

HYDE • PARK

April 2014

hydeparkhouston.org

Hyde Park Civic Association

Letter from the President – April 2014

Welcome to spring! Seeing flowers starting to bloom around the neighborhood is a welcome sign. Time for spring cleaning, outdoor fun, yard work, replacing all the dead foliage that didn't make it through our rough winter, and more. Don't know about you, but I'll be cleaning out my garage finally and hoping to do so before we hit 80 degrees!



Membership

Just another reminder that you can still become a member of the association for just \$30 annually. Your membership helps fund this newsletter, maintaining Lamar Park and more. See the application on page 3.

Dolphin Fountain Restoration Fundraiser

We are still working to raise enough funds to renovate the historic fountain in Lamar Park. Please consider a tax-deductible donation - any amount helps.

To make a donation go to:

- 1 www.houstonparksboard.org; then
- 2 Click the "Donate Now" button (found in the top right corner); then select
- 3 Payment Options: Credit card, personal check, or business check; then select
- 4 LAMAR PARK (found in the Drop Down Box). This selection required to direct

your donation to our restoration project and receive recognition.

2014 City Capital Improvement Plan

District C and Councilmember **Ellen Cohen** held a meeting in early March to present details on the city's Capital Improvement Plan. Several speakers presented detailed insight into upcoming activities - see the article on page 4 for more info.

April 12 Picnic in the Park

Mark your calendar to join the collaborative neighborhood associations' picnic on Saturday, April 12 in Cherryhurst Park from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. All Hyde Park residents are invited to attend, along with members of Cherryhurst and East Montrose. Bring a blanket, camp chairs, munchies, your tennis racket, Frisbee, etc. and get to know your neighbors!

April 7 Association Meeting

Make plans to attend our next civic association meeting on Monday, April 7 at Rudyard's on the second floor, 6:30 p.m. Topic of discussion will include a new fundraising opportunity through your choice of electric service providers. See insert page for more details. There will also be more time to socialize with your neighbors after the business meeting.

Hope to see many of you on April 7.

Sincerely,
Macy Bodenhamer

Super FUN Picnic and Neighborhood Potluck
Saturday, April 12 • 11 AM - 2 PM
in Cherryhurst Park

Enjoy a warm-weather outing in the park with your neighbors from Cherryhurst, East Montrose and Hyde Park. Bring a main or side dish to share. We'll provide the soft drinks, desserts, fun and games. Enjoy some tennis, toss a Frisbee, and relax.

Bring lawn chairs, blankets and food to share.

SEE INSERT PAGE

BOARD CONTACTS

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vicepresident@hydeparkhouston.org

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advertising@hydeparkhouston.org

LAMAR PARK
Rodney Morris and Dean Emmons
lamarpark@hydeparkhouston.org

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Get informed!**

To receive periodic emails from Mayor Annise Parker and the city of Houston on topics of interest to you and the Hyde Park neighborhood, visit houston.tx.gov, scroll down to the CitizensNet box and click "Register Now".

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California / Westheimer

Cecilia Kammer 832-788-1586

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Mark McCreary 713-338-1929

Fairview

Irene Dahlgren 713-299-5190

Hyde Park / Hyde Park Apts.

