



Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting – September 27, 2016

Convened: 7:15 p.m. Adjourned: 8:30 p.m. 34 attendees

Meeting chaired by TGHNA President-elect, Barbara Gilchrist (president-elect@towergroveheights.com)

- **Opening of meeting and welcome**

- **Newcomer recognition**

- Three first-time attendees were identified: One from 3600 Hartford and two from 3700 Connecticut. Welcome to all!

- **Neighborhood business/announcements**

- **Autumn Fest Chair, Marilyn Browning**

- *This year's Autumn Fest, Tower Grove Height's annual showcase event, will be held on Saturday, October 8, 5- 8:30 p.m.*
- *Wine tasting and entrée-type foods will be served at the first house followed by desserts at house number two. The after-party will be at house number three. Pedicabs will transport attendees between homes.*
- *Details and tickets are available at www.towergroveheights.com. Registration forms are available in the display box at the northwest corner of Utah and Spring and can also be purchased at the door.*

- **SLMPD 2nd District Liaison Officer, Ed Slade (edslade@slmpd.org)**

- *Reported that while overall crime is down, robberies and carjackings are up. There have been 31 robberies since August 31 in the Tower Grove neighborhoods. There was also an attempted robbery behind Commerce Bank. Most of these crimes occurred between 7-11 p.m., Sundays through Thursdays. All victims were women.*
- *He reported that the 12-year-old suspect who was apprehended in a recent incident had been taken to the Juvenile Detention Center but later released.*
- *He advised residents to reevaluate how they behave in public e.g., be observant; put away cell phones; call 911 for anything that "doesn't feel right."*
- *There have been some license plate stickers stolen from Humphrey.*
- *Over 100 car windows were broken out in South City, many in Tower Grove East, but none, so far, in Tower Grove South.*
- *A resident suggested calling 314-647-3111 to report street light outages. (Alley light outages should be reported to Ameren.)*

- **The new Neighborhood Improvement Specialist (formerly known as Neighborhood Stabilization Officer) is Chloe Hollett who will be introduced at next month's meeting. She can be contacted at hollettc@stlouis-mo.gov or 314-657-1363.**

- **15th Ward Aldermanic Report**

- *Aldersperson Megan Green (megan.ellyia@gmail.com) reported that construction on Gustine has begun.*
- *There will be an issues forum at Carpenter Branch Library, 3309 S. Grand 63118, on October 6, 7-8:30 p.m.*

- *Friendly's Bar and Grill, 3506 Roger Place 63116, is under new management. Because of the recent proliferation of noise and parking complaints, residents are encouraged to voice their concerns at a meet and greet event there on October 4 at 5 p.m.*

➤ **Featured Speakers**

- *Kyle Juvers, Better Together St. Louis (www.bettertogetherstl.com)*
- *Better Together is a grassroots 501 (c)(3) project which was started three years ago in response to growing public interest in addressing the fragmented nature of local government throughout St. Louis City and County.*
- *The group has published six community-based studies on the issue thus far; the latest is "A Will to Change," <http://www.bettertogetherstl.com/studies/will-to-change>*
- *Key findings: Internal competition is holding our area back; there is egregious abuse of municipal courts; there is a disparity in services between municipalities.*
- *The Poseneli law firm has published a brief explaining that the county won't be taking on city debt in a merger of city and county.*
- *"CitiesStrong" www.citiesstrong.com is an opposing group funded by the county which has stated the numbers in Better Together's studies are wrong.*
- *Patrick Brown, Chief Resilience Officer, City of St. Louis (brownpa@stlouis-mo.gov)*
- *Patrick is tasked with leading the formation of a Resilience Strategy for the city. The Rockefeller Foundation provided a grant for his two-year position through the 100 Resilient Cities program (www.100resilientcities.org).*
- *He reports directly to Mayor Slay.*
- *Information will be gathered in year one; implementation strategies will be developed in year two.*
- *Two full-time, paid fellows have been provided to assist Patrick by Washington University. He is also trying to engage other local institutions of higher learning.*
- *Citizens can communicate with the Resiliency Office through their website which will have a landing page on the city's site. There will also be newsletters and email blasts. An online survey will be available soon and Patrick will continue to seek out opportunities to speak at community meetings.*
- *Creative engagement opportunities such as asking questions while riding buses will also be explored.*

➤ **Social Committee**

- *Chair Vicky Dean reported the Committee has been working on a traveling "Matt-the-Cat Award" in honor of a local cat who got lost and united the neighborhood in the search to find him in the winter of 2015-16. [<https://www.stlmag.com/news/the-legend-of-matt-the-cat/>]*
- *The award will be presented three times per year to neighbors who have contributed to the betterment of Tower Grove Heights in various ways.*
- *Details and a nomination form can be found at www.towergroveheights.com under the Neighborhood Association tab.*
- *The Social Committee invites everyone to celebrate an early Halloween at "Hallow-Ganza," a free event sponsored by the neighborhoods of Tower Grove, on Saturday, October 29, 5-9 p.m. in Ritz Park, 3147 S. Grand 63118. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1590924141212453/>*
- *The Social Committee would like to thank everyone for coming to our last Heights Night of 2016 on September 13 at Civil Life Brewing Company – one of the best-attended ever.*

➤ **Treasurer 's Report**

- *Rick Stein (treasurer@towergroveheights.com) reported TGHNA's net worth is \$13,603.59 in August. Income was about \$490 in memberships, Amazon Smile contributions and Gazette ads.*

We contributed \$250 to Tower Grove Neighborhoods CDC for their "All-In for Change" fundraising event.

- **New/Old Business/Announcements**

- Thanks to everyone who attended TGNCDC's "All-In for Change" on September 24. Volunteers Vicky Dean, Debra Knox Deiermann, Barbara Gilchrist and Myrinda Grantham helped set up and sell 50/50 raffle tickets, earning \$145 for TGHNA.
- Board nominations will be accepted at the October TGHNA meeting. See bylaws at www.towergroveheights.com for information on voting.
- On next month's agenda: St. Louis City Circuit Court judges, Christopher McGraugh and David C. Mason.
- The next Tower Grove South Neighborhood Association will be Wednesday, October 19, 6:30 p.m. at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church, 4111 Connecticut at Oak Hill.
- Voter registration ends October 12.
- TGH resident, Mark Abbott, St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO), invited residents to participate in their Neighborhoods United for Change program, which connects groups of 5-15 people in neighborhoods with a corresponding group from another neighborhood in the region. The Tower Grove neighborhoods of Heights and South will visit Baden on October 22, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. To sign up or for more information, contact: abbottm@hssu.edu.

- **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Knox Deiermann
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