

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting – July 28, 2015
Convened: 7:15 p.m. Adjourned: 9:00 p.m. 38 attendees

Meeting chaired by TGHNA President Kelly Stout

Neighborhood business/announcements

- Welcome new Humphrey residents, Drew & Katie Richardson, first-time attendees!
- **Heights Nights:** Aesh Design, a new architectural and design firm located at 3735 Connecticut at Spring will be the location of our next event on Tuesday, August 11, 6-8 p.m. Come meet architect and founder, Patrick Weber, AIA.
- **2015 Membership Competition:** Debra Knox Deiermann, TGHNA Secretary reported for Tricia Heliker, Membership Secretary, that Juniata Street was the winner of this year's membership competition with 49 memberships, followed by Hartford with 45 and Utah with 42. The signage designating the honor, designed by resident, Chris Bronson, was unveiled and will be installed at the corner of Juniata and Spring by resident, Rich Iezzi.
- **Tower Grove South Neighborhood Association:** Election of officers was held on July 15, 2015. Nick Findley, a resident of the Wedge neighborhood, was elected president and was in attendance at our neighborhood meeting. Elected neighborhood representatives ("Directors") from the Northeast Quadrant (which includes Tower Grove Heights) Richard Buthod (36-3700 Humphrey) and Beth Weeks (3800 Utah) were not present. www.tgsna.org
- **Crime Report:** Officer Ed Slade, SLMPD 2nd District liaison, distributed a graphic illustrating crime in the area.

He reported that National Night Out will be held on August 4. <https://natw.org>

- **South Grand Community Improvement District:** Executive Director, Rachel Witt, announced several upcoming South Grand and Ritz Park events including the next movie night, featuring "Sandlot" on August 21, 9 p.m., preceded by a performance by John Donovan's Ruby Troupe at 7 p.m.

On August 22, 10 a.m., Ritz Park will host "Native Plants 101," a workshop by Gateway Greening and the Audubon Society. For more information: www.southgrand.org.

The restaurant, Brasilia, will be opening soon.

Rachel continues to gather signatures to expand the South Grand CID to Hwy 44.

Despite a recent residential mailing about the opening of "Sweet Traffic Candy Bar," 3224 South Grand, it is not yet in operation. www.sweettrafficcandybar.com

- **15th Ward Aldermanic Report:** Megan-Ellyia Green reported that a time line is in development for the commissioned traffic study by CBB Transportation Engineers + Planners which had the winning bid of \$53,000. www.cbbtraffic.com

A second meeting regarding the street closures off Gravois Road will be held on August 13 at the 5-Star Senior Center, 2832 Arsenal Street. 63118.

She was asked about the additional police officers requested by SLMPD Chief Sam Dotson. She reported that a bill about it was brought before the public safety committee, on which she sits, but questions about how to pay for the additional officers came up because some funding, from the red-light cameras, may be unconstitutional, and may not be sustained.

Megan reported she has been working with the Circuit Attorney's Office to implement a "focused deterrence" program that has been successful in reducing crime in Kansas City. The strategies of the program target specific criminal behavior committed by a small number of chronic offenders who are vulnerable to sanctions and punishment. Offenders are directly confronted and informed that continued criminal behavior will not be tolerated. Targeted offenders are also told how the criminal justice system (such as the police and prosecutors) will respond to continued criminal behavior; mainly that all potential sanctions, will be applied. The deterrence-based message is reinforced through crackdowns on offenders, or groups of offenders (such as gang members), who continue to commit crimes despite the warning. In addition to deterring violent behavior, the strategies also reward compliance and nonviolent behavior among targeted offenders by providing positive incentives, such as access to social services and job opportunities.

The first meeting between law enforcement and the chronic offenders/gang members is scheduled for the end of August. Megan reported that the police are only one wedge in the pie of this plan. She would like to see the city hire a case manager and social worker at \$120K/year to help provide resources for those who choose to turn away from crime.

She stated that her strong support of raising the minimum wage is based on her belief that this will help individuals out of poverty and not turn to crime in the first place.

When asked about the enhanced street lighting project on the first few blocks off South Grand that was approved by voters in the Participatory Budgeting program earlier in the year, she responded that this would be underway by the end of the year, if not sooner.

- Drawings for gift cards to the Vine and Cardinal baseball tickets were made.

Featured Speakers

- **Greg Hayes, Director of Parks:** Spoke in favor of the \$180mil General Obligation bond issue citing critical city infrastructure needs that not currently being met.
- **Virvus Jones, former City Comptroller:** Spoke in opposition of the bond issue citing waste such as the additional \$10mil that would be divided between Alderpersons for projects in their wards.
- **Natalie Mendez:** Announced the "Rock and Roll Marathon" that will occur on October 18 and distributed route maps. More information at: www.runrockandroll.com/community

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Knox Deiermann
Secretary, TGHNA