Linda Carter 713-524-2952

Alex Aranda 713-533-9474

Hyde Park Crescent

Susan Ellis 713-528-8289

Carlos Fernandez 713-520-7017

Hyde Park Townhomes

Daniel Posada 713-454-7834

Indiana / Yupon

Alice McCarthy 713-521-5807

Jackson

Brandon Bartee 832-866-1426

Maryland

Cathy Hanchett 713.542.4921

Michigan

Tom Whitworth 713-523-8035

Missouri

Dawn Reeves 713-529-6000

Montrose

Syndee Sharrar 281 216 0953

Peden

Lori Corwin 832-582-6520

Vermont

Sharon Lord 713-522-9427

Waugh

Will Martin 405-361-2523

Welch

Scott and Lina Rigrod 713-528-2791

Cliff Jones 713-524-3055

West Drew

Mike McKann 713-526-6777

West Gray / Hazel

Sherry Waddell 713-252-3968

Willard

Camille Bogel 832-794-2577

Yoakum/Van Buren

Macy Bodenhamer 713-201-5810

**Block captains: Notify
vicepresident@hydeparkhouston.org of
any changes in contact information.**

March meeting minutes

By Daniel Stidham

At 6:40 p.m. on March 3 the general meeting was called to order by **Macy Bodenhamer**. Thirty plus members and guests attended. Macy introduced the guest speaker **Kevin Calfee** from the city's Planning Committee.

May 2013 - Development changes

Building can now take place on smaller lots (already happened inner loop), but has now been taken city-wide.

The best form of protection is found in Chapter 42, which creates minimum building line ordinances and front property line limits, in addition to minimum lot sizes which prevent the subdivision of lots below a specific minimum.

Applications are submitted on a street by street basis (example - Welch St. from Van Buren to Waugh). Begin by getting at least 51% of the residents on the street to sign a petition. Protection is put on block while process is going through city council. City will send a letter to teach property owner to give them a chance to protest. If there are protests, a meeting is set up with the planning commissioner to voice opinions. At this meeting it is approved or denied.

You can also submit an application by Area - for example - 100 lots, need 10% of people to start the application. Then letter is sent to everyone in area to ask them to attend a meeting and return the ballot - "YES" or "NO". If residents don't reply to ballot - it's a "NO". Need 55% to submit a "YES". Planning commission meets with people - than approves or denies. Application directors can decrease size of area to get 55%.

Can take between 6-8 months. You have a year to take it through the process.

Questions:

- 1 Can you overlap applications with a block and area application? No.
- 2 Some weighted average vote per lot size on each street to get to the 51%.
- 3 Where do we go for advice?
Kevin.Calfee@houstontx.org
- 4 Homes with garage apartments are not considered commercial properties.

5 Calculations done by largest lot and smallest lot. Example - lot range of 5,000 - 9,500 sq. ft, therefore the minimum lot size was 5,000 sq. ft.

6 Deed restrictions are 10 years long and automatically renew.

- Best arguments against developers? Be loud in force with good arguments. Other blocks have similar building protections for residents. Try to get all 51% of the residents to the planning committee meeting.

7 The Planning committee will allow for variances to chapter 42 restrictions based on special situations. These situations still have to go through the process, but if the community is silent, the variance will go through.

- The members of the street must come out in mass and fight the variance. In order to protest the variance, you get 2 minutes to speak. The persons requesting the variance must speak first, then the builder gets the last word with no rebuttal.

General Meeting Discussion:

1 Treasurer's report-\$15,753 dollars.

\$2,000 in revenue at beginning of February. Largely due to membership and \$853 dollars in expenses. \$16,858 at the end of Feb.

2 Membership report-Couple memberships are increasing. 150 members, with 1,100 homes.

We are working on increasing this. Bring a neighbor!

3 Deed Restrictions Report-Town homes are being built against deed restriction measures. The city told them to sue the people (a challenge due to costs). Deed restriction set back is only 5 feet. If the property had Chapter 42 protection the planning commission could step in and stop the building.

4 February PIP meeting-Kevin Calfee was also at the PIP meeting and spoke much more broadly.

5 Rodney Morris and Dean Emmons are chairs to fund raise money to support the restoration of the dolphin fountain. The campaign has been extended through August 2014.

Minutes Continued

Announcements

- 1 Capital Improvement Planning meeting with Ellen Cohen at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5 at the West Gray Multi Service Center.
- 2 Neartown super neighborhood is looking for all new board members
- 3 Voting March 6, go to Harrisvotes.org to confirm your voting place
- 4 Next meeting is Monday, April 7
- 5 Cherryhurst Park picnic with East Montrose, Hyde Park and Cherryhurst Park coming up April 12, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 7:51 p.m

GENERAL MEETINGS

Rudyard's (upstairs) at 6:30 p.m.

