



Minutes of Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting – June 27, 2017
Convened: 7:20 p.m. Adjourned: 8:35 p.m. 33 attendees

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

- **Opening of meeting and welcome**

- **Newcomer recognition**

One first-time attendee was recognized and given a Welcome Packet. Welcome!

- **Neighborhood business/announcements**

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

- *Car break-ins and robberies are back up in the neighborhood.*
- *Captain Angela Coonce, who formerly coordinated the Real Time Crime Center, is now the Commander of District 2.*
- *Some cases are coming up that may benefit from a Neighborhood Impact Statement. Officer Slade will keep us apprised as these are needed.*
- *He will also compile a brief summary without identifying info to share with members of the TGH Safety Committee.*

- **15th Ward Aldermanic report, Megan Green** (314-591-9587 or megan@meganellyiagreen.com)

- *Announced she had just come from a meeting at the International Institute concerning community input regarding the choice of a new St. Louis police chief. The 12-person Citizen Advisory Committee to choose a new police chief wants to hear from the community about characteristics residents would like to see in a new police chief. The next opportunity for community input will occur on July 8 at Vashon High School. <http://bit.ly/stlcitycachome>*
- *There will be another meeting regarding the proposal of new development at 3172 Morgan Ford which includes a 27-unit apartment building with ground floor retail space. The developer lives in TGS.*
- *In response to a resident's question about neighborhood security cameras, Megan stated she is not a fan of cameras and in fact, supports legislation at the Board of Alderman for any projects that use capital monies, to require assurances that the cameras would not be used against certain groups of people (profiling) in the age of the Trump administration.*
- *The Buffer zone ordinance at Planned Parenthood she proposed would keep anti-abortion protesters eight feet away from the driveway so that cars could enter without being stopped.*
- *She also stated that the news media has it wrong about the Governor's special session – legislation there would NOT impact the St. Louis ordinance she sponsored that adds abortion care and pregnancy to the City's anti-discrimination ordinance.*

- **Featured Speaker: Shawn Ordway, City of St. Louis Deputy Assessor**

- *It takes six years to complete an entire assessment of the city. If an assessment is greater than 15 percent, a drive by assessment is required. A computer program analyzes all the data then arrives at a number. In 2015, the total average was within 0-1 percent. Values were up in 2016 and 2017 and this neighborhood increased 25-30 percent. The big jump happened because the area had been undervalued*

and this was a catch-up. The average for the city was an increase of seven percent. Some areas were higher, some lower.

- There are 11 major taxing districts including schools, city, library, sewer, zoo-museum, etc. Each gets its same amount plus a CPI inflationary amount. Additionally, because of the passage of Prop S, senior services received a five percent increase.
- To challenge the assessment, homeowners need to let them know why the VALUE of the property is not what was determined; the formula used for calculation of the tax cannot be challenged.
- In assessing, they look at square footage, materials, condition, etc. They compare similar properties.
- They will only notify homeowners if their property goes up, not if there is no change or a decrease.

- **Committee Reports**

- **Social Committee**

- Chair Vicky Dean (social@towergroveheights.com) announced the recipient of the quarterly Matt-the-Cat [good neighbor] Award is Saras Chung who helped coordinate the meal donation program for the family affected by the homicide that occurred in February on the 3800 block of Juniata.
- Saras' daughter ran a lemonade stand that made \$500 which was matched dollar for dollar to offset refugee debt at the International Institute.
- The next Heights Nights will take place at Rooster South Grand, 3150 S. Grand on Tuesday, July 11, 6:00-8:00 p.m. [More information on our website, www.towergroveheights.com.]
- The August Heights Nights will feature a sneak peak of the new Asian Fusion restaurant, VP Square, at 3609 Juniata on August 8.
- Civil Life Brewing Company, 3714 Holt Ave., will be the location of the September 12 Heights Nights.
- A rep from the surrounding neighborhoods will help with the Hallo-GANZA event in October. Details to follow.
- Tonight's SOCIAL HOUR will feature a pool party at 3735 Juniata. (Swim at your own risk – no life guard on duty.)
- Vicky conducted a brief get-to-know-your-neighbor game.

- **Block Captains**

- In the interest of time, the Block Captain report was preempted.

- **Treasurer's Report**

- In the interest of time, the Treasurer's report was preempted.

- **President's Announcements**

- The former head of the SLMPD Real Time Crime Center, Captain Angela Coonce, will replace Captain Michael Deeba as Commander of the Second District.
- Barbara briefly described the Morgan Ford development meeting and asked if anyone had an objection to this development going forward. There was no dissension.
- Tower Grove Pride was a big success! Our TGHNA booth gave out almost 150 Tower Grove Heights Pride ribbons. The booth was staffed by Barbara, Debra, Vicky and Jill Aboussie.
- Barbara had a conversation with the CEO of the new Total Access Urgent Care that moved in to the space at 3114 S. Grand, formerly occupied by St. Louis Bread Company, regarding the outsized signage on the exterior of the building.

- **Featured Speaker: State Rep, Peter Merideth (D-80) Legislative Recap**

(peter.merideth@house.mo.gov or 573-751-6736)

- Says his biggest fight, which was ultimately successful, was around the tax credit for senior citizens. He was able to get the bill that kept the point system in place to pass.

- *He also secured \$1.5 million to educate voters on voter ID issues.*
- *Freshman Representative, Bruce Franks, was able to secure \$6 million for summer jobs for youth.*
- *Senate Bill 43 (tort reform) makes it more difficult to sue for discrimination in Missouri. The Governor probably won't sign it but will let it go into law.*
- *In Peter's opinion, the worst bill that passed will weaken protections state worker whistle blowers.*
- *He reiterated Megan's statement that the special session won't affect the city's anti-discrimination ordinance.*
- *He will be sending out surveys next year and the District Directories will be ready soon.*
- *He invited everyone to sign up for his online newsletters.*

- **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Knox Deiermann

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www.towergroveheights.com

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