6:30PM

## Christmas Caroling in Lamar Park

Join us in Lamar Park on Thursday, December 15th for Christmas Caroling lead by vocal group, **Constant Billy**. We'll be singing some Christmas tunes from 6 - 7PM. Bring your friends and neighbors. Hot chocolate and treats will be provided.

**December 15th 2016** 

### DID YOU KNOW?

It is illegal to park a vehicle that blocks any portion of a sidewalk, even if the sidewalk connects to your private driveway. Vehicles need park in the driveway or on the street. Why? The answer is simple: safety. People walking down the sidewalk would be forced to go into the street if the sidewalk is blocked and that would mean our vulnerable population – kids, the elderly or persons with a mobility disability – are exposed to the dangers of sharing the road with passing vehicles.

Find the complete listing of Codes of Ordinances on the City of Houston website at <http://www.houstontx.gov/codes/>

*Submitted by Chris Delphin, Deed Restrictions Committee Chair*



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- Pediatrics
- The Assistance Fund
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