April 7, May 5, June 2

HYDE PARK CITIZEN PATROL: February 2014

Incidents reported to police: **2**

Number of arrests: **1**

Hours patrolled on foot: **116**

Hours patrolled by car: **51.25**

Hyde Park Civic Association Annual Membership

(Due each January, no proration)

Individual - \$30	Couple - \$60	New or Renewal (circle one)
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Each \$30 membership is per person, not per household.

Date Paid:	___/___/___	Amount: \$	Check No.:
Name(s):			
Address:			
Telephone:			
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Mail form and check to: Hyde Park Civic Association, PO Box 66422, Houston, TX 77266-6422
You can also join or renew online at hydeparkhouston.org using PayPal.

TRASH/RECYCLING

TRASH PICK-UP: MONDAYS

SINGLE STREAM (large wheeled bin)

Apr 7, 21; May 5, 19

DUAL STREAM (small bin, no glass)

Apr 14, 28; May 12, 27

TREE WASTE: May 7; Jul 2

HEAVY/JUNK: Jun 4; Aug 6

MAY NEWSLETTER

Deadline is April 15.

newsletter@hydeparkhouston.org

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2014 Capital Improvement Plan Meeting Recap

By Macy Bodenhamer

What is the CIP?

The CIP is a Five year plan updated annually, addressing the infrastructure & asset needs for the City of Houston.

The Adopted CIP

The adopted CIP for FY2014 is \$1.246 billion.

This includes Enterprise, Public Improvement and ReBuild Houston Categories.

Enterprise projects are funded by fees such as airport revenues and water bills.

Public Improvement projects are funded by property taxes, grants, fees, and etc.

Of the \$1.246 billion in the CIP, \$150 million or about 12 % is supported by property taxes.

Resolution

On November 1, 1983, City Council adopted the Resolution setting forth the requirement for a Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Capital Improvement Plan Categories

Public Improvement Programs - Libraries, Parks, Health Facilities, General Government, Housing, Solid Waste Facilities, Police and Fire Departments

Enterprise Programs - Airport System, Water and Wastewater (CWS)

Rebuild Houston - Street and Traffic, and Storm Drainage

Fleet, Equipment, Technology & Civic Art

Components Units

On March 5, Councilmember **Ellen Cohen** and other city representatives presented the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The city's fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

The CIP is developed using funding forecasts and estimated project costs. As the city moves forward, the plan is revised based on the current financial situation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
houstontx.gov or rebuildhouston.gov

Topics presented included:

- CIP Overview by the Finance Department
- Rebuild Houston Overview by Public Works and Engineering
- Project Updates
 - Parks and Recreation Department
 - General Services Department
 - Public Works and Engineering Department
- Constituent Suggestions and Questions
 - Department Representatives Respond

The Planning Process

Starts with the Current CIP



Focus on Citywide Needs & Priorities



Collaborative process between:
 City Departments, Constituents,
 City Council, Administration &
 Methodology/Elements

In November 2006, the citizens of Houston approved the issuance of \$625 million of bonds allocated as follows

Street and Drainage	320 Million
Public Safety	135 Million
Parks	55 Million
General Improvement	60 Million
Library	37 Million
Affordable Housing	18 Million

Funding Sources

Voter-authorized bonds

Revenue bonds

Grants, including Community Development Block Grants

Private contributions

Federal and State Programs

Metro

Other Sources & Fees

In November 2012, the citizens of Houston approved the issuance of \$410 million of bonds allocated as follows

Public Safety	144 Million
Parks	166 Million*
*includes 100 million Bayou Greenway Match	
General Improvement	57 Million
Library	28 Million
Affordable Housing	15 Million

Capital Improvement Plan

The CIP is developed using funding forecasts and estimated project costs. As we move forward in the CIP, the plan is revised based on the current financial situation.

