



Minutes of Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting – July 24, 2018
Convened: 7:20 p.m. Adjourned: 8:30 p.m. 31 attendees

Meeting chaired by TGHNA President, Vicky Dean (president@towergroveheights.com)

- **Opening of meeting and welcome**
 - **Icebreaker activity**
 - **Newcomer recognition**
 - *Six newcomers were recognized. Welcome to all!*

- **Speaker: Sarah Durrett, Combat Sexual Harassment**
 - *In response to experiencing street harassment in St. Louis, primarily on public transportation, Durrett came up with the idea of starting a local initiative to create public awareness. Realizing that other women must be experiencing similar harassment, she and others started the Combat Sexual Harassment initiative. As it happened, the #metoo movement broke about two weeks later.*
 - *Durrett had lived in Egypt and was aware of efforts there to draw awareness to the same issue including a self-reporting app that shows where harassment is occurring.*
 - *In her research, she came across a group in Washington D.C. called “Stop Street Harassment” that has materials which she shared with attendees.*
 - *Locally, she has partnered with Safe Connections (<https://www.safeconnections.org/>).*
 - *She says she understands that a cultural change needs to occur to before harassment ends completely. One way to fight back against harassment is to assertively state to the harasser, “I’m not okay with this” and to notify the driver if it happens on the bus and report the incident to metroslouis.org.*
 - *If you see someone else being harassed, address them directly instead of the harasser to let them know you are there for them when they are ready to talk.*
 - *She has posted surveys on Facebook to begin to assess the extent of local street harassment and eventually would like to do a conference or individual trainings to help combat sexual harassment.*

- **Speaker: Dave Difani, TGH resident and owner, Black Thorn Pub and Pizza**
 - *A carjacking took place in the neighborhood on Saturday, July 21 and was captured on video by Dave’s security cameras on his building at 3735 Wyoming. Dave showed us the video of the crime which occurred in complete daylight (around 6:00 p.m.). The video showed two individuals walking west on Wyoming towards their car which was parked on the east side of S. Spring, just south of Wyoming. It also showed two individuals walking south on the west side of S. Spring. The carjackers slowed their pace as they saw the two individuals walking to their car and crossed over to S. Spring to approach the individuals. The crime occurred in about 15 seconds. Dave has turned over his video surveillance to police. As of this time, the suspects have not been identified.*
 - *Dave encourages everyone to install security cameras on their property, especially those who live on corners. He is a great proponent of surveillance cameras. He was invited to join the TGH Safety Committee.*
 - *Dave practices the police advice of “walking with a purpose” and says everyone should do this.*
 - *The police officers present said they would also like to see more security camera installations. They advised avoiding texting at night while sitting in a parked car because the illumination from the cell phone can be seen from up to a block away.*

- They also advised making note of a suspect's shoes which may help with identification. The TGS-TGH Block Captain training packet module, "Neighborhood Eyes and Ears Team" (NEET) includes instructions on identifying and reporting suspects. (see attachment)
- **Neighborhood Reports**
 - **15th Ward Aldermanic report** - Alderperson Megan Green (megan@meganellyiaqreen.com / 314-591-9587) was absent.
 - Vicky reported that Megan supports Proposition 1 (the no-tax bond for the city to extend bonds to generate revenue) and is against Prop A (right to work legislation).
 - **SLMPD 2nd District update** - Liaison Officer Ed Slade (edslade@slmpd.org)
 - Officer Slade arranged for two other SLMPD officers to attend our meeting in his absence so that they could hear residents' concerns.
- **Committee Reports**
 - **Treasurer – Rick Stein** (treasurer@towergroveheights.com)
 - In Rick's absence, Vicky reported the net worth in June 2018 was \$ 8,880.46.
 - **Membership Secretary – Jean Iezzi** (membership@towergroveheights.com)
 - The membership competition by street will end on July 31 but memberships are welcome anytime.
 - **President – Vicky Dean** (president@towergroveheights.com)
 - Autumn Fest will be held on October 13, 5:00-8:30 p.m. and will include the new living quarters of Dave and Sally Difani above Black Thorn Pizza and Pub. [See the next Gazette for details.]
 - **Safety Committee – Ryan Barry** (safety@towergroveheights.com)
 - Past-President and Safety Committee member, Barbara Gilchrist, gave a report in Ryan's absence: The committee is continuing to explore installation of a pedestrian light on existing street light poles. As reported last month, there is a solar-powered light that could be clamped onto the street light pole and would illuminate the sidewalk.
 - The committee has obtained LED lights that will be distributed at National Night Out block parties for residents to use for porch lights.
 - **Block Captains – Debra Knox Deiermann** (blockreps@towergroveheights.com)
 - The most recent meeting featured discussion of and an online demonstration of report submission to the Citizens Service Bureau.
 - Recent incidents of crime in the greater neighborhood were discussed including the break-ins at Local Harvest Grocery, 3108 Morgan Ford Road and Tree House Restaurant, 3177 S. Grand. The candlelight vigil for slain Tower Grove South resident and Imo's pizza deliverer, Dave Matthews, was also discussed. Two Block Captains attended.
 - The next TGS-TGH Block Captain meeting on Tuesday, August 13 will feature award-winning naturalist, Mark H.X. Glenshaw, who will present, "Forest Park Owls: Hiding in Plain Sight." This meeting is open to everyone.
 - **Social Committee – Patrick Weber** (social@towergroveheights.com)
 - Thanks to everyone who attended Heights Nights at VP Square!
 - The next Heights Nights event takes place at Black Thorn Pub and Pizza, 3735 Wyoming, on August 14, 6-8 p.m. Everybody is welcome.
 - Volunteers for National Night Out are needed on October 2.
 - Nominations for the Matt-the-Cat Award are welcome.

