

Jersey Village City Council Meeting May 16, 2016

Fred W. Ziehe public comments

Good evening. My name is Fred Ziehe and I live at 8409 Hawaii Ln. My family and I have lived in JV for 38 years.

Here we are talking about flooding again. It truly seems like "déjà vu" all over again. Flooding still remains the #1 problem in JV and needs to be mitigated ASAP.

I was optimistic like most were that the detention ponds and bypass would have alleviated most of the problems. Sadly it did not.

I have seen a report, prepared by a citizens' committee from 1999, that concluded JV was a bottleneck in the bayou system and proposed several courses of action. Some were performed, but the main one was not....widening, deepening the bayou system in JV. Our channel needs to have a similar profile as that of upstream to handle all the volume coming down.

I have been involved with a talented, diverse group of citizens in the last few weeks that have identified specific items that need to be addressed and rethought. During that time, I saw a map prepared in 2001 by a citizen, Jim Pulliam, who contacted citizens at that time to see what they saw during the flood....where the water moved. (SEE MAP) It is an excellent presentation of where problems were at that time, and I suspect, still are. This map needs to be updated.....among other things.

This is why I think JV should form a "group" to work with the CC / Flood Control to provide more direct information than can be conveyed in a 5 minute public comment or from an individual conversation with a CC member or the mayor. Those individual conversations won't get effectively processed as a whole by CC and the Flood Control.

This group could assist and interact with the CC / Flood Control in developing a scope of study to be used in attempting to mitigate the flooding issues. I recognize that JV will have to proactively engage with the Flood Control District in a manner that has never previously occurred. JV should either initiate to have an engineering study conducted or contract with the Flood Control District to initiate it...whatever is the protocol.

If there is an existing plan that already exists, it needs to be dusted off and updated for all the housing development and detention pond development that has occurred since it was last done and then factor in this last flood. But it MUST be done. The scope of that study would be to:

- 1) Identify the causes
- 2) Propose the cures
- 3) Provide costs estimates for the cures

In just a few meetings, our group so far has identified the following action items:

- A) JV should halt any construction on or close to the WOB that could adversely impact flood flow AT LEAST UNTIL the engineering study could determine the impact.

- B) Citizens need to be interviewed to determine what they observed during the flood so a map like Jim's could be updated.
- C) An engineering firm **MUST** be retained to evaluate these items, including:
- a. Evaluate increasing the size of the bayou system through JV in order to handle various size rainfall events
 - b. Add berms to the sides of the bayou system
 - c. Determine if the 18 sq mile area above JV is the major cause for flooding in JV
 - d. If the private property ownership to the center of the bayou has been the major hurdle to improving the bayou, let's get it on the table for discussion. As one of those people, I've never been approached about selling or releasing ownership to the center out to some to-be-determined new edge of the channel to help prevent flooding. I'm open to these discussions.
 - e. Who then can make improvements to the channel?
 - f. How do we improve the 90 degree bends and other turns in the channel to improve water flow out of JV?
 - g. Are the recently added weirs and flow constrictors added by the Flood Control adding to our problems?
 - h. Reconsider and/or revise the findings of the 2003 study prepared by Brooks & Sparks, "Jersey Meadows Golf Course Drainage Analysis" to determine if they can be part of the solution.
 - i. Street flooding is a major problem, likely due to undersized storm sewer lines and drains. While the bayou was coming at my house from the back, street flooding was approaching from the front. The water flow down Hawaii was just as swift as the water flow down the bayou.
 - j. Elevating homes is not likely a large-scale solution to the problem and nor is FEMA likely to agree to that on a large scale.
 - k. Flood proofing, may be another plan of attack for some homes, but has limitations too depending on house configurations. It alone is not the answer.

Obviously, the Flood Control has to consider downstream effects of improvements through JV. However, I have to question if that same concern was considered for JV with upstream improvements to JV. Based on the Flood Control's website showing water levels at various points, our bayou came out of bank by about 2.5' at Lakeview, Stayed in bank at Fairbanks North Houston, came out of bank by 1.6' at Alabonson Rd (Inwood Forrest area)....an area that also has 90 degree turns, but stayed in bank at Tidwell Rd, Pinemont, and down to the next gage at Ella Blvd. Not until the Heights did it come out. Unfortunately, the gage above us at Jones Road failed at around 4:00 am just when it began coming out of bank.

One other observation from this gage data is that the street flooding I saw at midnight was significant, while the bayou was cresting, but still in bank. At 2:00 am our bayou started coming out of bank, but at Jones Road it was still below top of bank.

In short, flooding is still the NUMBER ONE PROBLEM in JV and I believe should be the NUMBER ONE PRIORITY for our city...bar none. I believe this "citizens' group concept" could provide valuable assistance to the CC and the Flood Control in mitigating flooding. We don't want to continue being the "JV Detention pond for WOB".

Thank you for your time.