

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting

September 25, 2012 7:18 p.m. 15 attendees

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association (TGHNA) meeting was chaired by President Rich Seifert. Rich announced that Marilyn Browning has been appointed Membership Secretary, since the previous Membership Secretary, Debby Ervin, moved out of the neighborhood. This Thursday is the 15th Ward Democrats' meeting at Mangia Italiana restaurant on Grand. Oct 21st is the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon, but since it won't come south of Magnolia, we won't be as affected as last year. Oct 27th is the 17th [regional neighborhood conference of SLACO](#) (St. Louis Association of Community Organizations) at Harris-Stowe State University. There were brochures available that described the conference which consists of workshops and seminars that touch on neighborhood issues such as community development, crime prevention, housing, etc. Jennifer Florida, 15th Ward Alderman, will attend and will conduct a workshop there with Rachel Witt, South Grand Community Improvement District (CID) Executive Director, about the Great Streets project.

Stacy Reliford, from the American Cancer Society, discussed the [tobacco tax initiative](#), Proposition B. Stacy had a FAQ sheet and brochures regarding this proposition. Missouri has the lowest tobacco tax in the nation with a 21% smoking rate. Higher taxes have been shown to help curb smoking and the additional revenue will go towards education, as well as tobacco cessation programs. The national average tax per pack is \$1.46 and the Missouri tax rate is currently \$.17.

Martin Casas spoke about Proposition A, the [local control initiative](#). The measure would require that all municipal police forces or departments be controlled by the local governing body. This will be the first state-wide initiative for this proposition. Police organizations and other departments are now behind this initiative, since there was an agreement that the police pensions will remain the same. The measure will require a simple majority vote.

Jennifer Florida reported that the green alleys project will start in March. She has introduced a bill that will require a prescription for pseudoephedrine. There is going to be a new product that is a tamper-resistant pseudoephedrine, and it will be exempt from the prescription requirement. She has endorsed Proposition A, as well as the proposition to reduce the number of Board of Aldermen members, since it will help increase efficiencies. Crime statistics show we are in a 5-year trend of crime reduction. For example, we're down 50% in burglary in the 3rd District.

The next TGHNA meeting will be Oct. 23rd and will feature Mayor Slay. We will also have nominations for officers for next year. Nov. 27th will be the final meeting of the year with elections and speakers Lewis Reed and Darlene Green.

The meeting concluded at 8:10 p.m.

Claudia Seifert, Secretary