

## **Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 31, 2006: beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Jefferson Boulevard Church of Christ

**Attending:** John Cramer (presiding), Mary Ellen Phares (secretary), *see sign in sheet for other attendees*

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### **General Reports/Updates**

- Treasurer's Report
  - Will be reported on at next meeting
- Moss Park
  - See Below for Update in New Business

### **2006 Goals Review/solicitation**

- Code Enforcement
  - See Below for Update in New Business
- Moss Park/Median Project Improvement Program:
  - See Below for Update in New Business

### **New Business**

- **Speaker: Mike Dupree, seeking re-election for Precinct 5 Constable**

Constable Dupree is seeking a 3<sup>rd</sup> (4-year) term. He is promising to restore integrity, etc. and discussed his hiring history of deputies and chief deputies. Some of Constable Dupree's accomplishments include:

  - 2002 Altshuler Award
  - He inherited a \$500K budget deficit and turned his office into a fee-generating office, meaning a surplus. His most recent surplus was \$5.3 million.
  - There seems to be faith and confidence in his office as evidenced by an increase of papers received in his office per month (from 500 to over 6,000.)
  - In 2002, his office formed a response team to mental health-related domestic calls. Most of these mentally disturbed people are taken into protective custody and taken to Green Oaks or Parkland, but not arrested. (A great help to the Dallas Police and our courts system.)
  - Created a traffic division which is now up to 12 officers, which also takes a load off of the Dallas Police to respond to 911 calls. (i.e.,

covering school zones and high volume traffic areas such as Ft. Worth Avenue and Hampton.)

- His office has a strong partnership with the Dallas Police to reduce crime. In 2004, Chief Kunkle established the “Jefferson Corridor Plan” which was a 6-month pilot program designed to combine efforts of Dallas Police and Constable Dupree’s office to reduce crime (burglary, auto theft, etc.) In 90 days, crime was reduced by 20%.

Constable Dupree’s office is also watching the gang activities in our area. They are really watching the “Devados 18” gang close to Arcadia Park, and also the Bloods and Crips. There is no new gang activity, however.

February 21<sup>st</sup> = Early Voting

March 7<sup>th</sup> = Election Day

- **Median Master Plan on Plymouth Avenue**

- Bond and/or Discretionary funds would need to be appropriated for this project; however, the City Council is currently reviewing all projects/items for the general bond election throughout the entire City of Dallas which will then be put before the voters hopefully in November elections.
- Each Council District is conducting open public meetings to hear from their constituents on what their needs are for the neighborhood/city.
- Irrigation would be included in this median master plan (as well as landscaping.)
- John to meet with Dr. Elba Garcia on this in hopes of getting monies earmarked for this project. She is speaking at our next Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association meeting.

- **Stop Signs (John Cramer)**

- If we want one, we need to talk to John Cramer. Much research goes into obtaining a stop sign for an intersection (traffic studies, signatures – 68%, etc.)
- A neighbor said that there used to be a stop sign at the intersection of Alden and Franklin. When there was road construction, it was removed but was never put back.

- **Home Tour (John Cramer)**

- Rhonda Turner is our Oak Cliff Conservation League Representative. She looks into grants for money which could be applied to our neighborhood. We need to support her and the OCCL!
- The last Home Tour (in Oct '05) was a success, with between 1,200 – 1,300 people attending.

- The next Home Tour will be October 21 – 22, 2006.
- **Code Compliance**
  - Chris Culak is our Code Compliance Committee Chair.
  - He will start sending courtesy letters to any neighbors in violation of code. (No formal action will be taken with these courtesy letters; they are meant to be proactive.)
  - There was a question from a neighbor regarding the house on 10<sup>th</sup> Street that is “a boarded up mess” which has been broken into. John Cramer said he would look into the status of the remodeling.
  - There was another question: “Can we have a guest speaker from Code Compliance?” John Cramer said he would get one.
- **Crime Statistics**
  - Jennifer Pierce is our Crime Representative Liaison.
  - She attends the quarterly Area Crime Watch meetings.
  - There are 4 active gangs, but most of the activity centers around Kingston & Hampton, and Schooldale & Westmoreland.
  - She was invited to do “ride-alongs” with the Dallas Police and will find out specifically what is going on.
  - For our next meeting, Jennifer will bring us information on the gang colors and names.
  - There are 450 homes in Kessler Plaza and Ravinia Heights.
  - We can also go to the Dallas Police website to see crime stats.
  - We are Beat 421 and our Neighborhood Reporting Area is 4129.
- **5.01(c)3 Non-profit Organization**
  - Nola Rae is working on the paperwork for making Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association a non-profit 5.01(c)3 organization. It will be important for tax purposes.
  - There was some discussion on getting a code from Tom Thumb for a Reward Card whereby we could designate a certain percentage of purchases to go to Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association, once the 5.01(c)3 organization is established.
- **Miscellaneous (John Cramer)**
  - The City is less than one year away from redoing the Pump Station on Sunset.
  - Sidewalks will continue to be improved and antique-styled streetlights will hopefully continue to be planned and installed.
  - A neighbor had a concern regarding houses being purchased as rental property. “Do we have any options as a Neighborhood Association against purchasing property for rental use only?” John Cramer to look into this. It was mentioned that neighbors should take notes of suspicious activities at rental houses (license plates,

who, when, etc.) Also, find out who the realtor/leasing agent is and express concerns.

- There will be a Wine Tour fundraiser on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 9:30pm. \$15 donation. 2 more houses are needed.
- The Kessler Plaza Neighborhood Association Meetings will be every 2 months now.
- Need involvement in the committees!
- The upcoming meetings are:
  - Tuesday, March 28
  - Tuesday, May 23
  - Tuesday, August 1
  - Tuesday, September 26
  - Tuesday, November 28

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 28, 2006, at 7:00pm. Guest Speakers will be Dr. Elba Garcia, District One City Council, and Dwayne Jones, Preservation Dallas.**