- **Announcements**

- *Join us for treats from South of the Border during tonight's post-meeting social.*
- *Next TGHNA meeting: Tuesday, August 28, 7:15 p.m. at Center for Divine Love*
- *Next TGSNA meeting: Wednesday, August 15, 6:30 p.m. at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church.*
- *Don't forget to mark your calendar for Autumn Fest 2018: October 13, 5:00-8:30 p.m.*

- **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Knox Deiermann

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www.towergroveheights.com

TGHNA values and seeks a diverse membership. The TGHNA Board recognizes and values the importance of inclusion.

“N.E.E.T.”
(Neighborhood Eyes and Ears Team)
Reporting Module

- ✓ Partner with police and city services to improve neighborhood
 - ✓ No one knows your neighborhood like you do
 - ✓ You are the eyes and ears of your community

Goals

- Become more involved
- Become more aware
- Become more educated
- Create a sense of community

What to look for

Suspicious / Criminal Behavior

- Crime in progress
- Unknown vehicle circling
- Unknown person knocking on doors
- Subject looking into vehicles or trying door handles
- Person walking with household items
- Person approaching different vehicles
- Glass breaking
- Alarms sounding

Quality of Life Issues

(Physical)

- Abandoned vehicles
- Unsecured buildings
- Illegal dumping
- Trash and debris
- Overgrown grass/weeds
- Graffiti
- Porch/Alley light outages (note pole number)

(Behavioral)

- Drug activity
- Prostitution
- Loud music
- Dogs continuously barking
- Disturbances
- Loud vehicles

Neighborhood Safety Concerns

- Street lighting
- Porch/Alley light outages (note pole number to Ameren)
- Open garage doors
- Valuables in plain view
- Shrubbery/trees blocking lighting/entrance points
- Vehicles traveling too fast
- Addresses not marked on front or alley entrances of houses (size of numbers must be at least 4.5")

Who to contact

- Suspicious / Criminal Activity
 - 911
 - 314-231-1212 (non-emergency)
- Quality of Life Issues
(Physical or Behavioral)
 - If it is an ongoing issue for which legal recourse is warranted, report to police: 911 for emergencies; 314-231-1212 for non-emergencies. This is necessary to generate "proof" of Calls for Service which is needed for city to issue a Cease & Desist letter.
 - Citizens' Service Bureau - (314) 622-4800 or www.stlouis-mo.gov/csb
 - Neighborhood Improvement Specialist (NIS)
- Neighborhood Safety Concerns
 - Neighborhood Liaison Officer (P.O. Ed Slade - edslade@slmpd.org)
 - Citizens' Service Bureau (314) 622-4800 or www.stlouis-mo.gov/csb

When to call 911 versus 231-1212

- **911**
 - Crime in Progress
 - Fight
 - Burglary
 - Screams
 - Crime about to happen
 - Prowler
 - Subject looking into vehicles
 - Serious Recent Crime
 - Assault
 - Robbery
 - Gunshots
 - Car accident with injuries
 - Medical emergencies
- **231-1212**
 - No immediate danger
 - Prior crime with no suspect

- Stolen article
- Property damage
- Delayed report
 - Assault last night
 - Fraud
- Non-emergency nuisance
 - Loud music
 - Dogs continuously barking

WHEN IN DOUBT, CALL 911

Common Complaints

- Trash - Citizens' Service Bureau (314) 622-4800 or www.stlouis-mo.gov/csb
- Traffic - Liaison Officer (P.O. Ed Slade – edslade@slmpd.org) / Community Outreach
- Loud music - 231-1212/Problem Property Officer (P.O. Dave Krapf: dekrapf@slmpd.org)
- Drug dealing - Drug Hotline - 241-COPS/911
- Street lights - Citizens' Service Bureau (314) 622-4800 or www.stlouis-mo.gov/csb
- Alley lights - Ameren Missouri - (800) 552-7583; Make note of pole number!
- Derelect vehicles - NIS/231-1212
- Graffiti - Citizens' Service Bureau (314) 622-4800 or www.stlouis-mo.gov/csb

What to Report

- Who
 - Names (nicknames); descriptions
- What
 - Be descriptive
- Where
 - Address; intersections; last known location
- When
 - How long ago? In progress?
- Why
 - Domestic dispute? Prior dispute?
- How
 - Entry point; weapon used

Personal Descriptors

- Names
- Sex
- Race
- Age
- Height/Weight/Build
- Hair color/Length
- Clothing
 - Start from top to bottom
 - Unique shoes are good

- Unique Identifiers
 - Scars, tattoos, limp, etc.

Vehicle Description

- License Plate Number
 - Use phonetic alphabet
 - Even a partial plate number is helpful
- License Plate State
 - A simple out-of-state plate can make a difference
- Color
- Make/Model
- Other unique identifiers
 - Rust; Bumper stickers; Loud exhaust ; Hail or other damage

Other Descriptions

- Actions of suspects
 - Location where illegal activity is taking place
 - Frequency and time of day of illegal activity
- Location where drugs/weapons are kept
 - On subjects
 - Other hiding place
- Any other thing out of the ordinary
 - Lookouts
 - Signals

911 Call

- Describe the Subjects
 - Race/Sex
 - Age
 - Height/Weight/Build
 - Hair Color
 - Clothing (top to bottom)
 - Weapon or tool use
- Describe the Vehicle
 - Color/Make/Model
 - Where parked?
 - Unique identifiers: rust; damage; etc.