

### **Notes from NDNA board meeting 4/14/2021**

The monthly NDNA board meeting was held digitally on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The major items of discussion were the recently sponsored candidate forums for Districts 11 and 12. A number of people were unable to participate on the District 11 forum because of the 100 person limit, but all three forums are available on our website at NDNA.us. Information about voting hours, places and candidates will be posted on the website, also.

Mr. Scales gave an update on the current status with the Sidewalk Advisory Committee; more neighborhood associations need to fill out the city sidewalk needs assessment form for their neighborhood. NDNA will work with Councilmember to assure the district sidewalk needs are addressed, perhaps in the next bond issue.

While Dallas is considering updating its parking codes (last comprehensive update was done in the 1960's), the city is so varied and areas are so unique that one size cannot fit all. The needs of the dense urban areas are very different from the most suburban residential ones. Ms. Schobert continues to participate in the city meetings on this issue and represent the concerns of our districts.

### **Notes from NDNA board meeting 3/10/2021**

The NDNA Board held its regular monthly meeting digitally on March 10th at 5 pm; all members were present.

Zoning issues discussed included the request for senior housing off Mapleshade; presently Palladium owns the property but has not indicated whether they will proceed with the project without the 9% tax advantage.

The proposed development on the northwest corner of Alpha/Hillcrest is also on hold; Councilmember Kleinman hosted a neighborhood meeting about it, but nothing has transpired since.

A question arose about the clearing of land on Winding Creek. Who gave permission for the cutting of trees? And there is a concern about resultant soil erosion.

There is to be one more meeting of the city sidewalk advisory committee; NDNA's representative on the committee expressed concerns about enough attention being directed at correcting the problems with already existing sidewalks. NDNA will send out an email to neighborhood associations directing and encouraging them to respond to the city's interactive map about this issue.

Although overall crime was down during the days of freezing temperatures, BMV's are up significantly in our north Dallas area. The Police are also now reporting hacking and computer crimes with their data.

Construction of the Silver Line (Cottonbelt) Rail line will cause significant disruption to traffic on both Coit and Hillcrest; thus far, dates for this work have not been made available. NDNA will send out information concerning closures and interruptions as information become available.

Renner Frankford library sustained considerable damage from the February storms and will remain closed for several months. NDNA will coordinate with the librarian to see whether our neighborhood organizations can help with funding or replacing materials for the library.

NDNA will host a digital candidate forum for city council seats for both District 11 and 12. Details will be emailed to our neighborhood contacts.

### **Notes from NDNA board meeting 2/10/2021**

The NDNA board held its regular monthly meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>. President Matt Bach called the meeting to order at 5 PM. Guests on the digital meeting were Linda Correll and Angela Klattenhoff from Valley View Neighborhood Association and Jayne Suhler, district 11 City Plan Commissioner.

Since NDNA dues (and accompanying forms) have been suspended for 2021, board members will be working on a way to obtain current HOA officer information and how best to have it available for use.

NDNA will send a request letter to State Representative Anna Marie Ramos concerning changing the law which prohibits the release of any crime stats when a juvenile is involved. While no personal information would be released, NDNA believes that the fact that a juvenile was involved would be helpful.

A summary of the St. Jude's Center at 8102 LBJ Freeway was given. Presently, it will house only Covid positive homeless and then will become transitional housing for homeless singles referred by various agencies.

The rezoning request for the property on the northwest corner of Hillcrest and Alpha is currently in "flux"; surrounding neighborhood groups are monitoring the process.

Mrs. Suhler summarized the proposed affordable senior housing units which are planned to be built at 5353 Alpha; she is in discussion with city officials about the particulars of the development. She also said that the additional office tower request near the Galleria would not be approved until a firm timeline and tenants had been secured.

Discussion was held about the problems city-wide with street racing; it has been taking place in Districts 11 and 12 now.

The dedication of the Hillcrest Park was held last weekend and had good attendance. The pavilion has been named after our former NDNA president and City Council member Sandy Greyson.

NDNA will pursue co-hosting a city council candidate forum with other entities, since both district 11 and 12 will have competitive races.

### **Notes from NDNA board meeting 1/13/2021**

The North Dallas Neighborhood Alliance board held their monthly meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. The board decided that dues for 2021 would be waived, since the usual general meetings would not be able to be held for some time. Newsletters from district 12 Councilmember have given residents updates on city concerns and projects.

Board member Rod Scales will attend a meeting next week concerning the placement of shrubbery around cell tower bases on the Preston Ridge Trail. He will also participate in a city steering committee to address concerns about maintenance of sidewalks throughout the city. Questions were raised about who “owns” and is responsible for residential sidewalks.

Paul Landfair reported that crime states for North Central Division had been fairly flat with non-violent crimes down somewhat. The board agreed that communication should be sent to State Representative Ramos asking her to sponsor a change in the privacy law, so that some information could be made available about crimes committed to/by juveniles. He participated in the citizen selection of new police Chief Eddie Garcia and felt the process was positive.

Jean Schobert announced that city meetings addressing off-street parking regulations had been cancelled. The next consideration of these will take place on January 21<sup>st</sup> at the city ZOAC meeting. The city’s consideration of short term rental and accessory dwelling unit regulations are integrally tied in with parking concerns.

There was no update on the zoning applications for residential units at the northwest corner of Alpha/Hillcrest. The properties (hotel west of Preston off George Bush in district 12 and Gateway Hotel at Coit/635 in district 11) acquired by the city are to be used for those recovering from Covid who do not have other places for recuperation. The zoning change request on Mapleshade east of Coit is for development of moderate income senior housing.

Board members expressed concern about the number of panhandlers and homeless that are evident throughout the districts, but especially at Forest/Coit. The lack of this kind of activity in our surrounding suburbs brings up questions of why Dallas is unable to address the proliferation.

The board expressed appreciation to Mark Goodwin (Highlands North) and Janet Marcum (Northwood Hills) for attending the board meeting as guests.