



Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting – April 26, 2016

Convened: 7:20 p.m. Adjourned: 8:21 p.m. 30 attendees

Meeting chaired by TGHNA President Stephen Gregali (president@towergroveheights.com)

- **President – Open meeting and welcome**

- **Call for newcomers (*none identified*)**

- **Neighborhood business/announcements**

- **Treasurer's Report**

- *Rick Stein (treasurer@towergroveheights.com) announced the 2015 books were successfully audited (as required by our bylaws). He had implemented the recommendations made last year and no further recommendations were made.*

- **Membership Report**

- *Tricia Heliker (membership@towergroveheights.com) reported TGHNA has 207 memberships.*

- **Social Committee Report**

- *Vicky Dean announced the next Heights Night will be May 10. Details to follow. The Social Committee is seeking additional members.*

- **Block Captain Committee**

- *Debra Knox Deiermann announced there will be a special event for the Tower Grove Heights Block Captains at the home of Tricia Heliker. Details to follow.*
- *The June meeting will take place at the Real Time Crime Center at SLMPD headquarters, 1915 Olive.*
- *The Committee would like to recruit additional actively engaged Block Captains to implement safety measures, plan block parties, deliver Welcome Packets to new residents, etc. The TGH BCs meet with the Tower Grove South Block Captains at 6:30 p.m. on second Mondays at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church, 4111 Connecticut at Oak Hill Avenue. For more information, contact blockreps@towergroveheights.com*

- **15th Ward Aldermanic Report**

- *Aldersperson Megan Green (megan.ellyia@gmail.com) was not present. At her request, President Gregali reported there will be upcoming Neighborhood Assemblies to outline priorities for the 15th Ward Participatory Budgeting process as follows:*
 - ✓ *Saturday, May 14, 4-6 p.m. at Carpenter Branch Library*
 - ✓ *Wednesday, May 18, 6-8:30 p.m. at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church*
 - ✓ *Saturday, May 21, 6-8 p.m. at New City Fellowship*
- *There will be two candidate forums for the August election sponsored by the 15th Ward Democrats:*
 - ✓ *Monday, May 12, 7 p.m. at Eagle College Prep (3716 Morgan Ford). Candidates for the following offices have been invited:*

- *U.S. Senator*

- U.S. Congress
- Governor
- Lt. Governor
- Secretary of State
- State Treasurer
- Attorney General

✓ Thursday, May 19, 7 p.m. at Eagle College Prep (3716 Morgan Ford). Candidates for the following offices have been invited:

- State Senator, District 5
- State Representative, District 80
- St. Louis Circuit Attorney
- St. Louis Sheriff
- St. Louis City Treasurer
- 15th Ward Committeeman
- 15th Ward Committeewoman

➤ **SLMPD 2nd District Liaison Officer, Ed Slade** (edslade@slmpd.org)

- Crime report handouts were distributed showing that burglaries are down in the area.
- He has been researching latch catches that are good for old doors because they go deep into door jambs. These can be found on google.

➤ **South Grand Business CID**

- Executive Director, Rachel Witt (rachel@southgrand.org) reported postcards announcing events on South Grand were mailed to residents.
- The popular annual "International Dine Around" event will take place on Thursday, May 19, 5-10 p.m. More events are described at www.southgrand.org.
- Foot patrols on South Grand are scheduled for Thursdays thru Saturdays from 6 p.m. until midnight.
- License Plate Recognition cameras (LPRs) will be installed at South Grand & Arsenal and South Grand & Utah.
- There was a hit-and-run accident reported at Grand and Magnolia.
- Neighborhood resident and architect, Patrick Weber (www.aeshdesign.com), will design and build replacements for the unsightly "Schoemehl pots" around the area.
- Brightside St. Louis quickly removed the large expanse of graffiti along the north side of Jay International.
- Mulch and more plants will be added to the small beds along South Grand in May.
- The pervious sidewalks along South Grand will be vacuumed
- The SGBCID would like to purchase a special vacuum for cigarette debris.
- A J & R Pawn Shop at 3127 South Grand is closing for business. It is unclear what the plans are for the space and entire building.
- Rachel plans to hire an intern in June.

• **Featured Speakers**

➤ **Andrew Keener, Executive Director at Campus YMCA at Washington University in St. Louis**

- Andrew, who has lived in TGH for the past three years and is a member of the TGHNA Social Committee, announced a partnership between the Campus Y and Marian Middle School, a Catholic school serving adolescent girls, located at 4130 Wyoming, to increase student achievement through a new summer learning initiative, the Power Scholars Academy.

- **Jeff Hood, Program Director for the Power Scholars Academy (jeff.hood@gwrymca.org)**
 - *Studies show that a lack of summer learning activities among disadvantaged youth cause a loss of skills that accumulates each year and widens the achievement gap.*
 - *The Power Scholars Academy, which will be offered free-of-charge, is a full-day summer learning experience for 4-8th grade students to help boost academic skills.*
 - *The program runs from June 13 – July 21, Monday-Friday, 8:15 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Breakfast and lunch are provided.*
 - *Limited spots are available. Contact Orlando Sharpe at Orlando.sharpe@gwrymca.org or 314-776-7102.*
 - *Register at <http://tinyurl.com/PSA2016STL>*

- **Andrew Wyatt, Vice President of Horticulture at Missouri Botanical Garden**
 - *Announced the Missouri Botanical Garden has received a gift of 6.3 acres in Tower Grove South at 3405 Bent Avenue (near McDonald Park) from the Oertli family (owners of Guarantee Electrical Company since the 1940s and long-time supporters of the Garden).*
 - *The area will be used to create the Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery, and will allow the Garden to grow hardy plants to support the continued development of the living collection and displays. It will become a center for performing more plant trials for suitability to the St. Louis climate.*
 - *Construction will begin soon and plants should be growing there by the end of 2016.*
 - *There will be four staff and about 20,000 plants.*
 - *The facility will not be open to the public but will host occasional tours.*

- **New/Old Business**
 - *Have a question, suggestion or comment for TGHNA? We now have a Suggestion Box at the sign-in table at every meeting.*
 - *May speakers:*
 - *Jim Whyte, Central West End Neighborhood Safety Initiative, will discuss security lights and cameras.*
 - *TGH resident Mark Abbott will discuss St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO).*

- **Announcements**
 - *Tower Grove South Neighborhood Association:*
 - *Next meeting: Wednesday, May 24, 6:30 p.m. at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church.*
 - *Shaw Plant Swap and Sale will take place on Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m. at Dorothy Park (corner of Shenandoah and Thurman).*
 - *Mosquito spraying is done by request to the city.*

- **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Knox Deiermann
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