

Braeburn Super Neighborhood Council #30

General Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2025

ATTENDING MEMBERS:

Bert Ruiz, President; Brian Barragy, Vice-President; Jeanie Spriggs; Veronica Hernandez, Dept. of Neighborhoods; Andrew Mikkelson, Braes Timbers; Skip Reeder, Houston One Voice; Stephen Polnaszek, NTTSW; Brian Pendleton, Harris County Precinct 4; Clay Brittman, Council Member Twila Carter, At-Large, Position #3, Trudy Jacobs, City Council Member Julian Ramirez at Large #1, Ariana Campos, Office of State Senator Molly Cook, Veronica Hernandez, COH Department of Neighborhoods, Mary Hypolite, Office of Harris County Attorney

Approval of the March Minutes:

- **Summary of Discussion**
 - Bert Ruiz opened the floor to comments or questions regarding the **March meeting minutes**.
 - Brian Barragy noted that there some discrepancies and questions on the minutes and asked for an opportunity to talk through the final edits.
 - Bert clarified that the matter would be deferred to a future discussion potentially during a special meeting, to allow time for final review and resolution of any outstanding items.
 - There were no objections or additional questions from members present.

- **Motion:**
 - A motion was made by Brian to defer action on the March minutes to a future discussion.
 - The motion was seconded by Andrew Mikkelsen.
 - A vote was called: All members present voted in favor, with no opposition recorded.

- **Outcome:**
 - The motion to defer action on the March minutes was approved unanimously.

- Action on these minutes will be revisited at a future meeting or special session.

Houston Parks Board Presentation:

Trent Rondo spoke about the role of the Houston Parks Board as it works in conjunction with city and county entities, along with other non-profit organizations. The organization has done over \$400 million in various projects including land acquisition, project management, construction, maintenance. There are currently 50 miles of connected trails they oversee with the intent to expand to 70 miles in the future.

Connectivity for recreation and transportation, preservation of green space, health benefits come from the green spaces.

Brays Bayou is the longest trail in the city and there are current improvements in process to include underpasses, updated and new trails, safety and landscape enhancements.

Project Updates:

- Safety:
 - Bissonnet Safe Streets – Gessner to Hillcroft is in our SN segment. This is currently on pause due to Federal Funding.
 - Criminal Activity, Gangs, Gunfire:
 - Braes Oaks Management is open to landscaping and art murals to help curb graffiti.
 - HPD notes that gunfire should be reported to 911.
 - District J Patrol – Reporting still exist with the website, but residents are encouraged to follow up with City Council Member Pollard if action is not being taken.
 - There are some issues that 311 will not address.
 - Residents are often confused with how to address certain issues since 311 and DRT (Differential Response Teams) issues are not reported in the same system.
 - DRT can only be report to the DRT email address, not to 311.
 - Recommend exploration to better communicate the difference between 311 and DRT.
- Services

- Department of Neighborhoods – Veronica Hernandez has given an update on properties that were identified and submitted by the council requesting a 311 submission update.
- Supplemental Projects in District J like Good Neighbor Program, Beautification and Heavy Trash will continue to help fill the gaps of city services.
- Andrew Mikkelsen provided an update on ongoing infrastructure and flood mitigation efforts affecting the area, with particular attention to the Spellman Detention Basin Project.
 1. The Spellman Project was initiated following Hurricane Harvey and is managed by the Brays Oaks Management District.
 2. It is designed to significantly reduce neighborhood flooding, with projections indicating a reduction from *thousands of homes impacted* to only *hundreds* during comparable storm events.
 3. While the project has shown promise, no rain events exceeding 7 inches have occurred since Harvey, so the system's full effectiveness under extreme conditions remains to be observed.
 4. As of the meeting date, the project was reported to be 76% complete, **with** anticipated completion by summer 2025.
 5. The project was cited as an example of major progress in regional flood control, though its long-term success will depend on future weather events and ongoing maintenance.
 6. The Spellman Detention Basin is one of several retention-focused projects in the area, including others discussed in relation to Team 5 and regional drainage improvement plans.
 7. Attendees acknowledged the long timeline of flood mitigation efforts and stressed the importance of continued monitoring and communication with local officials.

Announcements

Clay Brittman, Community Engagement Director, Council Member Twila Carter, At-Large, Position #3

- Domestic Violence Awareness Initiative:
 - Harris County leads Texas in intimate partner fatalities.
 - 70% of law enforcement calls in Harris County relate to domestic or family violence.

- Public campaign includes billboard messaging and QR code labels in restrooms and parks to connect individuals discreetly to legal, housing, and healthcare services.
- Interested community members or organizations are invited to partner or distribute materials.

Trudy Jacobs, Intern, City Council Member Julian Ramirez at Large #1

- **City Budget Hearings:**

- Public budget hearings are upcoming.
- Community encouraged to attend or contact the office for more info.

- **Short-Term Rental Ordinance:**

- Ordinance passed recently.
- Next steps unclear due to recent onboarding of staff.
- Bert mentioned that amendments had been proposed, but not all were included.
- There will be fines for violations; registration is required.

Ariana Campos, District Director & Special Advisor, Office of State Senator Molly Cook

- Proposed legislation to regulate the proximity of smoke shops to schools.
- Community members can report violations directly to the Council office.

Mary Hypolite, Community Outreach Coordinator, Office of Harris County Attorney - Christian Menefee

- Promoting an upcoming “Protect Your Legacy” event on May 14 to help residents understand legal documentation and protect generational wealth.
- Warnings issued about deed fraud targeting seniors—encouraged residents to check property titles every six months.

Veronica Hernandez, Senior Community Liaison, Department of Neighborhoods

Departmental Reorganization:

- Department of Neighborhoods inspectors now fall under Houston Public Works.
- Transition began July 1 due to retirements and budget reallocation.
- Cross-training underway for more efficient service coverage.

Apartment Complex Sweeps:

- Joint sweeps with various departments are targeting substandard housing.
- Recent sweep found 400+ units without A/C and other code violations.
- Owners receive citations and are given timelines to comply; severe violations (e.g., sewage issues) receive immediate enforcement.

Brian Pendleton, Community Engagement Coordinator, Harris County Precinct 4 - Lesley Briones

- **Memorial Day Ceremony:**
 - Scheduled for Memorial Day at 2:00 p.m.
- **Town Hall**
 - Set for **Saturday, May 17** from 1:00–3:00 p.m. on Greenhouse Rd.
- **Emergency Preparedness:**
 - Community encouraged to prune trees near power lines and prepare for hurricane season.
 - The city and county are hosting multiple events to boost readiness.
- **Bayland Park Master Plan Update:**
 - New buildings and fields will be phased in.
 - Existing services will not be interrupted.
 - Flyer distributed for community awareness.

Neighborhood Infrastructure and Updates

- **Bonham Acres Barrier Project:**

- After 3.5 years of planning, the entrance barrier at Fondren & Wanda was completed.
- Landscaping was done by residents.
- A panel on that stretch of road is approved for replacement.
- **City-Owned Property on Hideaway:**
 - Awaiting procurement approval to begin demolition.
 - Bert confirmed a request was made for mowing and securing the property, but no action yet.

7. Governance / Bylaws Point of Order

- **Secretary Eligibility Challenge:**
 - Point of order raised that the current Recording Secretary is not a designated delegate, violating bylaw eligibility.
 - Bert proposed discussing this matter in a future executive session due to sensitivity.
 - No objections raised; will be scheduled.

Motion to Adjourn

Steven Polnaszek motioned to adjourn the meeting. Andrew Mikkelson second the motion.