

**Audubon Place Association**  
**Minutes for January 5, 2006**  
**Neighborhood Meeting at AVES offices**

In attendance: Anita Bryant, Patti Thompson, John O'Donnell, Katrina Kelly, Kevin Kelly, Alex di Bagno, Andrea di Bagno, Sara Reeder, Tony Herrada, Peter Boyle, Steve Hamilton, Virginia Camerlo, Brad Harnes (12 total)

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Patti Thompson, President.

**Old Business**

**Monthly Meeting Place:** Peter Boyle announced that AVES at 807 Hawthorne has generously offered to share their offices for our monthly evening meetings free of charge. Peter will be the contact person between APA and AVES

**Lot Setbacks:** Virginia Camerlo talked about the recent lot setback situation on Marshall. Thanks to her quick action a setback of 22 feet was established on the south side of Marshall in time to prevent a builder from building town homes right up to the edge of the sidewalk at the corner of Stanford and Marshall. Virginia mentioned that we were lucky the builder had not submitted his plans before purchasing the lot. If his plans had been on file with the City before the lot setback petition was submitted he would have been exempt from the ruling. It was suggested that we all get a Lot Setback in place with the City BEFORE new construction begins on your street. By the time one hears about the sale of an empty lot or demolition of an existing structure, it may be too late to preserve the setbacks. More information about how this can be accomplished can be received by calling the City planning office or by contacting Virginia.

**Other Civic Group Meeting Dates:** Patti requested that those who agreed to assist her by attending other civic group meetings take over the PIP and Neartown meetings Steve Hamilton will attend the PIP meetings (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds of each month) and Virginia Camerlo (who is teamed with Maaike Van Bommel) will attend the Neartown meetings (the 4<sup>th</sup> Tues of each month).

**Stop Signs/Speed Humps:** Virginia asked if there was any news on the plan to try for more stop signs in the neighborhood. Patti stated that she had asked about this at the most recent Neartown meeting and was told that the stop signs would only be added if there was a safety issue - not just for speeding or noise problems. The stop signs can be requested online and take 2 - 3 months to approve (or not). They can also be added to our annual Super Neighborhood request plan.

**Sprinklers for Esplanade:** Patti reminded those who volunteered to get estimates for a new sprinkler system on the esplanade that those are still needed.

**Historic Designation:** There was some discussion on where we stand right now with this project. All those in attendance felt this was a worthwhile project and that it should still be pursued by our neighborhood.

**Spur 529 News:** There were a lot of questions about the progress of the Spur construction (including whether or not there will be a ramp from Alabama). Patti said she would be in contact with Quincy Alien and see if he would be willing to attend a future meeting to address our questions and give us a progress report.

## **Treasurer's Report**

(This report was submitted after the meeting as Maaike Van Bommel, Treasurer, was ill the day of the meeting. It is accurate as of the day of the meeting.)

Checking Account balance	\$ 644.02 (\$ 485 Dec membership contributions)
Savings Balance:	\$ 4732.43
Esplanade Balance:	\$ 2190.43
Total bank balance	\$ 7566.88

## **New Business**

**Graffiti Patrol:** There was discussion of forming a "Graffiti Patrol" that would be in charge of cleaning up and reporting graffiti in our neighborhood. Katrina Kelly agreed to be in charge of this project. The City will come out and replace or clean City property that is vandalized in this way. This includes street signs, fire hydrants, etc. There was talk of tracking down some sort of graffiti proof clear coat that could make clean up a lot easier. This would be especially important to have in place before money is invested in new Audubon Place signs for our street boundaries.

**Spring Rummage Sale:** The date for our annual Audubon Place Rummage Sale will be Saturday, April 1. It will again be held in the Harmes' driveway (thank you Brad & Linda). The success of this sale depends on having a LOT of "junk" to sell so we will be promoting this event early in hopes of having more stuff on hand the day of the sale. If you hear of neighbors getting ready to move or wanting to clear out some stuff- be sure to mention our sale! An email regarding this sale will go out in February and it will be prominently featured in the March newsletter that will be sent out by mail.

**Neighborhood Complaints:** John O' Donnell mentioned that he had received an anonymous letter from one of our neighbors listing some complaints and concerns that this person felt needed to be addressed. John has written a response to this letter and was seeking agreement that the response could be posted on our website so others may also see the response to what may be common complaints.

