



Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting – October 25, 2016
Convened: 7:15 p.m. Adjourned: 8:30 p.m. 32 attendees

Meeting chaired by TGHNA President, Stephen Gregali (president@towergroveheights.com)

- **Opening of meeting and welcome**

- **Newcomer recognition**

- Two first-time attendees were recognized. Welcome to all!

- **Neighborhood business/announcements**

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

- Reported that there has been some stealing from cars parked on the first Heights blocks off S. Grand. He suggested cleaning out cars so nothing is visible that might tempt would-be thieves.
- Bike patrols are continuing and overlay officers are devoting 90% of their time to our area.
- Some neighbors recently participated in court advocacy for a first degree burglary, for which the defendant received five years' probation. The victim had gathered over 100 signatures on a letter but it was not able to be entered into the record since it was not an official neighborhood impact statement, however, they were allowed to testify. The judge issued an order of protection to bar him from the neighborhood.

- **Neighborhood Improvement Specialist Introduction**

- The new **Neighborhood Improvement Specialist** (formerly known as Neighborhood Stabilization Officer), Chloe Hollett, was introduced. She said she chose to serve our neighborhood because she loves the area. She is also the supervisor of nine other Neighborhood Improvement Specialists whose expertise she can bring to bear on various neighborhood issues. She can be contacted at hollettc@stlouis-mo.gov or 314-657-1363; however, she prefers to be contacted via email.

- **15th Ward Aldermanic Report**

- Alderperson Megan Green (megan.ellyia@gmail.com) announced that the Fall Alley Clean-Up Blitz, sponsored by Tower Grove Neighborhoods CDC (www.towergrovecdc.org) will take place on Saturday, November 12, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to participate.
- Voting on the 2017-2018 Participatory Budgeting projects will take place on Tuesday, November 5 outside all neighborhood polling places. (see attachment)
- In response to questions from the floor:
 - ✓ RE: 2014-2015 Participatory Budgeting project to repair the bathroom in McDonald Park: The money has been earmarked but the city has not yet gotten to it. It will be eventually completed, possibly by next spring.
 - ✓ RE: 2016-2017 Participatory Budgeting proposed dog park in McDonald Park: The swings would have to be moved to another area of the park but she sees only a minimal cost for this (not included in the cost estimate for the dog park).
 - ✓ RE: Paving on Gustine is very rough: She will check on this. The project cost \$70,000 to repave the entire section.
 - ✓ RE: Parking on proposed speed humps: Allowed.

➤ **Featured Speakers**

- *Thom Gross, Public Information Officer, Court Administrator's Office, 22nd Judicial Circuit of Missouri (tgross@courts.mo.gov) introduced Judge David Mason who has been on the bench for 25 years. Judge Mason complimented the civic engagement of TGHNA.*
- *He described three kinds of judges:*
 - ✓ *Municipal Court judges who are part time. Their rulings are rarely appealed. Generally, they see few criminal cases.*
 - ✓ *Associate Court judges have a limited jurisdiction. They see criminal misdemeanor cases and can have jury trials.*
 - ✓ *Circuit Court judges have general jurisdictions and hear major criminal and civil cases.*
 - ✓ *He also mentioned The Eastern and Western Court of Appeals and the Missouri Supreme Court.*
 - ✓ *Judge Mason says he is sometimes known as "Maximum Mason" for giving tough sentences to defendants who commit crimes against people. In general, however, he says he usually prefers to be in the middle of the "range of reasonableness," – not too lenient and not too tough. He says understands risks and unsafe neighborhoods and hears gunshots in his neighborhood, too.*
 - ✓ *With "entry-level" criminal cases, he says he tries hard to get services for kids or put them in to a diversion program rather than just locking them up. He says he won't second guess colleagues because he has faith in their ability to judge. Says guns are almost a "fashion accessory" now and that not everyone who has a gun is out to commit crime. However, in January, because of recent Missouri legislation, it will no longer be necessary to have a conceal and carry permit. Thom mentioned that it is sometimes better to give defendants probation for five years so that they can be monitored for that amount of time rather than incarcerating and releasing them after just two years. Judge Mason said citizens' impact statements may be taken into account by judges.*
- *Thom and Judge Mason invited everyone to contact them directly to answer any further questions.*

➤ **Neighborhood Hero Award Presentation**

- *The first Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Hero award was presented to Rich and Jean Iezzi for their long time commitment and championing of the neighborhood.*
- *The Iezzis were also recently named 2016 Nextdoor Neighborhood Heroes. Congratulations to Rich and Jean for a well-deserved honor! (see attachment)*

➤ **2017 TGHNA Board Nominations**

- *President-elect: Vicky Dean*
- *Membership Secretary: Jean Iezzi*
- *Treasurer: Rick Stein (re-election)*
- *Secretary: Debra Knox Deiermann (re-election)*

- *Per TGHNA By-laws: The President-elect serves as the next president and the current president serves in an advisory role as the Past-president. This means 2016 President-elect, Barbara Gilchrist, will serve as 2017 President and 2016 President, Stephen Gregali, will serve as 2017 Past-president.*

➤ **Treasurer Report**

- *Rick Stein (treasurer@towergroveheights.com) reported TGHNA's net worth is \$13,010.56 in September. Income was about \$1,627 in memberships and Gazette ads. Expenses included our*

insurance policy premium, a block party permit, some minor expenses towards signs, Gazette and advance Autumn Fest costs.

