

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting

June 26, 2012 7:17 p.m. 21 attendees

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association (TGHNA) meeting was chaired by President Rich Seifert.

The 25th Anniversary celebration was a great success. Rich thanked Susan and Mike Newsham, Joyce Reese and Jim McLaren for their work in organizing and putting on the event. We're starting a Recollection Collection to get remembrances of the past, as well as current memories, in the neighborhood. For example, what brought you here? We'll be publishing these later this year.

Aug. 7th is National Night Out. The City will waive the street closing fee if you want to have a block party that night.

[Election Day](#) is also Aug. 7th.

Mann School is having an Open House on Aug. 10th.

Mayor Slay may speak here in October to present the neighborhood proclamation that alderman Jennifer Florida read at the Anniversary Celebration. Lou Reed, President of the Board of Alderman, may speak in November.

Rachel Witt, South Grand Community Improvement District (CID) Executive Director, announced that the South Grand Street Initiative, Phase II, will start the last week in July. MoDOT is signing the contracts. On July 13th, the bids for the rain garden installation will be let to start this fall. Phase II includes synchronizing traffic signals, art installation, planter boxes, the Utah entrance from Grand, and new lighting. We will have signs about the rain gardens, pervious concrete, etc. to educate residents and visitors about water conservation, native species and other conservation efforts. The Grand Bridge will open July 14th (starting with one lane each way). We'll have movies on the 3rd Friday of the month, starting in July, in the new parking lot. The CID is working on its strategic plan for the next five years; it will be posted on the [South Grand Web](#) site. They will be acquiring the parking lot between King and I and Mangia to create a pocket park with concerts, farmers market, a water feature, as well as art and yoga classes. Research shows that pocket parks increase property values in the community.

Rachel shared Information about the businesses on South Grand:

- [Bali Cargo Company](#) of Saint Louis opened. Bali Cargo Company is an importer of fine hand crafted furniture, jewelry and gifts from the island of Bali.
- A new tenant for the old Comp & Soft building has been signed up--[Bikrum \(hot\) Yoga](#). The owner is a former resident who is moving back. This will be her second location – she was originally in Chicago. It will include a juice bar, yoga clothing and mats.
- The IGA Grocery is still working on permits and designs for the old Commerce building. The plan is for an IGA upscale grocery store.
- The old Earth, Wind & Bead storefront is going to have a [Rocket Century](#) furniture store.
- The [Gelateria Del Leone](#) is expanding to the 2nd floor and is starting construction.
- The King and I renovation is planned to complete by Aug.
- The City Diner will have their 20 year anniversary this year and is planning on having a block party in Aug.

Mark Abbott, TGHNA resident, on the faculty of Harris Stowe, past president of TGHNA and author of [Tower Grove](#) (available through Amazon and Dunaway Books), spoke on the history of the Heights and what makes the neighborhood so strong. Mark plans to do a larger, more thorough book on Tower Grove at some point in the future; Reedy Press asked him to write his current book that reviews three TG neighborhoods. His studies of this area showed that this is not just a neighborhood, but a community and the people are not just residing together but working together to achieve a common vision.

The next TGHNA meeting will be July 24th and will feature Pepi Parshall, from the St Louis Public Library, who will discuss the restoration of the Central Library as well as sharing some information about the Carpenter Library.

The meeting concluded at 8:31 p.m.

Claudia Seifert, Secretary