This led to the idea that a question and answer area could be added to the website where neighbors could bring forward ideas or problems. John will work with Dan Piette, webmaster, on this project. Other items that were suggested for the website included: information about Lot Setbacks, the Historic Designation, a calendar of events, and a calendar of APA meetings and events. It was also suggested that the website does need to be more publicized so that neighbors know that it is there and is a good source of information.

**Esplanade Care:** It was decided that the early Spring Esplanade Trimming will take place Saturday, February 11 in the morning.

**Houston Police Dept Storefront:** Patti announced that there is a new officer in charge at the HPD storefront on Westheimer. Officer Pate has agreed to attend a future meeting and we will look forward to meeting him.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

The next meeting will be February 2 at 7:30 pm at the AVES offices (807.Hawthorne)

Respectfully submitted, Anita Bryant, Secretary

**Audubon Place Association**  
**Minutes for February 2, 2006**  
**Neighborhood Meeting at AVES offices**

In attendance: Anita Bryant, Patti Thompson, John O'Donnell, Tony Herrada, Peter Boyle, Steve Hamilton, Jennifer Rudgers, Linda Harmes, Brad Harmes (9 total)  
The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Patti Thompson, President.

**Old Business**

Spur Update. Patti reported that TXDOT is way ahead of schedule with their work on US 59 and the Spur (mostly due to dry weather). They hope to be done this Spring.

Graffiti: Neighbors were reminded to report graffiti on city property (Stop signs, fire hydrants, street signs etc.) promptly by dialing 311.

Esplanade Sprinklers: Tony Herrada reported that he had received a bid to install sprinklers on the Esplanade at \$1600-2000 per esplanade. This was agreed as way too high and further bids will be sought. Tony will approach this company about perhaps simply designing the system for volunteers to install (as a cost saving idea).

Garage Sale: The garage sale will be Saturday, April 1 at the Harmes' residence (in the driveway). A printed newsletter will go out later in February encouraging neighbors to collect items to donate to this Sale. Success depends on having a lot of stuff to sell!

Audubon Place Signs: Peter Boyle reported that the cost to reprint the neighborhood signs would be \$250 per sign if we redo all 15 signs and \$275 per sign to redo less. The reprinted signs would be more vibrant and more resistant to fading. It was discussed whether to redo the smaller signs listing our neighborhood as part of Historic Montrose. Anita Bryant suggested that the larger signs could be redesigned slightly to include this information rather than having two separate signs per pole. Peter agreed to approach the printer about how this would affect the price quoted above and report back to the group.

It was also decided that due to the small difference in price, we would not redo all the signs at once but just those that are most in need of replacement

**Treasurer's Report**

(This report was submitted before the meeting by Maaike Van Bommel, Treasurer, but was not reported during the meeting as the data was forgotten at home by the Secretary. It is accurate as of the day of the meeting.)

Checking Account balance:	\$ 809.02 (incl. \$165 in memberships/donations)
Savings Balance:	\$4,732.43
Esplanade Balance:	\$2,190.43
Total bank balance	\$7,731.88

## **New Business**

**Reports from recent Montrose area community meetings:** Patti reported on the recent **Neartown meeting:** The main issues at the meeting were the renovation projects on Lower Westheimer and the esplanade/replanting palm trees down Montrose Blvd Both projects are set to be finished by Summer 2006.

The Super Neighborhood improvement list has been published for Montrose and some of the approved projects include: repaving W Alabama (upon completion of the Spur 527 work), repainting crosswalks in the entire area, and the Richmond Ave Metro rail plan. She also reported that our annual dues for Neartown Association (\$100) are due now.

Tom Koony, City of Houston Planning Dept, attended the Neartown meeting and will attend the March APA meeting

Steve Hamilton reported on the recent **PIP (Positive Interaction Program) meeting:**

This program is coordinated by the Houston Police Department. Crime reports for our area were received. Patti has these reports for our records. The topic of discussion was the 911 system - how it works and how to use it better. Steve reminded the group that 911 is only to be used in situations that are life threatening, or a crime in progress, or when a timely response will reduce property or physical damage. The non emergency HPD number is 713/884-3131.