Fiscal Year

July 1 to June 30

Capital Improvement Plan Timeline

February/March – Public Input and Public CIP Townhall Meetings

April – Drafting of CIP

May/June – Council Review and approval

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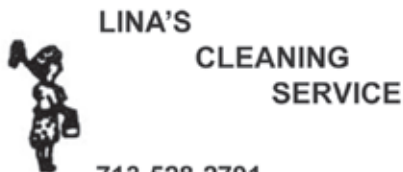
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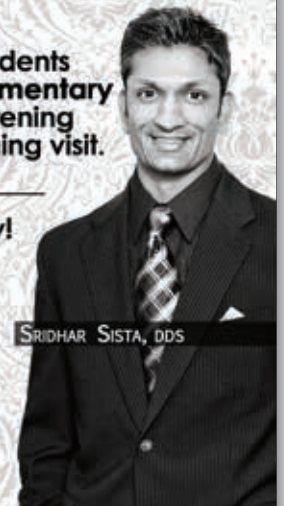
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Advertise in the Hyde Park monthly newsletter. Contact Carlos Fernandez at advertising@hydeparkhouston.org.

My friend, Bob

By George Sroka

Farewell to my neighbor and former civic association president

My friend, neighbor and former civic association president **Bob Bagot** passed away Sunday, March 9, after a brief battle with cancer. It's hard to imagine Bob not being here because – for me – he always has been.

Bob owned The Tire Place (now Downtown Automotive) on Fairview when I moved to Hyde Park 32 years ago. I met him and his longtime partner, **Lewis Young**, shortly thereafter. Bob and Lewis were an interesting pair (more on that in a minute).

Bob was a southern gentleman with a roguish sense of humor. He didn't suffer fools lightly, but usually with grace. He had a deep, rich laugh, and he wasn't shy about laughing out loud or at himself.

Despite the popular impression of Montrose as totally liberal, Bob favored libertarianism instead. He didn't support instituting deed restrictions 20 years ago because "I'll be damned if someone can tell me what I can and cannot do with my property."

He usually issued such pronouncements with his chin thrust out, as if he were daring you to hit him.

When the city started replacing a few of our local streets and sidewalks several years ago, Bob warned my partner about the consequences. "You'll regret losing those natural speed bumps," he intoned, "when people start speeding through the neighborhood on those nice, new concrete streets." Those of us living on Bomar and Willard understand what he meant.

His partner, Lewis, preceded Bob in death by several years. Lewis liked large American-made cars, turquoise and silver jewelry and puzzles. On a visit to The Tire Place, you'd find Bob at one desk, Lewis – encrusted with turquoise jewelry – at the other, and Melvin (now also deceased) working in the car bays. It smelled always of axle grease and cigarette smoke, as did Bob – at least while he owned it.

Bob served as president of our civic association during a difficult period at

the beginning of the century. Our civic association and another were competing to serve the same neighborhood. Bob oversaw the merger of the two into "Hyde Park United." He also supported the Westheimer Street Festival in those funky days of yore when the city closed Westheimer and thousands of people clogged the neighborhood to enjoy art, candles, cannabis and more.

Bob wanted a Requiem Mass – in Latin, no less – and he got one March 14 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church on Milam. While sitting in the pew, I couldn't help smiling despite the sadness of the occasion because Bob got exactly what he wanted at the end: something old-fashioned, stately and a little discomforting to modern sensibilities.

He would've liked that.



Correction from Last Month's Newsletter

In the recap of Councilmember **Ellen Cohen's** presentation, it was stated that the portion of Hyde Park not yet receiving single stream recycling is on a waiting list to receive it this year. We are on a waiting list, but the rollout dates are not known at this time and it could happen at a later date.



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Monday—Friday
Lunch Specials: 11 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Dinner 5:00 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

Saturday
12:00 Noon — 10:00 p.m.

