

Braeburn Super Neighborhood Council #30

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2025 @ 6:30pm

Bayland Community Center

Attendees: Bert Ruiz, President; Gena Sylvester, Recording Secretary; Don Hickle; Doug Phillips; John White; Captain Lee Donovan with South Gessner HPD; Brian Pendleton from Precinct #4; Stephen Polnaszek with NTTSW; Tim Hatton; Kim Hatton; HPD Officer Mezza; Andrew Mikkelsen; Veronica Hernandez, Department of Neighborhoods; Hope Spears, Voter Education; Maggy Donovan, Westbury; Tim Carlin, Houston Landing writer; Photographer Joseph Bui with Houston Landing; Sandra Cortez, Department of Neighborhoods; Brian Barragy. Juan Carlos de Leon and Jesus Valentine Villafana attended the meeting on Zoom.

I. Welcome

- President's Call to Order
- Introductions
- Approval of January 2025 Minutes:
Bert Ruiz suggested the correction of Jeanie Spriggs' husband's name to Darren.
The motion to approve was by Brian Barragy. John White provided the second.

II. Guest Speaker – Captain Lee Donovan, HPD South Gessner Division

- Graffiti and “tagging” are the result of a competition between gangs. District J, HPD and Brays Oaks Management provide abatement programs.
- Shooting are usually in tandem with other things such as robberies. Call 911 as soon as possible as the culprit may be seen on a FLOCK camera.
- The “Bystander Effect” is waiting for someone else to make a call.
- Changing the laws for “tagging” will lessen the activity. Currently, the penalty is simply a ticket.
- Problem areas for loitering and crime include the carwash at Bissonnet, the Speedy Mart, and Cadawac and the individual living at 7400 Bissonnet apartment complex.
- There seems to be no urgency with HISD. The Captain suggested that residents should “Be the squeaky wheel” because there is no coordinated effort between HISD Security and HPD.
- A new ordinance provides that strip centers have eighteen months to put up security cameras in the parking lots.
- DRT's first stance is education, then compliance.
- RMS is the new report writing system which will be available April 1. It requires a week long training session for all officers.

Experienced District Attorneys are being added to get charges moving forward to lessen the overcrowding of jails.

III. Bylaws – Discussion and Vote

- Sandra Cortez mentioned there is a Super Neighborhood Administrative Cost Fund (https://www.houstontx.gov/superneighborhoods/grants/SN-Grants-FAQ-Admin-2025.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com) that offers reimbursements for up to \$2000 to cover administrative costs. The deadline is May 15. There are other grant opportunities for Super Neighborhoods.
- There was a discussion regarding Super Neighborhood boundary that included confirming the northern boundary of Braeburn Super Neighborhood #30 for the City of Houston to determine if business north of Bissonnet are included.
- The description “certain residences” should read “residences” under Article 4.2
- Sandra shared that some Super Neighborhoods may state that one representative is needed for a group of business leaders. It could also be Brays Oaks Management District. Limit the businesses as a ratio of the entire membership.
- Article 7.3 provides that the authorization letter should be provided every two years for our delegates to the Super Neighborhood Council. There was a discussion regarding delegates, officer roles, and the authorization letter requested every two years, that communicates delegates assignments.
- Article 7.5 refers to attendance.
- A quorum is “fifty-one percent (51%) of the active and participating stakeholders.” There was a discussion regarding eligible delegates and participation at meetings, and which stakeholder groups have been represented at the meetings in 2025.
- We need to define what “Active” and how to address lack of participation. A suggestion was made to allow stakeholders to vote by email, regarding finalizing bylaws.
- Article 8.1 mentions that officers must be stakeholders. There was a discussion regarding clarifying this language in the future.
- There would be no special election for a sudden vacancy of office. There was a discussion related to special elections. Bert shared that DOM has already provided suggested language regarding special elections.

IV. 2025 Projects Updates

- Safety and Services
There was a motion by Andrew Mikkelsen that we table the Project and Services Updates. A Second was made by Tim Hatton

V. New Business/Announcements

- Council Member Edward Pollard’s Office – There was no representative present
- Harris County Precinct 4
Brian Pendleton passed out fliers for the Town Hall on Saturday, March 13.
- Department of Neighborhoods
Veronica Hernandez mentioned the Public Works has a new way to track water leaks. A 311 issue was mentioned by Gena Sylvester that the website is not working properly. The Lugary property will need a warrant for inspection due to the “No Trespass” sign.

There has been another incident at 1 Hideaway Circle, a vacant property owned by the city.

Sandra Cortez stated that the City offers Robert's Rules of Order training.

The Team discussed the trash, heavy trash and recycling pickups after Hurricane Beryl and the holidays

- District J Patrol Update
Some members have shared that District J Patrol is an effective program. Although some questions and changes from HPD are impacting the program's delivery, but the program is continuing for now.

VI. The Adjournment motion was made by Brian Barragy and John White provided the second.

The next Meeting will be held on May 8, 2025, at 6:30pm in the Bayland Community Center.