**St Patrick's Day:** Patti pointed out that St Patrick's Day is fast approaching and with it the annual mass of people flocking to Griffs bar on Roseland John O Donnell suggested that we contact the City about posting No Parking signs along one side of Harold to ensure the road is not completely blocked off by all these extra cars in our neighborhood. This was agreed to by everyone in attendance and Patti will contact the City to put in our request.

**Esplanade Pruning:** The annual pruning day will be moved from February to March this year. No date set.

**APA Website:** Patti and John reported that they had carried out a brainstorming session with ideas for improving our neighborhood website. They are now looking for someone with website expertise to help with implementing some of these ideas. Ideally, this person would work as a volunteer. Various names were suggested and those people will be contacted. Anyone else interested in assisting with this valuable project is welcome!

**March Meeting:** As previously reported, Tom Koony from City Planning will attend our March Meeting. Bring your questions about sidewalks, road conditions, zoning, etc!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm

The next meeting will be March 2 at 7:30 pm at the AVES offices (807 Hawthorne)

Respectfully submitted, Anita Bryant, Secretary

**Audubon Place Association**  
**Minutes for March 2, 2006**  
**Neighborhood Meeting at AVES offices**

In attendance: Anita Bryant, Patti Thompson, Tony Herrada, Linda Harmes, Maaike Van Bommel (5 total)

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 pm by Patti Thompson, President.

Our guest speaker for the month was a no show so we went on with the regular meeting agenda as follows:

**Old Business**

**Graffiti:** Neighbors were reminded to report graffiti on city property (Stop signs, fire hydrants, street signs etc ) promptly by dialing 311. In addition, all graffiti can be reported to 311 and the complaint will be directed to the proper concern. Anita Bryant offered to write an email to send to all APA neighbors to remind everyone of all that is available to City of Houston residents by calling 311.

**Esplanade Sprinklers:** Still open for more bids on this project.

**Garage Sale:** Patti reminded us that the garage sale will be Saturday, April 1 at the Harmes' residence (in the driveway). A printed newsletter will go out soon encouraging neighbors to collect items to donate to this Sale. Success depends on having a lot of stuff to sell!

**Griffs Parking on St Patrick's Day:** We are still attempting to get No Parking signs posted on one side of all the neighborhood streets on Mar 17, 18 and 19 to help relieve congestion from all the revelers at Griffs (on Roseland) over the St Patrick's Day weekend. Patti was referred to Ada Edwards office to get this done.

**Post Office Box:** Maaike reported that she has determined that it is not beneficial to move our APA post office box from its current location to the Richmond Ave post office The cost per month is the same in both places so we will leave it where it is for now.

**Treasurer's Report**

Maaike Van Bommel, Treasurer, presented the following report:

Checking Account balance:	\$ 602.22
Savings Balance:	\$4,735.16
Esplanade Balance:	\$2,191.14

Total bank balance	\$7,528.52
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**New Business**

**Reports from recent Montrose area community meetings:** Patti reported on the recent **Neartown meeting:** State Representative Garnett Coleman attended and spoke about the

new Management District in our area. Funds will be raised by levies on local businesses. Rates will be between 5 - 20cents per \$100 of value and the exact rate will be determined mutually between the Mgmt District board and local businesses. Funds can be used for improvements throughout the Mgmt District area. Mr Coleman also discussed the proposed Civility Ordinance for Montrose. Mr Coleman feels that this does not fix any problem but rather moves it along and would instead urge the City Council to find a way to deal with the homeless issue instead of shifting it farther and farther away from downtown.

Sue Lovell, a new City Council member, also attended the Neartown meeting and told the group that her main focus in the upcoming months will be getting in control of the graffiti that is taking over parts of Houston. Ms Lovell would like to institute a Graffiti Ordinance that would offer a bounty reward for catching and turning in "taggers", make it illegal to sell spray paint to minors, require business owners to keep spray paint under lock and key, etc. She would also like to create a group of 20 crews that will be available to clean up graffiti on private property for those who cannot do it themselves. She proposes that if someone has graffiti on their property they be issued a warning - clean it up yourself, allow our crews to do it for you or pay a fine. The crews would not charge to clean up but would require that property owners sign a release stating it is ok for them to enter the property and do their work.

Trash in the alleys: Maaike van Bommel stated concern that there is a lot of heavy trash piling up in some of the alleys. She was advised to call 311 when she sees this and report it. Anita Bryant stated she would mention this in her email about 311 (mentioned earlier in this report).

