

JW

AGENDA - 2/14/84

1. Call to order
2. Motion to postpone reading of Minutes of 1/10/84 Meeting and Treasurer's Report
3. Introduction of guest speaker
4. Question and answer period with Councilmember Hartung's office
5. Reading of Minutes of 1/10/84 Meeting
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Acceptance of Nancy Sides's resignation. Appointment of committee to select replacement for balance of term.
8. Discussion:
 - A. When do we want the garbage pick-up to be
 - B. Selection of new leader for Social Committee
 - C. Crime Watch - the next step
9. Adjournment

elinda S. Moses, President
110 Portsmouth Houston, TX 77027
71-1253

ouis Stathakis, Vice President
714 Las Palmas Houston, TX 77027
23-4788

Jim
WESLAYAN PLAZA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Dot Drummond, Secretary
4011 Norfolk Houston, TX 77027
623-4936

Jerry Brown, Treasurer
4123 Norfolk Houston, TX 77027
877-8155

February 1, 1984

Ms. Christin Hartung
Councilmember District G
P. O. Box 1562
Houston, TX 77251

Dear Ms. Hartung:

The Board of Weslayan Plaza Civic Association is pleased and excited that you will meet with us on February 14.

As I told Mr. Harper, the meeting will be held in the home of Ms. Nancy Sides at 4111 Portsmouth at 7 PM. We are looking forward to an enlightening and pleasant evening with you.

Enclosed is a list of problems which we plan to discuss with you. We appreciate your concern for our problems and your contribution to our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Dot Drummond, Secretary
Weslayan Plaza Civic Association

We would appreciate knowing the department name, an individual to contact within the department and the telephone number of the department for each of the following problem areas.

1. Street Lighting: How do we go about finding out the cost for street lights? Is there any way that all or a portion of the cost can be underwritten by federal, state, city or private sector grants?
2. Permanent Street Repair: Several places on Norfolk, Las Palmas and Portsmouth are repaired a minimum of twice a year and the repair crews just throw tar in the holes and the tar sinks down in a couple of weeks.
3. Curb repair where water main repair crews have broken concrete, stuck concrete back and dumped sand in the holes and cracks. Water main dept. is not at all responsive to fixing. The repair crews were wonderful and tidy!
4. School crossing and/or school zone signs for Rogers Elementary. See attached 12 Oaks Hospital letter. City's response is in error. We have 6 children on Portsmouth, alone, who walk to school. The traffic guard, while being very attentive to the children, is rather slow and the kids beat him across the street. Also, all corners are subject to oozing right turns on red lights. We can't believe a child must be hit to get signs.
5. No parking signs between 7 AM - 6 PM signs needed on Portsmouth and Norfolk near Weslayan. Bank and construction employees park their cars here every day and frequently block driveways. We can't sweep curbs and gutters. Also, in December fire trucks were unable to get through on Portsmouth to Jess Cardwell's attic fire. The trucks had to turn around, go back to Weslayan and come in from the other direction.
6. Cut-thru trucks. We have NO THRU TRUCK signs at all entrances and still trucks barrel through in great numbers at high speeds endangering people, property, pets, trees and city signs.
7. Closing off Las Palmas or at least making it one-way outbound. We sent a letter to the Cut-thru Traffic Policy Committee. If the left turn to Richmond westbound from Weslayan northbound were made operative (and prohibitive signs removed) and Las Palmas were made one-way outbound, many of our traffic problems would be eradicated.
8. Storm sewer cleanout: Alicia and fall leaves have totally filled our storm sewers so that we cannot clean them out with rakes. 18 calls to the storm sewer repair dept. 695-2773 have netted zero.
9. What are the dumpster regulations for commercial dumpsters near residential areas? Many open dumpsters are 2' behind our rear fences and the rats are incredible, like cats. On weekends, pick-up trucks dump household trash in the dumpsters, too.
10. We would like to get a copy of some of the ordinances pertaining to neighborhoods. We want to run a Did You Know column in our newsletter and mention some of them; especially storing garbage cans at the curb or in sight from the street, garbage can removal in timely manner, parking in yards, erecting fences that block view of traffic, barking dogs, grass needing cutting and grass runners over curbs into street, etc.

11. We would like to get your ideas on soliciting the cooperation of some of our less "neighborly" residents in the upkeep of the visible areas of their property.

January 13, 1984



Melinda Mosses
President
Weslayan Civic Club
4010 Portsmouth
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Melinda,

After our meeting in November, I came back and checked with our contact at the police department concerning the absence of school signs for Will Rogers Elementary.

Upon notifying the police department of this situation, he contacted the Traffic and Engineering department to discuss this problem with them. (Traffic and Engineering is the department responsible for signage and traffic flow around Houston.) The department's reply to the police department was: that only a few children walk to Will Rogers Elementary and that it is not feasible to slow traffic on Richmond. The Traffic and Engineering department said the school crossing guard does a fine job and that no child has ever been hurt at that intersection. The police department was not satisfied with that answer.

