

**Community Development Council
April 4, 2001, Meeting Minutes**

Don Lindsay, Chairman

Harris County and City of Houston Enforcement of NPDES

Ann Day and Paul Nelson from Houston, and Pat Smiley from Harris County attended to brief members on the upcoming delegation of NPDES enforcement. They provided an update document outlining the program. Delegation is effective October 1, 2001. The City must get an ordinance to Council by mid-August. The County must go to Commissioner's Court by September. They would appreciate any **comments** from GHBA. They also want to set up discussion workshops in the near future.

Pat indicated that, for the County, projects will be "grandfathered" if they have: 1) received plat approval by a municipality; 2) approved initial construction plans; or 3) permits issued.

Ann indicated that, for the City, projects will be "grandfathered" if they have: 1) applied for single-family subdivision plat approval; or 2) applied for a building permit.

The City and County are attempting to track each other's requirements as closely as possible and are implementing the federal regulations – not being more stringent. Both entities will require a copy of the NO1 (submitted to EPA) and the SVVPPP for review.

Detention facilities and their maintenance were discussed, including the necessity for a homeowner's association.

There should be a follow-up meeting in several weeks.

Southwestern Bell Service

Peter Thompson, Winston Coates, Rusty Goodson, and Marcy Moore attended to address service to new subdivisions. Winston began by stating that SWB construction had fallen behind due to staff shortages, but he has added some 160 cable splicers in the last year, which is a 33% increase. And he has doubled his early splicing operations.

One issue to be addressed was the lack of a contact and the problem of getting shuffled from one person to the next for days or weeks. SWB committed to having one contact for developers by May 1. That person will do the "running around" and get answers for developers. SWB will also provide guidelines for developers.

There was much discussion about timing issues, service representatives, careless workers on sites, tearing up or cracking streets, and DSL service.

Developer Participation Contract with City of Houston

Carl Stephens briefed the council on the status of the developer participation contracts at the City. He indicated that he was pleasantly surprised with the first draft. Task force members are making comments and the next meeting is April 12. Carl noted that the 30% reimbursement must still go through City Council.

Surface Water Conversion

Jim Box reported on the surface water conversion in West Harris County. He noted that both North Harris and West Harris have legislation setting up their districts to buy water from the Brazos River and Houston respectively.

Houston's Sewer Capacity

Jim also discussed the City's discharge capacity chart and stated that he is working on getting the numbers lowered for residences.

Historic Preservation in Houston

There has not been much activity. The various interested groups are supposed to get together to discuss compromises.

Houston's Tree and Shrub Ordinance

Mayor Brown has established a committee to discuss this issue. GHBA will participate. Jim Box noted that residential would no longer be exempt.

Clean Air

Senator Brown's omnibus clean air bill, SB 5, passed the Senate committee on 4/3/01. We are cautiously optimistic that the diesel incentive program will replace the construction shift and accelerated purchase.

Houston Building Codes

Parke Patterson reported that there is nothing new on that front.

Houston's Platting Process

Members reported that the process seems to be working better.

Signage Issue

A task force will study the directional and other sign issues. The goal is to develop some permitted system with the municipalities, counties, and state.

County Authority - SB 1070

Carl Stephens reported on a bill giving Fort Bend County complete authority for land use and building construction in the unincorporated areas. The bill has not moved due to objections from local constituents, but the commissioner's court has drafted amendments and will try pushing the bill again.

45 present.