2006 dues: Patti mentioned the need to remind neighbors that 2006 dues are now due. She requested a list of current members from Anita Bryant in time for the next mailing.

Neighborhood Protection Team meeting: Patti informed those present that there will be a Neighborhood Protection Team meeting at Rouge on Westheimer, March 20 at 7:30 pm. Avondale Neighborhood Association is hosting this informational meeting about this City of Houston program. All are welcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm

The next meeting will be April 6 at 7:30 pm at the AVES offices (807 Hawthorne)

Respectfully submitted, Anita Bryant, Secretary

April 2006

General items:

Garage sale: \$961

We are invited to the First Montrose Commons civic meeting on Tuesday, April 18th at 7:30 at the HSPVA. They are going to have Quincy Alien from TxDOT as their speaker.

Ask anyone if they know what happened to La Mora - Zoe asked - maybe they closed?

Hyde Park is having their home tour this Saturday from 10 to 5. Tour starts at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh.

Avondale Place hosted a meeting on March 20 at Rouge with the Neighborhood Protection Group that I attended. Used to be separate organization and now it is part of HPD. Chief Lumpkin is in charge. About 140 city employees - 50% are inspectors and 50% are support staff. They enforce Chapter 10 - and the buildings to Standards. Their job is to clean up blight and grim. They get a lot of their info from 311 calls about 200/week. Every month, they do a C3 (City Council Cleanup) where they pick a different City Council member's district to focus on. Someone asked about Dumpsters and they said that there was very little they could do - no teeth in the ordinance. If they are messy around food establishments, then they could call in Food Inspectors. If there is trash piled around, then they could call in fire hazard. I asked about alleys, and they said that the ordinance changed recently and that the homeowners on either side of the alley were responsible for keeping it clean, but if you see dumping there call it in.

Near town notes:

A staff member from Covenant house attended the meeting and was looking for volunteer opportunities from the neighborhoods for the kids. They have helped with the graffiti clean up in the past. I asked if they would like to trim some bushes...

On April 22, there will be a dedication of the new little league field at Wharton Elementary. The Hilton foundation funded the renovations. They also gave \$200K to the Dunlavy park renovations.

Steve has been going to the neighborhood PIP meetings that happen the 3rd Wednesday of every month. There is a City wide one that occurs the 2nd Tuesday of every month - I wasn't clear on the location, but it was near Houston and Memorial on State? Steve may have more details. Officer Gate said he would like to come to our meeting so I invited him for the May meeting.

The Montrose conservancy group is moving along. They have money and a bank account. They are putting together a proposal for maintenance of the existing esplanades on Montrose. They plan to adopt them from the city and assume the maintenance. They are also doing a utility survey and providing engineering drawings to help speed the design process for the esplanades.

There is going to be a meeting on light rail in Ada Edwards district on April 11 at the Bering Methodist Church at 6:30. Community meetings are being planned around town during April, and at the end of the year, they will have another round of general discussions.

Robin Holtzer spoke on the different transportation issues.

She suggested calling our city council member to get Alabama put back to the condition it was before the Spur closure. She also shared a resolution that she encouraged all neighborhoods to adopt about things Metro can do to make life nicer for us - I will share that via the web site later. There are things like quiet pavement - that has a coating to absorb more noise.

City is testing that in part of the city - we need to get them to adopt that around places like Memorial Park.

Robin reported that the Main Street line of Light Rail was paid for locally not with federal money. It is the most successful light rail in the country! It connects many Houston employment centers. The University Line that is proposed down Richmond would do the same. She said that there are about 65K people employed in the Greenway Plaza area and that is expected to grow to 80K quickly, so something will need to be done about Richmond - whether it is rail or wider streets. She said that in

1997, there were 25K cars per day on Richmond and it must be reconstructed within the next 10 years and poised the question of whether we wanted to have the city rebuild it or the feds? She pointed out that there were 1200 buses per day on Main street before the rail went in.

She said that Houston needs Federal money to build this line and the Feds will only build it where they think they will get the ridership - one reason they won't move it to Westpark.