Our police department contact believes that the way to get action is to write to your city council person. If you start contacting other "higher" sources you will probably get the action desired.

If we can be of assistance in your effort, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Gilstrap Lopez".

Michelle Gilstrap Lopez
Director Community Relations

Melinda S. Moses, President
4010 Portsmouth Houston, TX 77027
871-1253

Louis Stathakis, Vice President
3714 Las Palmas Houston, TX 77027
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WESLAYAN PLAZA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Dot Drummond, Secretary
4011 Norfolk Houston, TX 77027
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January 26, 1984

Mr. Jim Greenwood
Councilmember at Large
Position Three
P. O. Box 1562
Houston, TX 77251

Re: Your Letter of 1/5/84
Street Closing Policy
Our Input

Weslayan Plaza, Section 2, is a small neighborhood located inside the 610 Loop. In many ways our neighborhood is a throwback to a Houston of 30 years ago: caring, closely-knit and self-sufficient. Most of our neighborhood concerns and problems can be handled by the homeowners themselves and require only our persistence in dealing with regular city service departments -- and money. We are busily working on these.

There is, however, one area that we cannot control by ourselves; e.g., cut-thru traffic. Our neighborhood is bound on the north by Richmond Ave., on the east by Weslayan Rd., on the west by Twelve Oaks Hospital, and on the south by commercial areas facing the Southwest Freeway feeder. The only short-cut access to the Southwest Freeway from Richmond Ave. (for a distance of approximately 2.5 miles from outside 610 Loop to Weslayan Rd.) is through our neighborhood, via Las Palmas and Portsmouth or Norfolk. Las Palmas (according to the original recorded plat) was a dead-end street, backing up to the commercial area facing Richmond Ave. Many years ago, when Weslayan Rd. was under construction for connection to the Southwest Freeway, Las Palmas was opened up to prevent our neighborhood from being landlocked.

It is this Las Palmas - Richmond Ave. connection that is our current problem. This short-cut is extremely well-known by both passenger car commuters and commercial vehicles heading east on Richmond Ave. We have NO THRU TRUCK signs at all the entrances to our neighborhood but they do little or no good. For over 2½ years we have asked HPD to check out the truck situation. HPD came out once, at 2:30 PM, and pronounced that there was no problem. Typically, our civic organization has contacted many of the firms owning the cut-thru trucks and only one company, SYSCO, has been totally cooperative. Several of the firms have been hateful and nasty. After our complaints, BFI ceased the five daily dumpster truck-runs through our neighborhood, but only for a week or two -- then the trucks are back again.

Passenger car cut-thru is heavy Monday through Friday between the hours of 7 AM to 9 AM and 4 PM to 6:30 PM. If these cars drove through our streets at 30 MPH; stopped for stop signs; confined their driving to the street surfaces; avoided hitting parked cars, children and pets, and kept their trash inside their cars, conditions would not be so bad -- but this is not the case. Sports cars are in fourth gear by the time they ooze through the

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1/26/84
Greenwood
Cut-thru Traffic

stop signs at Portsmouth or Norfolk and Weslayan. Trucks rip branches from our trees and demolish stop signs after jumping the curbs. We must back our cars into our driveways or garages at night, in order to get our cars out on the street in the morning. Three small children have been grazed by cars -- two were in their front yards!! I, myself, have been forced into front yards while walking along the curb (we have no sidewalks).

About two years ago, NO LEFT TURN BETWEEN 4 - 6:30 PM signs were installed at the traffic signal at the northbound lane of Weslayan Rd. (left turn to westbound Richmond Ave.). This prohibition is causing most of our afternoon problems. Fourteen months ago Councilmember Hartung's office arranged for representatives of various city departments to speak to our civic organization to assist in problem solving. One speaker was from the Traffic Department. Two days after listening to our problem with the NO LEFT TURN SIGNS, the signal light was again operative for a protected left turn (the signs remained). Our afternoon problem was almost totally eliminated (except for those who still believed the signs). Three weeks later, the left turn signal was again made inoperative between 4 - 6:30 PM, and our problems returned, as before.

The foregoing narrative is a mild description of the difficulties our small neighborhood is having with cut-thru traffic, both passenger car and commercial truck. We are suffering from immediate, ongoing and longlasting deterioration of the quality of life in our neighborhood. We urge the City Council Street Closing Policy Committee to make a strong, uncompromised recommendation to City Council to protect our city's neighborhoods from needless cut-thru traffic. We want Las Palmas re-closed behind the commercial areas facing Richmond Ave. The time lost by the cut-thru vehicles would be minimal, if any; the traffic congestion on Richmond would not be measurably increased -- right turn is permitted at light after stopping, and our neighborhood would again be safe for our children, pets, trees and stop signs.

Again, we urge the Committee to make such recommendations as needed to restore the quality of our neighborhood and eliminate the Las Palmas racetrack.



Melinda S. Moses
President
Weslayan Plaza Civic Association

c: Councilmembers Greanias, Hartung, Hall, Tinsley