

## **May 25, 2021 TGHNA meeting: via Zoom**

7:16 Welcome

Greeting and intro from Patrick Weber, 2021 TGHNA President.

**SLMPD Neighborhood Liaison's report : Officer Walker:** NA

**15<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderperson Megan Green's report:** NA

**Neighborhood Improvement Specialist report: Katie Wolf:** Reminder to sign up for Notify STL about weather info and other notices. Operation Brightside has a grant for new stickers for the recycling and solid waste bins. They can be picked up at Brightside. There is a form to fill out that Katie is putting in the Zoom Chat.

Question: What about the additional recycling bin for the 38xx block alley between Wyoming and Conn?  
Katie replied that she is talking to Alder Green about that.

**Guest Speakers: St. Louis Circuit Court** Judges Michael Colona and Joseph White. They both hold JDs from Saint Louis University. Tom Gross, Public Information Officer for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Circuit also joined us. He thanked us, and said that community engagement is key to successful justice.

**Judge Whyte:** he lives in Fox Park. He handles divorces, paternity and custody. He said he will mainly just answer questions. He told us that on June 7<sup>th</sup> the Court will move to Phase Three Covid guidelines and the Courthouse will be opened up again to litigants, with social distancing. They will still retain some video.

**Judge Colona:** he lives in the 39xx block of Hartford. The bulk of his work is criminal cases. He is the gatekeeper for all criminal cases, half of all bond motions and misdemeanor bench trials. Due to Covid, they have been constrained in all the cases they can move through the system, and he described all the Covid prevention tactics they have used. Bench trials are required to be in person. Since January 2021 he has cleared 780 cases. Because they don't have juries they can move faster.

The Court has now begun jury trials again with social distancing, plexiglass, interviews by video and social distancing in the Courtroom. They are triaging jury cases; with murder cases first. All of the latest ones have been convictions.

### **Questions:**

What has surprised or challenged you the most?

**Whyte:** I have a new appreciation for all of the hard work a jury does.

**Colona:** I've been surprised by some of the things that young lawyers do. He has to remind himself that he is not the advocate anymore; he must be neutral. He likes being a judge more than he did being an elected official.

Do you accept Neighborhood Impact Statements? Both Judges said yes.

How much do politics influence what actually happens?

**Colona:** Marijuana cases don't get issued anymore, unless there is some other kind of issue (crime) happening in tandem. Kim Gardner is trying to go the social services route instead of the previous route. The name for this is "diversion". Violent crimes are treated the same way as before.

**President's Report: Patrick Weber:** Any questions? There were none.

**Treasurer Report: Rick Stein:** April: Expenses were \$200 in PayPal fees (high due to Bohannon donations online). We took in \$260 in memberships, \$7.40 in Amazon Smile, and the Officer Bohannon memorial fund is now at \$7880. Our net worth as of April 30 was \$19,616.94 (that figure includes the Bohannon donations).

**Membership report: Jean Iezzi:** We currently have 431 members.

**Social Committee:** none currently. We are looking for a Chair.

**Block Captain report: Debra Knox Deierman:** Thank you to Richard Buthold, long time Block Captain for 36-3700 Humphrey. He will be moving out of the neighborhood soon. Recently there was a big Alley Blitz for the 3800 block of Humphrey-Wyoming.

**Communication Committee: Debra Knox Deierman:** We have 747 on Mail Chimp email. Please check your junk mail if you signed up but are not receiving emails. The website has been updated with Officer Bohannon info.

**Safety Committee Report: Erica Westbrooks:** She introduced herself. They just had the first meeting with her as Chair. The Committee is working on getting the City to help with much-needed sidewalk repair.

**Old Business:** By-law amendments: (1)accommodation for virtual meetings and for the TGHNA Board to vote virtually (2) Lifetime Business memberships will follow the business if the business is sold. Motion to approve: 1<sup>st</sup> Rick Stein, 2<sup>nd</sup> Diana Reagan. The motion passes unanimously.

**New Business:** NA

**Adjourn:** 8:15

Submitted by Sharon Angle