➤ **Social Committee Report**

- Chair Vicky Dean (www.social@towergroveheights.com) reported Tower Grove Heights and others will sponsor the upcoming "Hallow-Ganza" event on October 30 at the Ritz Park, 6-9 p.m. There will be an urban campfire, s'mores, and costume contests for children and adults. Free. Everyone is welcome! <https://www.facebook.com/events/1590924141212453/>

➤ **Block Captain Report**

- Debra Knox Deiermann (blockreps@towergroveheights.com) announced the upcoming TGS-TGH Block Captain Training on Monday, November 14, 6:30 p.m. at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church, 4111 Connecticut at Oak Hill.

• **New/Old Business/Announcements**

- President Gregali announced plans for a new Safety Committee to address crime and safety issues in the neighborhood. Details to follow.
- TGH's South Grand Cultural Alliance representative Myrinda Grantham announced a forthcoming survey that will help to guide S. Grand CID's future plans. Look for it on Facebook.
- It is unclear whether there will be a Dining Out for Tower Grove Park this month since there has been no announcement.

• **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Knox Deiermann
secretary@towergroveheights.com
www.towergroveheights.com

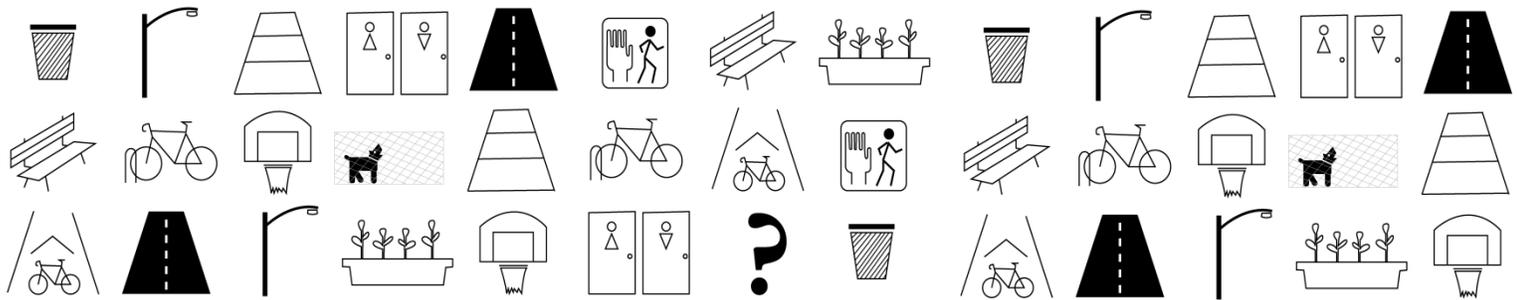
Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association values and seeks a diverse membership. The TGHNA Board recognizes and values the importance of diversity.

Visit the booth
outside your polling
location!

15th Ward Wishes

Participatory Budgeting

Choose how YOUR tax dollars are spent



improvements, 50/50 sidewalk program, and enhanced crosswalks.

2017-2018 Proposed Projects (chose 3)

- 1) **Lighting (\$40,000)** – continue to upgrade the LED lighting for the rest of the ward
- 2) **Tree Planting (\$20,000)** – Plant additional trees to replace those taken out by the emerald ash borer
- 3) **Speed Humps (\$48,000)** – Added to blocks with speeding issues revealed by the 15th ward traffic study that was completed in 2016.
- 4) **Splash Pad Upgrade in McDonald Park (\$37,500 to leverage \$150,000 in funding)** – Install a water feature for kids to play in *note, funds have already been allocated to replace the playground in 2017
- 5) **Dog Park in McDonald Park (\$12,500 to leverage \$50,000 in funding)** – Install a dog park in McDonald park where swings are currently located *note, swings will be relocated to the south end of the park
- 6) **Alley Trash/Recycling Bins (\$10,000)** – Additional trash bins to alleys with multiple four families/apartments
- 7) **50/50 Sidewalk Expenditure Increase (\$25,000)** – Each year the 15th Ward receives more requests for the 50/50 sidewalk program than it can fund. This would increase the amount of 50/50 sidewalk funds given from ward capital.
- 8) **Street Trash Bins (\$12,800)** – Up to 15 new trash cans along streets with bus routes and major intersections, or areas with recurring trash problems, with optional dog waste bag dispensers.
- 9) **Alley Paving (\$24,500)** – Alley paving for the three neediest alleys



Rich and Jean Iezzi – 10/25/2016

Nextdoor 2016 "Neighborhood Hero" Award Recipients

Rich and Jean Iezzi represent the model of welcoming, friendly and engaged neighbors. They worked tirelessly to turn around the neighborhood in the late 1980s when it was deteriorating due to unchecked crime and loss of population to the suburbs. They helped to start the second iteration of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association (the first one was founded in 1908) and have continued to serve the neighborhood in many ways. They have instilled the ethic of supporting the community in their children, one of whom served as a TGH Block Captain, for many years. They have purchased and rehabbed many properties in the area and remain strong supporters of the TGH Neighborhood Association, providing memberships to their tenants to encourage these new residents to become engaged with the neighborhood and involved in the neighborhood association.

Rich serves as the editor of the multi-page quarterly neighborhood newsletter, the *Gazette*, which is delivered free of charge to every resident in Tower Grove Heights. In this role, he not only writes articles but solicits ads to keep the endeavor self-sustaining. Recently, he helped erect a "Little Library" at the corner of 3600 Juniata. For the past two years, he has volunteered to attach the "Most Members" signage indicating the winning block of the annual Membership Competition. He regularly attends neighborhood meetings and events and is a true ambassador for our beautiful neighborhood!

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