

## Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting

October 23, 2012      7:15 p.m.      42 attendees

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

Mayor Francis Slay presented a proclamation for the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association, congratulating the organization for its 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. He also mentioned that the Riverfront Times named Tower Grove South as the [best local neighborhood in which to live](#). He noted the wonderful character of the neighborhood, the great people, and the good work that we have done to make the neighborhood such a great place to live. The mayor also spoke about the local control issue that is on the ballot, Proposition A. We and Kansas City are the only cities in the entire country where the police department is not under local city control. The police pensions will not be part of this measure and the Police Dept. no longer opposes this proposition. The mayor mentioned the need to provide quality free education for students in the city. We need to be sure we have public education options so that parents will have first-rate schools in which their children can be enrolled. The school district is provisionally accredited now, so they are making some progress. The mayor has established 18 new charter schools that are high quality. Mayor Slay did note that there are some schools like Imagine that have been called out if they are not meeting acceptable standards.

First time attendees were introduced.

Rob Reed, Safety Chairman and President Elect of the Board of Grand Oak Hill Community Corporation, stated that the 3<sup>rd</sup> district Police substation is now open at the Grand Oak Hill center on 4168 Juniata. Amber Gottschall, 3<sup>rd</sup> District police officer, will be at the station from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm M-F. She left business cards for residents so we can send her questions or concerns.

President Richard Seifert presented the current slate for the TGHNA Board for 2013. Further nominations will be accepted until next month's election.

- Jim Zakibe, President
- Michael Newsham, President Elect
- Claudia Seifert, Secretary
- Marilyn Browning, Membership Secretary
- Rick Stein, Treasurer
- Richard Seifert, Past President

Joe Thele, manager of the [Neighborhood Stabilization Office](#), stated that we should contact him if we have any neighborhood issues or problems.

Jennifer Florida, 15th Ward Alderman, thanked us for supporting the new Police substation, since TGHNA was instrumental in making it happen. Crime is down in general and things are quiet. She has introduced a bill on domestic violence to serve as a tool so authorities can immediately intervene, especially in the case of assault and harassment. Construction work at the intersection at Utah and Grand, part of the Great Streets project, should be finished by the first week in Nov. Phase 2 of the project will finish between January and March. Jennifer will send Richard a project timeline which will be posted on the [TGHNA Web site](#).

Rachel Witt, South Grand Community Improvement District (CID) Executive Director, reported that the timeline includes new lighting being fabricated and delivered on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. A traffic signal is on order, to be delivered by the end of Nov. The art installation, as well as bike racks and benches, will be installed when all the other construction work is done. There will also be educational signage for a self-guided walking tour with information about the rain gardens and other features of the streetscape. Rachel displayed a new brochure that has been printed for South Grand. Thanksgiving is the targeted opening of Vikram Yoga which is renovating the former Comp & Soft storefront. The CID has confirmation to take over the metered parking (currently known as the Ritz parking lot,

since it is on the location where the Ritz Theater used to be), to transform it into a pocket park. Rachel displayed drawings of the plan. The landscaping company that will be taking care of the rain gardens on Grand will also take care of the pocket park. Hopefully, the park can be complete by the end of June. The CID is ahead in the collection of sales tax revenue, so that is an encouraging note. Plans to rebuild the old Commerce Bank building as an upscale market like Trader Joes/Whole Foods will probably be presented to us at the November meeting.

Several neighborhood events were announced :

- The [South Grand Creepy Crawl](#) is on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 pm -1:00 am. The cost is \$30 for a wristband that covers featured drinks and entertainment at the following businesses: Sekisui, Mojo Tapas Restaurant and Bar, Absolutli Goosed, Urban, Cafe Natasha, Mangia Italiano, and City Diner. There will also be a Lady Gaga competition.
- Oct 27<sup>th</sup> is the 17<sup>th</sup> [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.
- On Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, the Police South Patrol Division on Sublette has candy distribution and coloring books for Halloween. Messiah Lutheran Church on Grand is also having a party for Halloween.
- Volunteers are being recruited for raking/cleaning out the flower beds on Grand Blvd. on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- St. Elizabeth's Academy, 3401 Arsenal, is celebrating Spirit Week on Nov 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be powder puff football, a carnival with food trucks, a bounce house, games, prizes and a DJ on their parking lot from 11:30 am - 6:00 pm.
- The Grinch will be at MoKaBe's Coffeehouse from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> for an event benefiting Shiners' Hospital. The Shriner clowns will be there for face painting and balloon animals

The next TGHNA meeting will be Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, the final meeting of the year, with elections and speakers Lewis Reed, President of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, and Darlene Green, Comptroller.

The meeting concluded at 8:24 p.m.

Claudia Seifert, Secretary