

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting – May 26, 2015
Convened: 7:15 p.m. Adjourned: 8:15 p.m. 32 attendees

TGHNA President Kelly Stout chaired the meeting.

- **Neighborhood business/announcements:**
 - No new first-time attendees.
 - **2015 Membership Competition update:** Ends June 30.
 - **Heights Nights:** Rooster South Grand, 3150 S. Grand, Tuesday, June 9, 6-8 p.m. Gift cards were given out.
 - **Crime update:** St. Louis Police Department District 2 Liaison, Officer Ed Slade (edslade@slmpd.org), gave an update of recent area crime. There was a burglary on Humphrey in which a side window was forced open. As is usual during warmer weather, there has been an uptick in panhandling on South Grand during evening hours. Officer Slade stated that while panhandling is not a crime, “aggressive begging” which includes being followed or yelled at is considered a crime and should be reported to police. He stated that once demolition of the Kingshighway bridge begins, there will be more traffic using South Grand which may result in more panhandling. He also recapped the sentencing hearing on May 15 for the violent carjacking case that occurred last June and thanked all of the area residents who attended. Judge Philip Heagney sentenced Rodney Lamar Jackson, Jr., to seven years but with 120 days of shock time in a penitentiary after which he could be released on probation depending on his behavior during this period. The judge granted a neighborhood order of protection against the perpetrator.
 - **South Grand Community Improvement District:** Executive Director, Rachel Witt, reported that the recent “International Dine-Around” event on South Grand had a record-breaking 360 attendees! Thirteen countries are now represented on South Grand. Upcoming events include a “Producers’ Market,” on first Sundays in Ritz Park, beginning June 7. Steven Spielberg’s classic movie “Jurassic Park” will be shown in Ritz Park on June 19 at 9 p.m. It will be preceded by an Open House, 5-8 p.m. during which votes can be cast by the public on proposals for a crowd-funded art installation at Ritz Park. A Drum Circle will follow at 7-8:30 p.m. “South Grand Fest” is scheduled for September 19. For more information on all events, visit: www.southgrand.org.
 - **15th Ward Aldermanic Report:** Megan-Ellyia Green reported on the bond issue that will go before voters on August 4. Residents of the City of St. Louis will be asked to vote on a \$180 million General Obligation bond to fund capital needs throughout the city. In response to a resident’s question about whether or not this would include funds for more police officers, Megan replied that it would not since this is only for infrastructure expenditures. The Traffic Study for the ward will again be performed by CBB Transportation Engineers + Planners (www.cbbtraffic.com) who had the winning bid of \$53,000. Although the monies had been allocated last fiscal year, they were frozen so work will not begin until July. The participatory budgeting funds allocated for projects such as the Street Light Enhancement project have also been frozen so this work will not begin until late summer or early fall.
- **Featured Speakers:**
 - **Sustainable Backyard Tour:** Suzanne Carron announced that this year’s tour is scheduled for Sunday, June 14. The free area-wide event is designed to encourage sustainable practices in yards and gardens. Backyards on Juniata and Utah in Tower Grove Heights will be featured. www.sustainablebackyardtour.com
 - **Carpenter Library:** Keith Housewright, a representative of the St. Louis Public Library branch at 3309 S. Grand, shared with us many of the lesser-known services and items that the library provides, such as DVDs, video games, “downloadables” and business research resources. There is also a plethora of book clubs, classes and other programming. Patrons are eligible for free copying services – up to 200 per month. www.slpl.org

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