



**Advisory Committee:** Minutes of Regular Meeting - August 27, 2013

*IN ATTENDANCE:*

Gilbert A. Herrera, Chair – **Present**

Jeri Brooks – **Present**

Frances Castaneda Dyess – **Present**

Kathryn Easterly – **Present**

Vernita Harris – **Present**

Bert Keller – **Present**

Jeff Ross – **Present**

Edward Taravella – **Present**

Patrick Walsh – **Present**

Council Member Oliver Pennington, Ex-Officio – Absent

**1. Call to Order / Welcome**

Mr. Gilbert Herrera called the meeting of the ReBuild Houston Advisory Committee to order at 10:38 a.m. Also attending was Council Member Larry Green.

**2. Recognition of New RHAC Members**

Chairman Herrera asked all committee members to offer a brief personal introduction for the benefit of new members.

**3. Approval of the Minutes**

Motion to approve the April 23, 2013 and May 28, 2013 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Jeff Ross and seconded by Mr. Bert Keller. New members Ms. Vernita Harris, Ms. Kathryn Easterly & Mr. Patrick Walsh abstained since this was their first meeting. Motion carried.

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### **4. Briefing on New Member Orientation**

Mr. Dale Rudick asked new committee members to share their thoughts regarding the New Committee Member Orientation which was held on Tuesday, July 30, 2013. Overall, committee members were pleased with the orientation and with the reference material that was distributed to the group. Mr. Rudick also extended himself to any committee member who has additional questions about the ReBuild Houston initiative.

### **5. Committee Organization**

Chairman Herrera stated that the objectives of the Advisory Committee is different than that of the former Oversight Committee; however, he requested input regarding RHAC organization as to whether or not the committee should meet as a whole, or in sub-committees or have officers. He also emphasized the need to focus on the effectiveness of the program. Mr. Ross stated he felt it best to keep the group as a whole unit instead of dividing into sub-committees. He suggested that if the need should arise at a later date, we can reconsider the idea then. Several other members echoed the sentiment.

Mr. Keller asked if the committee could have a review of the CIP with respect to preliminary engineering, design and what is under construction. Chairman Herrera responded that he sent the information to all the committee members about a month ago and would send it again. Ms. Jeri Brooks stated she believes that the communications focus should be on explaining ReBuild Houston funding sources, operations and the project selection process. Ms. Frances Castaneda Dyess stated she would like to see us engage in additional community events and meetings. Mr. Rudick informed the committee that, as will be discussed in the next agenda item, he would be requesting each of the members to offer their contacts to help engage other members of the public.

### **6. ReBuild Houston Communication Practices**

Mr. Rudick provided an overview of the *ReBuild Houston Communications Practices*, which was distributed to the committee members. He also informed the committee that the document is not absolute but is a guideline and continues to evolve to encompass all aspects of the ReBuild Houston communication efforts. The Practices started with a plan originally discussed with several former Oversight Committee members including Ms. Castaneda Dyess. Mr. Rudick stated that Public Works & Engineering has been active in making ReBuild Houston presentations at town hall meetings, super neighborhood meetings, and homeowner & civic association meetings. However, we could be stronger in getting the word out to more professional groups. Mr. Rudick specifically requested the assistance of the committee members to offer contacts or suggestions they might have so that we may make a concerted effort to make presentations to more local Chambers of Commerce and professional organizations to better inform this segment of the public as to the benefits that the ReBuild Houston initiative will have on the city.

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### **7. Executive Report**

Mr. Rudick announced the Department of Public Works & Engineering (PWE) received accreditation from the American Public Works Association (APWA). Through the leadership of Director Daniel Krueger (PWE), the City of Houston is the 84<sup>th</sup>, and largest, public works agency to be accredited in North America where there are about 17,000 public works agencies. PWE received recognition for a record number of Model Practices (35) that has been awarded an agency where the previous record was 12.

A copy of the Drainage Utility Fees Collections & Expenditures exhibit (as of August 7, 2013) was distributed (attached).

Planned for the September meeting, presentations will be made to the committee on the FY13 year-end financial information and refinements made to both the SWEET model and the *CIP Process Manual*.

### **8. Old Business/New Business - None**

### **9. Public Comments**

Ms. Virginia Gregory thanked Mr. Rudick for coming out to speak to her Spring Branch Super Neighborhood about ReBuild Houston. Ms. Gregory added that many homes in the area have experienced flooding. She sent a letter to PWE about a specific concern she has and she is not satisfied with the response. Mr. Rudick offered to review Ms. Gregory's documentation and meet with her after the meeting. (Note: Ms. Gregory's subdivision is currently in a Need Area being pre-engineered. Her specific information has been forwarded to the consulting engineer to ensure her concerns are taken into consideration during the pre-engineering analysis.) Ms. Susan Petty stated that her subdivision, Charnwood, is currently being pre-engineered and her subdivision streets are scheduled for an overlay in November. However, there is curb ponding that takes place in front of homes.

