

## **June 27, 2023 TGHNA monthly meeting: at CDL**

7:16 Welcome: Greeting and intro from Erica Westbrooks, TGHNA Board President

**SLMPD Neighborhood Liaison's report : Officer Nicola Walker:** NA due to another event.

**6th Ward Alderperson Daniela Velazquez report:** She had a meeting with the new Police Chief. She voted in favor of the 44% water rate hike. There is a short-term rental Bill in front of the B of A now. Currently there is no regulation. There are hearings going on about this now. There is a Zoom meeting July 11.

Question: Why wasn't some of the Covid Relief Fund money used to offset the water rate increase?

Answer: Those funds are already allocated.

Question: Is there a record of how those funds were spent?

This question was not answered.

Question: Is the Cure Violence program still operating?

Answer: Yes, some of those programs are happening.

Question: How did no one know the water department was running out of money?

Answer: The City Water Department is not a regulated utility like Ameren or Spire. They don't have to answer to the Public Service Commission. They are not held to the same standards and this needs to be corrected.

Question: Landlords will have to raise rents due to the water rate increase. Is there any help for this?

This question was not answered directly.

**Neighborhood Improvement Specialist: Christian Saller:** The problem property at 36xx Utah has a dumpster in front of it now. He has met with the owner.

Question: Is it the City that is digging up the sidewalk in front of my house?

Answer: It could be, or it could be Spire.

Question: Why does crime go unchecked in this city? There were five car break-ins on my block recently and my own car was stolen. Also, there are frequently speeders going 50-60 mph on our streets.

Answer: I'm not a policeman. I agree that it is a complicated problem. We have an inadequate number of police but it is better here than in some neighborhoods. If a car doesn't stop when police attempt to stop it, the police can't pursue it.

**Guest Speaker: David Lauber: Development Director Tower Grove Park:**

Tower Grove park is a public-private partnership. In 2017 they began their Master Plan process: the park needed \$65 million. In 2019 the Common Ground Campaign began. All projects going on right now are part of this. Since 2019, \$14.5 million has been raised for this.

Question: Will the path from Bent and Arsenal be restored after the basketball courts are completed?

Answer: Probably.

Question: Do you know the new water fountain for dogs is not working?

Answer: Yes, they know.

Question: Was leveling the soccer fields part of this project?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Why don't you put up a statue of Josephine Baker where the Columbus statue was before it had to be torn down?

Answer: It would cost a quarter of a million dollars to put something else up. With so many other buildings needing attention, it is not a priority.

He gave a pitch for Park memberships. Basic memberships begin at \$50.

**President's Report: Erica Westbrook:** Thank you to Sharon Angle for serving as Social Committee Chair. Our new Chair is Chris Fields. We will continue to auction off gift baskets at Heights Nights.

Thanks to everyone who came out for Heights Night in June.

**Treasurer Report: Rick Stein:** In May, we spent \$149 on a camera (purchased out of money from a fundraiser a few years ago for cameras), \$275 for our annual contribution to the Center for Divine Love for neighborhood meeting space, \$379.81 for website hosting (for 3 years) and domain registration, and \$4.88 in PayPal fees. We took in \$85 in membership fees, \$50 from the raffle at Heights Night. \$19.21 from Amazon Smile (this may be our last donation through that program, since it is ending sometime this year), \$2.76 in interest, and \$783 in a donation from Jennifer Florida. Our total net worth as of 5/31/23 was \$8,462.24.

**Membership report: Jean Iezzi:** There are 399 members. The first rough draft of the Buzz Book has been received. I will work on it next week.

**Social Committee: Chris Fields:** Chris is our new Chair! We will have Heights Nights this year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month; during the warmer months. The next one will be in July: location TBD. Hours 6-8.

**Block Captain report: Jennifer Florida:** Our next meeting is Monday July 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

**Communication Committee:** Interim Chair is Jennifer Florida and we are searching for a new Chair for this committee. We have 730 people on our Mailchimp email list.

**Safety Committee Report: Jennifer Florida/Sharon Angle:** The Safety Committee is now meeting only once every two months, on the second Monday of the month via Zoom. The next meeting is July 17. We still have one camera available for installation. Adam Murray is installing our cameras. Let us know! We are considering investing in convex mirrors for our alleys.

**Old Business:** Erica Westbrooks made a motion to approve the new TGHNA bylaws. Jennifer Florida seconded the motion. A vote was held and the ayes carried. We voted under the old rules which call for a voice vote. The new TGHNA Bylaws are approved.

**New Business:** S. Grand Eco Crew is asking for volunteers.

**Upcoming dates:** next meeting is Tuesday July 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM at CDL.

**Adjourn:** 8:39 PM

Submitted by Sharon Angle