

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting – November 24, 2015
Convened: 7:20 p.m. Adjourned: 8:15 p.m. 27 attendees

Meeting chaired by TGHNA President Kelly Stout

- One couple from 3600 Arsenal identified themselves as first-time attendees.

Neighborhood business/announcements

- **Amazon Smile:** Your Amazon purchases can now benefit TGHNA through the Amazon Smile program. For more information: <http://smile.amazon.com/gp/aw/ch/about>
- **100 Neediest Cases:** For over ten years, TGHNA has participated in the 100 Neediest Cases program to help those less fortunate. This year, we have adopted two families to receive specific items as well as financial aid. All monetary donations will be used to buy gifts and to help these families pay for utilities. Information on the needs of the families, gift suggestions, and a link to make a donation via PayPal is available on our website, www.towergroveheights.com. Thanks to Ellen Wilson for organizing this project!
- **Affordable Care Act (ACA, aka Obamacare) insurance enrollment:** Brochures with information on enrollment were made available by Tenaya Drapkin, a new resident in TGH.
- **TGHNA Board Election:** Since there were no opposing candidates, we voted by voice, unanimously, to elect the nominees announced at October's meeting:
 - **President-elect:** Barbara Gilchrist
 - **Treasurer:** Rick Stein (re-election)
 - **Recording Secretary:** Debra Knox Deiermann (re-election)
 - **Membership Secretary:** Tricia Heliker (re-election)

 - Next year's President will be Stephen Gregali who served this year as President-elect and Kelly Stout will be the Past-President.

 - **15th Ward Aldermanic Report:** It was announced that the enhanced lighting program, voted for by residents in April in the Participatory Budgeting program, will begin this month and there will be a meeting in January to discuss the results of the traffic study that was commissioned.
- **Crime Report:** Officer Ed Slade (edslade@slmpd.org), SLMPD 2nd District liaison, reported that a police substation has opened in the "wedge" area of Tower Grove South which has been the location of many calls for service.
 - He did not have a robbery report, but encouraged residents to remain vigilant, especially in the alleys, and to call in any suspicious behavior. He stated that there have been calls to the SLMPD from both UPS and FedEx reporting vehicles following their delivery trucks.

 - There will be a Neighborhood Ownership Model (NOM) Court Advocacy meeting at Central Library, 1301 Olive, on Thursday, December 10, 6 p.m. Attendees will learn how cases are handled and how to write effective Neighborhood Impact Statements (N.I.S.) that may be read at hearings of defendants charged with area crime. He said that many times it's the presence of neighbors and N.I.S. that make the difference between a defendant being given probation or jail time. Citizens on Patrol (COP)/Neighborhood Watch programs, also a component of NOMs, will not be included in this meeting.
- **South Grand Community Improvement District:** Executive Director, Rachel Witt, reported that repairs have been made, including the painting of the black wrought-iron fencing along South Grand. A "green

roof” has been installed on the Dickmann Building (3115 S. Grand) and Commerce Bank (3164 S. Grand) has replaced the regular lights with LED lights in their parking lot.

- A screen will be built to shield the unsightly dumpsters in the alley between Ritz Park and Mangia Italiano (3145 S. Grand).
- The South Grand CID Safety Committee, now two months old, is in the planning stages and will be working with business owners to increase safety in the area, including conducting a crime training.
- The annual Grinchmas event will take place on Saturday, December 5, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Ritz Park (3147 S. Grand). This event will benefit Shriners Hospital for Children. The Grinch will be joined by Moolah Shriners’ clowns who will provide free face-painting and balloon animals. Photos with the Grinch are available for a \$7 contribution to the hospital. More info: www.southgrand.org.
- “Sheesh,” a Turkish restaurant will open at 3226 S. Grand.
- Some South Grand buildings will receive plaques from the Landmarks Association designating historic status. They are in the process of narrowing down which buildings will get one.

Featured Speakers

- **Bill Reininger, Parks Director, Tower Grove Park**, introduced himself and provided an overview of his plans for the park. His past work experience includes the Missouri Botanical Garden and Forest Park. He has plans to “green it up” by replacing “invasives” with native plantings, install prairie areas, and to develop technology that will benefit park visitors. He will not live on the property but would like to see the former director’s residence renovated for bridal parties and/or meetings. He reports that the last Master Plan was created in 1985 and would like to revisit this with public input as well as take a new look at service and vendor contracts. www.towergrovepark.org
- **Dana Gray, Outreach Coordinator for Tower Grove Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation** described a grant that TGNDC will submit to the East-West Gateway Council to improve pedestrian and cyclist access to each entry to Tower Grove Park and to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. She asked for TGHNA’s support in the form of a letter to be attached to the grant. [TGHNA has since submitted such a letter.] www.towergrovecdc.org

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Knox Deiermann
Secretary, TGHNA