

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting - February 24, 2015
Convened: 7:20 p.m. Adjourned: 8:06 p.m. 42 attendees

Kelly Stout, TGHNA President chaired the meeting.

- Neighborhood business/announcements:
 - No First-time attendees responded
 - TGHNA Board was introduced
 - Communications Committee Chair, Beth Phillips, solicited members for the committee and described ideas for our website content such as area resources, businesses, positive media and history of the neighborhood. Committee member and TGHNA President-elect, Stephen Gregali, requested Retweets and reposts to increase our social media presence. The next committee meeting will be Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 p.m. at Gelateria Del Leone, 3197 S. Grand.
 - A Block Captain meeting immediately following membership meeting was announced
 - Copies of the Treasurer's report were available at sign-in table
 - Another 15th Ward Primary candidate forum will take place at the Royale, 3132 Kingshighway on Wednesday, February 25 at 9:30 p.m.
 - Past-president Mike Newsham will become a second TGHNA representative (along with Hartford Street resident, Mark Abbott) to the SLACO Round Table <http://www.slaco-mo.org/>
 - Mardi Gras beer booth fundraising preliminary report: We made \$576.00 in cash tips. More information on our net proceeds will be forthcoming when available. We would like to continue this activity, if possible. Many thanks to all the volunteers!
 - Attendees were encouraged to bring drink donations to replenish the Beer Wagon in order to continue its presence at membership meetings and around the neighborhood in warmer months.

- **Better Together (St. Louis)** representative was unavailable

- **Fifteenth Ward Participatory Budgeting Committee**
 - Committee members and Tower Grove Heights residents Philip and Beth Weeks reported that the Committee is seeking input about physical improvements from all ward residents on how the allocated funds should be spent. For more information about the participatory budgeting process or to fill out a survey, go to: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cQDHebOTSCGULtB6wuFIOHEXa8shMiQQe7ZqrUR49nA/viewform?c=0&w=1>
A vote will be taken after feasibility is determined.

- **Fifteenth Ward Alderperson** report
 - Megan Ellyia Green reported on her efforts to bid out a traffic study in the ward that would include a limited number of streets. She would like to have 3-5 bids come in at less than \$50,000. The cost of the study comes out of the capital budget. The difference between this study and ones done previously is that we need a new one to start from scratch because past data may not be applicable, for example, when South Grand was recently narrowed as part of the Great Street Projects, no thought was given to how that would impact the traffic patterns within the neighborhood. She also discussed other traffic-calming solutions such as corner cut-outs that give the illusion of street narrowing, causing traffic to slow down. She stated that traffic stops by police may be low priority currently because Captain Deeba reports short-staffing with five officers out.
 - There is a buyer for the Grand Oak Hill building. A request was made to continue TGS neighborhood meetings there.
 - The next Aldermanic Board meeting is April 20. The Civilian Oversight Board proposal will be debated and voted on. Meetings are open to the public. They are held at City Hall and begin at 10 a.m.
 - The Hopewell Center, which "provides quality health care and social services to thousands of uninsured and underserved people in the St. Louis community," is interested in moving their now-outgrown residential care facility in the Central West End to the former Holy Family convent on Humphrey. Residents in the area will be consulted to make sure they are welcome. <http://hopewellcenter.com/services/adultservices.cfm>

- **Heights Nights** will resume on March 10 at 7 p.m. The first business to be featured will be Zee Bee Market at 3211 S. Grand. Ten-dollar gift certificates were awarded to attendees who could answer trivia questions. Others will be awarded through social media. Zee Bee Market will offer a 10% discount during Heights Nights.

- **Julio Zegarra-Ballon**, proprietor of Zee Bee Market provided a display of his free-trade merchandise. He opened the shop on March 8 after initially operating a mobile enterprise. He sells fair-trade-certified items such as home décor, food and jewelry. <http://zeebeemarket.com/>

- **Buzz Books** will be available shortly. Membership Secretary, Tricia Heliker will deliver them starting on Arsenal.

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