There is a website that has more info on Metro Projects: [www.metro-solutions.org](http://www.metro-solutions.org) Meeting notices are there. I will

try to have officer Gates and an arborist at the next meeting in May. Have fun! Patti

**Audubon Place Association  
Minutes for May 4, 2006**

**Neighborhood Meetine at Tony Herrada & Peter Boyle's house**

In attendance: Anita Bryant, Patti Thompson, Tony Herrada, Linda Harmes, Maaike Van Bommel, John O'Donnell, Peter Boyle, Otto Welper, Jill Welper, Sara Reeder, Katrina Kelly, Kevin Kelly, Linda Walsh, Peter Van Bommel, Steve Hamilton, Terry Baird, Daniel Haworth, Denise Lewis, Jack Schaffer, Jane Doe = 21 total)

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Patti Thompson, President.

Our guest speaker for the month was the team from Savannah Home Builders. Carla led the meeting by showing architectural plans of the new structure to be constructed at 710 Harold. The building will house 11 units with all off street parking. Carla stated that while demolition will begin right away, actual construction is on hold while the City of Houston approves plans and they plan to begin new construction within 3 months. They expect that total construction time will be 15 months from the actual start of building They were eager to keep neighbors happy and deal with issues of trash, noise, parking etc. as they come up. Business cards will be available with contact numbers listed There were a number of questions and comments from neighbors about the planned facade of the new structure. Most of those who spoke were wishing for a more Craftsman look to the design and asked that the builders at least consider this change to make the building more in keeping with the predominant design style in Audubon Place. There were no commitments to change made by the builder.

**Old Business**

**Security:** Steve Hamilton reported on the recent **PIP (Positive Interaction Program)**

**meeting:** This program is coordinated by the Houston Police Department. Crime reports for our area were received. Patti has these reports for our records. The topic of the April discussion was the vice squad. Steve reported that on any given night in Houston there are only 18 vice squad officers on duty.

Otto Welper asked about the First Responder program that was first discussed in October 2005. Huw Pierce had discussed this program and said it greatly increased the response time when help was needed. Otto agreed to contact Huw about this program and how to participate.

Because of his concerns about personal safety, Otto was invited to attend the May PIP meeting to voice his concerns about the HPD response to citizens directly to the police force.

There was talk again among those attending the meeting about the possibility of hiring a private security firm to patrol our neighborhood streets. It was generally agreed that to mitigate the cost of this service we should try to get some surrounding neighborhoods to join together with us as a bigger area with more households to chip in. Patti Thompson agreed to contact the Westmorland neighborhood association about this idea. Otto agreed to look into the costs associated with hiring private security and report back to the Association.

**New Business**

Spur 527/West Alabama. The Spur has reopened in both directions and TXDOT is trying to finish with the entire project by June 30. It was pointed out that the speed limit on the Spur itself is 30 mph due to the narrow lanes.

Linda Walsh asked about the idea of returning West Alabama to its former set up (losing the current reversible lane) There was no concrete information on this at this time Linda was particularly interested in returning the bike lane that was formerly in place.

**Treasurer's Report**

Maaiké Van Bommel, Treasurer, presented the following report after the meeting. It is accurate as of May 4, 2006:

Checking Account balance:	\$1,257.85
Savings Balance:	\$4,738.25
Esplanade Balance:	\$2,192.41
Total bank balance	\$8,188.51

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm

The next meeting will be June 1 at 7:30 pm at a location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted, Anita Bryant, Secretary

**Audubon Place Association**  
**Minutes for June 1, 2006 Neighborhood**  
**Meeting at the Lovett Inn**

In attendance: Anita Bryant, Patti Thompson, Maaike Van Bommel, John O'Donnell, Brad Harmes, Virginia Camerlo, Bob P., Erik Hardenbol = 8 total)

The meeting was called to order by Patti Thompson, President.

Our guest speaker for the month were two HPD officers from the Westheimer storefront location. Officers Pate and McCord spoke about specific crime issues in Montrose and across Houston. Below is a summary of their discussion:

**Parking.** Officer Pate stated that No Parking signs are available from the City on a temporary basis (such as for St Patricks Day) given enough lead time. It may also help us to get our City Council person involved. There also was some discussion of the possibility of instituting permit parking if the various new construction projects result in continuing parking problems for residents.

