

## Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting

March 26, 2013      7:15 p.m.      29 attendees

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association (TGHNA) meeting was chaired by President Jim Zakibe.

First time residents were welcomed.

Madeline Buthod discussed a petition for the city to divest from fossil fuel companies and invest in green companies. They are asking that Peabody Coal pay their fair share of taxes. See [climateactionstl.com](http://climateactionstl.com) for more information. In addition, she discussed the [St. Louis Dump Veolia Coalition](#) which is calling for the city to reject the proposed consulting contract with Veolia. The city was considering a contract with Veolia to look for potential cost-saving measures in the water department.

Carey Bunday, from [Great Rivers Greenway](#), distributed a map of information about their projects for various greenways and trails they have put in place or trails that are under construction or are being planned.

John Karel, Director of [Tower Grove Park](#), discussed happenings in the park. He distributed a Tower Grove Park brochure with the latest calendar of events. He brought a selection of pictures where several features in the park have been made into posters, such as the Griffins, Piper Palm House, etc. Weather has affected the park with snow and the drought of 2012, which was the worst in memory. It was not only hot but very dry and that killed many fragile trees. The park lost 300 trees, out of 7,400 trees of 370 different varieties. They have started replanting with a drought recovery program. They have planted 174 trees already with more planned for the fall. The drought has weakened the root systems and that may result in future damage. The park can't really give individual attention to all the trees so the plantings have to be tough. They will plant southern Missouri trees since they are more drought tolerant. The park will also try to extend the irrigation system so they can try to do more watering during droughts. They got a grant from Emerson to repair some of the paths so they will be renovating paths this spring. Benches in front of the music stand have been reconditioned. Construction is under way to rebuild the hard-surface tennis courts, and they should be open by the end of April. The April 2<sup>nd</sup> vote to help fund the Arch grounds also includes money going to parks. Tower Grove Park would get approximately \$230,000 extra per year. This money could go toward facilities for the park. John recommended that we visit the Piper Palm House for Sunday brunch; it's the oldest greenhouse west of the Mississippi. The park hosts a lecture series and the next lecture will be on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the Stupp Center. The Farmer's Market will open in May. Food trucks are now coming into the park once a month. An auto accident caused damage to a historic gate on Spring and Arsenal. The driver is insured and the gate will be fixed and restored, and will probably be reinforced so it can be more resistant to accidents.

Jennifer Florida, 15<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderperson, reported that [Operation Brightside](#) is the weekend of April 13<sup>th</sup>. Residents can put items out for bulk pickup. The anti-theft club is available for \$13 to help avoid vehicle theft. No problem properties have been reported in the neighborhood right

now. There are materials to use if problem properties need to be reported. The next phase of the alley renovation is under way at the 3800 block of Humphrey and Utah. Rain garden bids have come back and the new reconfiguration at Utah and Grand is supposed to be a rain garden. Jennifer spoke in favor of the parks proposition. Tower Grove South is going to try to get their special taxing district extended for additional security.

Captain Michael Deeba, from the [St. Louis Police 3rd District](#), discussed crime statistics. In the last four weeks, crime was down in all categories. A map of Tower Grove South showed where vehicle thefts occurred—there is no pattern on where or when cars are stolen. Captain Deeba emphasized that residents shouldn't keep belongings in cars. Contact Captain Deeba if you have any questions or issues dealing with the police or with other areas relating to crime. Communication is important so he needs to know if there are any concerns about the police. As part of the effort to increase police visibility, there will be beat officers walking our neighborhoods and alleys. Send addresses of problem properties or other concerns to Captain Deeba or Officer Joseph Calibro, the Third District Community Outreach Officer. Office Calibro can be contacted at [district3@slmpd.org](mailto:district3@slmpd.org). Captain Deeba's e-mail is [madeeba@slmpd.org](mailto:madeeba@slmpd.org).

Rachel Witt, South Grand Community Improvement District (CID) Executive Director, noted that the new Juniata light is still blinking. The reason for this is that they have to put stripes on the street to show where cars should stop, but it is too cold at the moment. The [South Grand](#) website is being redone to be more interactive. Several marks on the sidewalk have been put down to show where the bike racks and artworks will be placed. Smoking outside the restaurants on Grand is an issue since many smokers throw their cigarette butts on the sidewalk. We might put cigarette urns on all the buildings to see if that would help. Last summer several planter boxes caught on fire after people tossed their cigarette butts in them. The construction plans for the pocket park planned at the Ritz parking lot are close to being finalized. We are applying to get grant money for the park. Film nights will move to the pocket park, but this summer we will continue to have films in the new parking lot behind Commerce Bank, as we have done for the last few years. Tree House vegetarian café may open in May in the location that was previously Petra Café. [Flex Fitness Studio](#) has opened over the Medicine Shoppe with Yoga, Zumba, African Dance and various other classes. [Bikram Hot Yoga Midwest](#) is also now open.

Starting in May, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues of the month, we will have parties at various local businesses and restaurants. We will start from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm at [Bali Cargo Company](#) with food—wine and cheese and an open house in the shop. We will raffle gift certificates from Bali. We are trying to support our neighborhood businesses with these events.

The next TGHNA meeting will be on April 23, 2013.

The meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m.

Claudia Seifert, Secretary