

February 25, 2020 TGHNA meeting:

7:17 Welcome

Introduction of new members and first time attendees, and also of Michelle Sherod, who is running for State Senate.

SLMPD Neighborhood Liaison: Officer Slade: He discussed minor crimes and the robbery at 38xx Wyoming. There was a car-jacking on February 7th involving juveniles. One of them has committed many robberies in our area. But robberies in general are down in our area.

Guest Speaker: St Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson. With her were **Todd Waelterman, Director of Operations for St. Louis** and **Dr. F. Echols, Director of the STL Department of Health.** Mayor Krewson said there were currently a lot of great things happening in the City, with \$10 billion in investment. She mentioned the new SLU hospital and the new NGA site, as well as development in many neighborhoods. She said the City has 55,000 street lights, but if one is out to call it in. She knows we have many potholes in the streets. All City employees will be receiving a \$15 per hour minimum wage. But the City needs to pay its employees more competitively. There are 700 permanent jobs open and 300 seasonal jobs open. Public safety is the most important job. But we are 152 police officers short. The City has buildings that have been vacant for up to 40 years. It is tough to attract police officers due to the residency requirement and the fact that many don't want to become a police officer now. We are the only city or town in the area that has a residency requirement. We are not competitive on pay with St. Louis County.

Something positive is that we are now selling more LRA buildings than we are taking in, and there is a real increase of young people moving into the City.

Dr. Echols addressed the Corona virus, which is a new virus. There is no immunity. The elderly are at risk as well as anyone with immune system problems. There are 14 cases in the U.S. St. Louis has a very strong public health system. We work with the state and the state works with the CDC. The virus has a 14 day incubation period. Question: how does the virus spread? Answer: through coughing and sneezing.

Mayor Krewson addressed the Cure Violence program. It addresses the root cause of violence, tries to provide economic opportunity and wrap around services like mental health, and anger management. The program includes an evaluation piece to evaluate effectiveness.

Questions for Mayor Krewson: Why not close the Work House? Answer: We do not have alternative space to house everyone. We have closed the old dorms. We have 250 people in pods. Pods are much more modern. It's not so simple as one bed, one person. We don't have enough beds. Are we imprisoning people for being poor? Answer: No. Some people need to be imprisoned. The City has spent \$5-6 million to upgrade the Work House over the last few years. Is there anything that can be done about the drivers with expired car tags? Answer: Tickets don't seem to work. We need change at the state level, and at car dealerships, but car dealers don't want this. Can public transportation be

improved? Answer: There is a new public safety program on Metrolink. It will take \$900 million for the North-South expansion. We only have \$30 million now.

15th Ward Alderperson Megan Green's report: She was not present.

Neighborhood Improvement Specialist report: Katie Wolf: There will be a public safety community meeting at Roosevelt High School, but I did not hear the date and time. The TGSNA will be doing mental health and first aid training. No date was given. Oak Hill Presbyterian is looking to help neighbors with needed yard work. Katie will have a sign-up form for this at the next meeting. Question: Are out-houses allowed? Answer: they cannot be on a sidewalk without a permit.

Treasurer Report: Rick Stein: The TGHNA net worth is \$10,101.54. We are up for the year.

Membership report: Jean Iezzi: Membership is at an all-time high of 377 members. There are forms available to sign up tonight.

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

Block Captain report: Debra Knox Deierman: We are looking for new block captains for 36-3700 Humphrey. TGS still needs Block Captains. We are working to clean up "The Wedge".

Safety Committee Report: Ryan Barry: The main objective right now is cleaning up the trash around the Schnucks at Grand and Gravois.

Adjourn: 8:25 PM

Submitted by Sharon Angle