**Crime Report:** Officer Pate and McCord mentioned that a lot of the Narcotics officers are busy in the Southwest part of Houston through June, leaving other parts of Houston less patrolled. The officers mentioned their frustration in the short sentences handed down for marijuana possession (even for repeat offenders). The officers let us know that property owners can get a "trespassing affidavit" if there is a problem with a particular person continually hanging around their property. They mentioned car burglary (of items in the car, not the car itself) as a continuing problem and suggested that we leave NOTHING visible in our cars. The officers did report a rape occurred in 800 block of Branard and gave the following suggestions for personal safety:

- Keep shrubs trimmed down below windows to increase visibility
- Install sensor lights high enough that they cannot be tampered with
- Keep garage doors down
- If you see something suspicious or "maybe happening" go ahead and call HPD

**Graffiti:** In response to several queries from neighbors about graffiti, the officers stated that if you see someone hanging around a location at night with a backpack on - you may have found a tagger and should go ahead and call the police. It is best to catch them in the act because it is so hard to find them after the fact. City Council is discussing ways to make it more of a priority for business owners to clean up the graffiti on their property. If left alone, the officers say, there will only be more and more. They encouraged us to clean it up if we can and report suspicious activity. Officer McCord clarified that if you see graffiti that looks like scribbling and is basically illegible - that is gang related. Bright colors and puffy letters is not

We thanked the officers for joining us.

**New Business:**

**Neartown Association Report:** John O'Donnell reported from the most recent Neartown meeting at which Bill King, member of the governor's hurricane task force, spoke. He detailed the hurricane evacuation plan currently in place. Details and worst case scenarios can be found at his website [www.weking.net](http://www.weking.net)

Mr King did state that those of us who live in the Montrose area are not affected by tidal surges and do not need to evacuate. He stated that Houston residents should "Run from Water, Hide from Wind" and if you are not in a flooding danger area you should prepare for high winds but do not need to leave town. He did state if you do plan to go, 72 hours before the storm makes landfall would be the best time to leave.

He stated that 1 million people do live in mandatory evacuation areas and the governments main concern is getting those people to safety. He listed more information on suggested evacuation routes and said that plans were in place to get gas stations along those routes better prepared throughout the hurricane season. He stated that the "Safe Clear" program in place in downtown Houston will be in effect along all evacuation routes and Aid Stations will also be more available for evacuees

He also commented on the effect of local news coverage in causing the large number of non mandatory evacuees during Rita. The government is going to step in and ask the stations to be more responsible and less sensational in their reporting.

**Setbacks:** Virginia Camerlo reported that a Setback Petition for the North side of the 600 block of Marshall has been submitted to the City for approval. All the neighbors along that block signed the petition so it should be accepted.

John O' Donnell stated that he has been informally polling neighbors along the West side of Audubon about the possibility of doing the same and did meet with some resistance from property owners who want to be able to sell without restriction in the future. Virginia stated that the setback ruling does allow for building closer to the road but all the neighbors must be notified and attend a public meeting. This does keep away a lot of developers but does not make it impossible for a builder to get around the provision. She also mentioned that the ruling needs to be renewed every 20 years.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Maaike Van Bommel reported that there was no material change in the APA bank account numbers from the May report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm

There will be no meeting in July.

The meeting in August will be our annual Neighbor Night Out function.

The next formal meeting will be September 7- location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted, Anita Bryant, Secretary

**Audubon Place Association**  
**Minutes for September 7, 2006**  
**Neighborhood Meeting at Brad & Linda Marines' house**

In attendance: Anita Bryant, Patti Thompson, Linda Harmes, John O'Donnell, Peter Van Bommel, Steve Hamilton, Zoe Thompson, Andrea di Bagno, Alex di Bagno, Kathy Welch, Virginia Camerlo (11 total).

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Patti Thompson, President.

Our guest speaker for the month was Sylvia Brumlow, Community Liaison from the Environmental Investigations Unit of HPD. She spoke of the City's commitment to prosecuting those individuals and companies that illegally dump garbage, hazardous wastes, etc. The department uses a variety of methods to track down those guilty of dumping and will prosecute. The prison term and fine associated with these crimes can be quite steep - even up to life in prison for some repeat offences. The department spends as much time as possible meeting with the community and especially school age children to educate the public about the hazards of illegal dumping to all of us. Grant money is available for school based environmental projects.

Ms Brumlow encouraged us to use reputable contractors who would dump construction waste in the appropriate place and manner. If construction waste is dumped by your contractor illegally - it is your responsibility and you will be required to clean it up and pay a fine.