Sunday
12:00 Noon — 9:30 p.m.

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MARCH 2014

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30	31													

MAY 2014

April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Hyde Park Meeting 6:30 PM Rudyard's <i>First Quarter</i>	8	9	10	11	12 Super Fun Picnic 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Cherryhurst Park
13	14	15 <i>First Day of Passover Full Moon</i>	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 <i>Last Day of Passover Last Quarter</i>	23 <i>Administrative Professionals Day</i>	24	25 <i>Good Friday</i>	26
27 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	28 <i>New Moon</i>	29	30			



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Super FUN Picnic

and Neighborhood Potluck

**Saturday, April 12 • 11 AM - 2 PM
in Cherryhurst Park**

Enjoy a warm-weather outing in the park with your neighbors from Cherryhurst, East Montrose and Hyde Park. Bring a main or side dish to share. We'll provide the soft drinks, desserts, fun and games. Enjoy some tennis, toss a Frisbee, and relax.



Bring lawn chairs, blankets and food to share.

Cherryhurst Park is bounded by Cherryhurst, Windsor, Missouri and Ridgewood.

Sponsored by the East Montrose Civic Association, the Friends of Cherryhurst Park and the Hyde Park Civic Association

Pay your energy bill and help Lamar Park

By George Sroka

The Hyde Park Civic Association recently partnered with Stream Energy to assist our supporters in helping us by simply doing something they already do: pay their energy bill.

Stream Energy's unique Power Up! Program helps raise funds by paying the civic association monthly commissions when supporters enroll their electricity accounts through the Hyde Park Civic Association web site.

The Power Up! Program is an excellent fundraising campaign for us because everybody uses energy already, and the commissions we receive are paid monthly for the duration of our relationship with Stream Energy. There's no extra out-of-pocket cost, and we benefit on an ongoing basis every month.

Stream will pay the civic association \$5 per customer per month. If 50 supporters sign up for Stream through our web site, the civic association will receive \$250 a month or \$3000 a year. And you don't have to live in Hyde Park to help. Anyone in an area served by Stream Energy who signs up through our web site will generate a monthly contribution to the civic association. So former residents, friends and family can help, too.

Based in Dallas, Stream Energy serves most of Texas, Georgia (natural gas only), Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, New Jersey and the District of Columbia.

Funds generated through the PowerUp program will be dedicated to the maintenance of



The graphic features a blue background with a family photo of a man, a woman, and a child smiling. The Stream Energy logo is on the left. The text 'POWER UP!' is in large white letters with a heart shape for the 'O'. Below it is a red 'SIGN UP' button with a play icon. The headline 'Minimize Your Rates, Maximize Your Impact' is in blue. Below that is a question 'How do you get the most out of your energy bill?' followed by an answer 'When you're saving money AND contributing to a worthy cause!'. Then it says 'We've partnered with Stream Energy, a retailer who pays our organization a residual income for every energy customer we enroll on Stream Energy service.' and 'Enrolling for service is very easy - visit our webpage, sign up for service, save on your bill and help us generate charitable funds.' The bottom line is 'It's in your power to help. Can we count on you?'.

www.hydepark.streampowerup.biz
or click the link at **www.hydeparkhouston.org**

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Lamar Park. Maintaining the park is our single biggest annual expense, costing about \$300 each month. The PowerUp program offers us an opportunity to cover park maintenance without using general funds.

The person sponsoring the PowerUp program, past president **George Sroka**, will donate the \$1 per customer per month he makes as the sponsor back to the civic association while serving on the board. In effect, the civic association will make \$6 per month per customer.

Please visit **hydepark.streampowerup.biz** to learn more about Stream Energy, and see how you can help us raise funds while possibly lowering your energy bill. It's a win-win for all.

**Learn more about
PowerUp at the
HYDE PARK
CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MONTHLY MEETING**
**Monday • April 7
6:30 p.m. • Rudyard's**