### **10. Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

#### **Attachments:**

- ReBuild Houston Mission Statement (Amended & Approved by Mayor Parker on May 22, 2013)
- Drainage Utility Fees Collections & Expenditures as of August 7, 2013

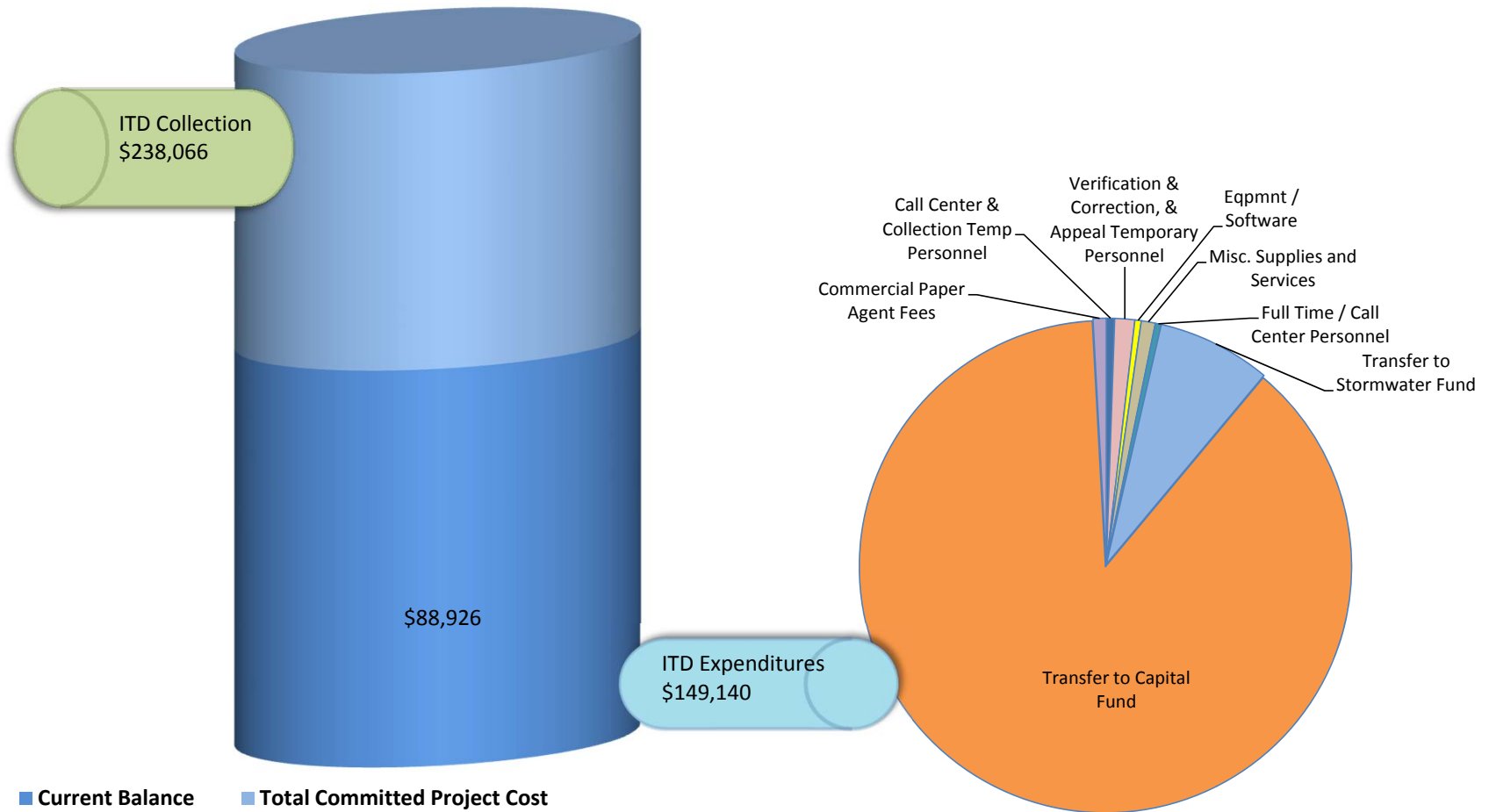


**Mission Statement**  
**(As Amended and Approved by**  
**Mayor Annise Parker on May 22, 2013)**

To be an independent advisory committee whose role is to advise the City on ReBuild Houston and the project prioritization process. The Committee will report directly to the Mayor. In performing this advisory role, the Committee will:

- Advise the Mayor on Public Works and Engineering project selection, process methodology and recommend changes where appropriate to enhance outcomes.
- Advise the Mayor on ways to more effectively engage super neighborhood, civic, homeowner and business groups to ensure various stakeholders are informed of project priorities and are provided an opportunity for input into the ReBuild Houston program, including monitoring and recommending improvements to community relations activities.
- Provide regular reports to the Transportation, Technology & Infrastructure Committee.

## Drainage Utility Fees Inception to Date (ITD) Collections / Expenditures (\$ in Thousands) (As of August 07, 2013)



**Note: Currently committed project costs total \$156 Million.**