If you see illegal dumping or evidence of it (such as oil stains or paint stains around a storm drain) please call 311 to report the problem. After registering the problem, call 713-525-2728 to reach the Environmental Unit directly.' This will ensure the problem reaches the right department quickly.

We thank Ms Brumlow for sharing her valuable information with us! Our

regular meeting continued following this presentation

**New Business:**

Patti Thompson reported that a location for our October meeting is still needed.

Ballot for 2007: In October it will be time to compile the ballots for the 2007 year. At this time, candidates for President, Vice President, and Secretary will be needed. A nomination committee will be chosen at the October meeting.

Civility Ordinance: There was a discussion regarding the recently passed Civility Ordinance now encompassing Hyde Park, Avondale, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward along with all of Midtown. This Ordinance makes it illegal to sleep on or block the sidewalk in those areas. To enact this Ordinance in one's area, there must be a signed petition and a passing vote from City Council members.

The plan originally had been for the Neartown Association to act as a large area working together to pass the Ordinance for all the neighborhoods in Neartown's domain. It was unclear what became of that greater goal and how just the 3 neighborhoods mentioned above were included in the end. Patti agreed to ask the Neartown Board what occurred.

There has been talk recently in the City government about a way to deal with the homeless situation throughout the city of Houston instead of moving the problem along neighborhood by neighborhood.

There was a great deal of discussion about whether our neighborhood should put together its own petition or wait for a larger action from the City. It was suggested that our October speakers could be someone from the Avondale neighborhood (speaking about why they chose to enact the Ordinance) and someone from the SEARCH organization (speaking about alternatives available for dealing with the homeless) so we could hear more about both sides of the issue. No action was taken at this time.

Trash in Neighborhood: Virginia Camerlo expressed concern about trash around the Interfaith Center (at Lovett and Montrose). She agreed to contact the group to alert them to the problem and see if there isn't something that can be done to improve the surroundings of their building. It was also discussed that the area around the Covenant House has the same issues and should be addressed with the management of that group.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Maaïke Van Bommel, Treasurer, presented the following report after the meeting. It is accurate as of Sept 7, 2006:

Checking Account balance:	\$1,337.85
Savings Balance:	\$4,743.03
Esplanade Balance:	\$2,194.52
Total bank balance	\$8,275.40

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be October 5 at 7:30 pm at a location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted, Anita Bryant, Secretary

Minutes from APA General Meeting – Thursday, October 5, 2006

In attendance:

Patti Thompson  
Maaike & Peter Van Bommel  
Rachel & Eric

Margie Alexy, guest speaker from Hyde Park Association

The meeting was called to order at 7:45.

Patti introduced Margie Alexy, who spoke on Hyde Park's successful campaign to implement the City of Houston's Civility Ordinance in their neighborhood. Margie mentioned that they started by researching the ordinance itself; it originally started in the downtown and midtown areas, aimed at preventing persons from lying, sitting or sleeping on public sidewalks and easements – essentially, the space between the street curb and a property owner's property line. The mechanics: petition must be signed by property owners who represent at least 20% of the properties in the defined area plus 100 residents, which may include property owners and renters. Hyde Park used their block captains to collect signatures within 60 days, and these signatures must be submitted to the City of Houston within 90 days of the first signature. They created a spreadsheet wherein they downloaded property information (land area, bldg area, legal description, etc.) from HCAD for each property in the defined area, and included the number who signed and the number who excluded for each street. They made it look very professional.

Their petition was submitted in August 2005, and they were supposed to receive a response within 45 days. Unfortunately, this was right after the hurricanes and the City did not get around to granting them eligibility until about a year later. They had to present various reasons why they wanted to be under the ordinance, and various residents mentioned concern for kids and the elderly, the presence of drug activity, and generally feeling unsafe walking around, especially at night. Ada Edwards, the local councilperson, voted against.

What the ordinance does: you call the police if someone is occupying an easement, and if they do not move when asked by the police, the police will remove them.

Margie left some sample materials for us to start with. We thanked her and after her departure we returned to regular business.

First order of business: the following persons were nominated for the indicated offices for next year:

President: Peter Van Bommel  
Vice President: John O'Donnell  
Secretary: Patti Thompson  
Treasurer: Maaike Van Bommel

The officers will be voted on in the November meeting.

