

## Minutes - Lazybrook Civic Club of Houston Regular Meeting

May 28, 2024: Meeting Held in-person at LifeBrook Church w/ Teams Broadcast

Meeting Call to order – 7:05pm – Kurt Swafford

### Special Guests/Presentations

- Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher
  - Contact Information: (713) 353-8680 or (202) 225-2571; Email via website at [fletcher.house.gov/contact](https://fletcher.house.gov/contact); @RepFletcher on social media
  - Harris Co residents can apply for FEMA assistance online at [disasterassistance.gov](https://disasterassistance.gov), FEMA app via [fema.gov](https://fema.gov), or the [4 disaster recovery centers](#)
    - If you have any questions or want to apply by phone, you can call (or use Video Relay Service) 1-800-621-3362 (answered 7 days/wk, 6am – 10pm)
    - There are direct funds as well as disaster-related legal assistance available
    - FEMA has reported 100,000 applications and 26,000 inspections have been completed with 14,000 approvals thus far. FEMA has paid out a little over \$30million so far.
    - Some FEMA personnel *are* going door to door with photo identification and are calling people to help with damage assessments. If you have any questions about legitimate contacts, you can call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362.
  - Thursday, May 30 at 5pm, Rep. Fletcher is holding a webinar along with FEMA, Commissioner Briones, and Councilmember Kamin. Use this [link](#) to join.
  - Rep. Fletcher is keeping a list of resources that people can access here: <https://fletcher.house.gov/services/storm-recovery-resources.htm>
  - Please contact Rep Fletcher’s office if you have any questions or challenges and need their assistance with federal or local partners.
  - Please report any damage no matter how minimal to FEMA or via CM Kamin’s office – you can apply as a homeowner or a renter (for contents, vehicles)
- Francisco Sanchez, Associate Administrator, Small Business Administration
  - 16 counties in TX are covered by the current [disaster declaration](#)
  - Home owners, renters, and small business owners may apply for [assistance](#) through the SBA including loans with low interest rates repayable over 30 years with the first 12 months interest-free:
    - To apply, visit the [website](#) or call 1.800.659.2955 (or 711 for accessible access)
    - Up to \$500,000 in loans available for homeowners
    - Up to \$100,000 available for renters
    - Up to \$2 million available for business owners
      - For businesses, if you had a loss of revenue even if the physical structure wasn’t damaged you can still qualify for help with rent, payroll, etc.
      - You have up to 9 months to apply for economic injury to a business as a result of the disaster
    - You can still access loans through the SBA even if work has begun already.

- You can apply for a loan and can always decline or only take it partially if you no longer need it.
  - These loans do not count against you on a credit report.
  - You can use loan funds to help with mitigation against damage for a future disaster
- Sean Mata – Director of External Relations, Daly & Black (Lazybrook Resident) - Presentation on navigating insurance claim process
  - The firm deals primarily with storm damage claims when an insurance company doesn't pay what is needed to restore your home or outright denies a claim
  - There will be a townhall meeting next Tuesday, June 4 at 6:30pm (Covenant Gym, 9200 Hempstead Rd, Ste. 144) for additional help – a roofing contractor, attorneys, etc. will be available to answer questions (see flyer)
  - If you are denied or a claim is undervalued, you can:
    - Walk away
    - Hire a public adjuster
    - Hire an attorney – TX law says you can add interest, penalties, and attorney fees in addition to any claim
  - Watch out for contractors who are “storm chasers” in the neighborhood already – look for businesses that are located (and licensed if possible) in Texas
  - For more information contact Sean at [smata@dalyblack.com](mailto:smata@dalyblack.com); 713.443.8946
- Sandra Puente from Precinct 4 Commissioner Briones' office
  - If you need additional assistance, call 832.927.4444, their community assistance contact number for Precinct 4
  - Continue to call 311 for concerns about debris on major city thoroughfares or issues related to CenterPoint or other providers
  - You may call Commissioner Briones' office r.e. debris on smaller streets or for concerns you feel are not being adequately addressed elsewhere
- Yucari Ramirez from Councilmember Kamin's Office
  - Contact information: 832.393.3004, [districtc@houstontx.gov](mailto:districtc@houstontx.gov)
  - Contact them if you are not getting response from 311, CenterPoint, etc.
  - Solid Waste is working around the clock on debris
  - For storm drain or ditch concerns please call 311
  - Sign up for their [newsletter](#) for more timely updates
  - [Families with Pride](#) is being hosted by CM Kamin and Commissioner Briones this Saturday, June 1 8:30 – 11:30am at Discovery Green
- Additional Harris County Information from SNC14
  - Call 211 for Immediate Assistance
  - For crisis cleanup for Harris County Residents: 832.509.2977
  - If you were impacted by the recent disaster, please complete a brief [survey](#) to share your needs with local non-profits so they can help with resource planning for the future.

**Meeting Minutes:** Last Meeting – Mar 26, 2024 (in-person + online) – posted to website – approved unanimously

### **Announcements/ Events**

- National Night Out 2024 - Coming Tues October 1
  - Please contact Megan Mooney to help with planning and volunteering: [recording@lazybrook.org](mailto:recording@lazybrook.org)
  - We would love a new yard/location to host this year! Please let us know if you might be willing for your neighbors to gather on your yard/corner/cul de sac!

- Stay tuned for more regular Lazybrook events at local businesses (Star Sailor, Kojak's, etc...)

**Officer & Committee Reports:**

President's Update & SNC-14 Report – Kurt Swafford

Membership – Emily Friedman

- Currently at ~40% of houses paid for 2024
- Please pay your 2024 dues if you have not already: <https://www.lazybrook.org/membership/>

Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Ofsowitz – we are behind projected budget due to low dues received

Deed Restrictions Enforcement – Kurt Swafford

- Update on 2411 W TC Jester enforcement – June 25<sup>th</sup> court date for hearing on the violation
- Beautification – Jessica Swafford
  - Esplanade tree planting capital improvement project completed! – those trees survived the storm!
  - Matching funds have been received and deposited

**Next Lazybrook Civic Club Meeting - Tuesday September 24, 2024**

**Adjournment – 8:20pm**