

Jersey Village City Council Meeting June 20, 2016

Fred W. Ziehe public comments

Good evening. My name is Fred Ziehe and I live at 8409 Hawaii Ln and am a member of the JV citizens' flood committee, "Residents Working to Improve Jersey Village.

As you are aware, just since the last City Council meeting, we have had two significant rain falls. The Memorial weekend rain was the first during which we got 3.4" of rain. We were lucky the rain bands were just north of us.

Then on Sunday June 12 we received another 2" of rain, with 1.1 of it falling within 20 minutes. Again, we were lucky it was a short rainfall, but it was still enough to create street flooding in various areas of JV.....notably on Wall Street.

Our group has been busy since the last CC meeting. Some of us walked along the bayou in JV and north to Willow Bridge.....where it feeds directly into our city. We spoke with a resident of that area who had a video of the bayou during the Tax Day flood. It's VERY important to note that the bayou DID NOT COME OUT OF BANK in that area.....nor did it come out of bank directly south of JV. The by-pass stayed in bank down by the Beltway. HOWEVER, flood waters DID COME OUT OF BANK BY NEARLY 2.5 ' IN JV!!! It's painfully obvious that the problem is with the bayou system IN JV!!

During the Memorial weekend rain on Friday May 27, some from our group ventured out in the rain and the lightening to walk down to the "X" in JV where water enters from the north. We wanted to see how the water flowed in that area. Water also comes from the west in the channel that runs along the golf course (W-E channel). This is also where the by-pass channel begins. The water from the W-E channel ALL goes into the main bayou in JV because it ties in downstream of the by-pass. The water from the north flows preferentially into the main channel in JV because that is the most direct flow path. Some water does make it to the bypass, but we question if it's as much as the 30% promised by HCFC. It would appear to be less.

Several from our group have had numerous conversations with the HCFC. Our group has had several meetings with some of the CC members, for which we appreciate their time.

One of our group members was persistent enough and able to obtain a copy of a recent 2013 (updated again in 2014) flood study from HCFC entitled, "MAIN REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT – GENERAL REEVALUATION REPORT". It is a 200+ page report we are still digesting, but it does include discussions about bayou modifications in JV. Interestingly enough, there was a section detailing community input and indicated that among the participants was the City of JV. I would ask JVCC and the staff about this participation and who specifically was involved. It would be EXTREMELY IMPORTANT to talk to this person or persons. Furthermore, I would ask why this report was not referenced in the draft RFQ. There may be some logical reason, but seems to me that is an important document to build upon. This is why we, in our changes to the draft of the RFQ, referenced that UPDATED studies be utilized in the engineering study..

One of our guys set up a website and publicized an email address, info@improvejv.com , so all citizens can provide their contact info, comments and flood pictures to our group. This can also help us notify those folks that respond about upcoming events and other information.

We have prepared a flood survey, which is available tonight, for getting information from the citizens about the Tax Day flood. Were you flooded or “nearly flooded”? Nearly flooded is a term we’ve begun using, as we think that number should be recognized as well as the flooded homes in determining the total effects of the flood. If you were flooded how deep did it get? If you were nearly flooded, how much higher would the water have needed to rise before flooding your house?

Lastly, we have reviewed and submitted changes on the draft RFQ and provided them to the JVCC and City staff on Friday. We recognize and appreciate that this draft included to a large extent our “12 points” discussed during last month’s CC meeting. Our changes and additions are generally to add more specifics to the process to insure that the engineering report results in providing the most complete flood mitigation report as possible. We are available to discuss these any time. We encourage you to give them your utmost consideration.

Thank you for your time.