Second order of business: Maaike gave the Treasurer's report:

Esplanade fund: 2,196.08  
Savings: 4,746.00  
Checking: 1,382.85

For a grand total of: 8,324.93

Third order of business: Graffiti ordinance. The City is considering ways to increase the penalty for graffiti violations – by those who do it and by those that allow it to remain on their buildings. Graffiti can be reported to 311, the City hotline, or at Graffitibusters.com; property owners can sign a waiver that allows the City to paint over it. They will not endeavor to match paint colors, though – it is whatever they have on hand that was donated.

Various: Neartown Association is writing a letter to Weingarten Realty in support of preserving the River Oaks Theatre; the Hollywood Restaurant (behind South Beach) has bought the former Café Noche property, and wants to adopt the adjoining esplanade on Montrose. The next PIP meeting will be on October 10, 2006, and will cover identity theft. HPD Captain Andersen wants to combine the Montrose and Heights PIP meetings. There was some discussion of further implementation of the prevailing building setback protection, and it was agreed that more of our block faces should attempt to get this in place.

Having no other business to discuss, Maaike moved to adjourn the meeting and all being in favor the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. O'Donnell  
Acting Secretary

**Audubon Place Association**  
**Minutes for November 2, 2006**  
**Neighborhood Meeting at Patti Thompson's house**

In attendance: Anita Bryant, Patti Thompson, John O'Donnell, Peter Van Bommel, Steve Hamilton, Daniel Haworth, Maaike Van Bommel, Peter Boyle, Tony Herrada, John Buffington, Rachel Nystrom, and Erik Hardenbol(12 total)

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Patti Thompson, President

**New Business:**

Officers for 2007: Patti presented the following slate of officers for 2007:

President: Peter Van Bommel

Vice President: John O'Donnell

Treasurer: Maaike Van Bommel

Secretary: Patti Thompson

The vote was called and was passed unanimously. Congratulations and thank you to all our new (and returning) officers.

Recycling: There is a big push at the moment from the City to encourage residents to recycle and, in particular, to make use of the curbside recycling program if they have it in their neighborhood. There is currently a waiting list of neighborhoods who would like to have curbside recycling service and those neighborhoods that do not make good use of the program will be dropped. Our neighborhood is currently only at 8% participation which is the lowest in the Montrose area (averaging 11 - 25% participation).

It was suggested that we encourage our neighbors to use the recycling program and make people aware of the fact that we could lose the program if we don't. Patti will include this information in the December APA newsletter.

Holiday Party: The 2006 APA Holiday party will be held at the di Bagno's home on Thursday, December 7.

Everyone is encouraged to attend and bring a favorite dish to share. Dues for 2007 will be collected at the party and are as follows: \$15 per individual and \$25 per household.

**Treasurer's Report**

Maaike Van Bommel, Treasurer, presented the following report

Checking Account balance:	\$1,187.85
Savings Balance:	\$4,746.94
Esplanade Balance:	\$2,196.67
Total bank balance	\$8,131.46

The only disbursement in the past month was \$195 to cover the bill for yard work on the Esplanade.

**Old Business**

Prevailing Building Lines: Work continues on establishing a prevailing building line for the east side of Audubon

Boulevard. The petition and signatures are coming along and the application is expected to be complete soon. John O' Donnell will begin working on the west side of Audubon soon.

Civility Ordinance: This is still a concern with a number of people, as there has been an increase in loitering in the area. There will be a joint meeting with all the Homeowner Associations in the area on November 13. Peter Van Bommel and Patti Thompson will attend on behalf of APA. This meeting will hopefully address the issue with having each little neighborhood apply for the civility ordinance protection on their own. Peter stated that this would be a major issue during his term as President .

Neighborhood Patrol: Peter Van Bommel stated that this, too, will be a major issue during his term as President. The interest is there but more work needs to be done on how to make it cost effective. The current idea is to approach the close neighborhoods (Westmoreland, 1<sup>st</sup> Montrose Commons, Roseland and Lovett Blvd) about sharing the costs of hiring a private security company.

Website: The APA neighborhood website has been redesigned by Katrina Hodges. It is unclear, however, if the project is complete or not. Patti will be contacting Katrina about getting the new and improved website up and running.

The meeting was adjourned by Patti Thompson at 8:15.

The next meeting will be January 4, 2007 at 7:30 pm at a location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted, Anita Bryant, Secretary