

## Tower Grove Height Neighborhood Association: Minutes of General Meeting: August 22, 2023

Resident Erin O'Reilly presented a city legislative bill called HOPPS, Healthy Outdoor Parks and Public Spaces. This bill is supported by the St. Louis NoSpray Coalition. Daniela Velazquez and Anne Schweitzer will present this bill to the Board of Aldermen. This bill hopes to eliminate the use of toxic pesticides in STL city's public spaces. The bill wants the city to use alternative/organic methods of pest and weed control.

Officer Nicola Walker handed out copies of the August crimes reported in and around Tower Grove Heights. She emphasized the need to lock your cars and garages/sheds. Using a car club can help deter car thefts. Keeping your bushes cut low will eliminate places for criminals to hide.

Christian Saller gave updates on condemned buildings in Tower Grove Heights and other pertinent neighborhood information.

\*Nick Mook, owner of a condemned building on the 3600 block of Humphrey, is in court for multiple violations.

\*Other condemned buildings (on Wyoming and Utah) continue to be monitored by Mr. Saller and the building inspector in this area.

\*The city is waiting for a special plastic coating/covering to stripe speed humps. Paint is not an option.

\*National Night Out is October 3, 2023, from 4pm to 9pm. Have your block register if it plans to participate. 314-657-1392 or [NST@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:NST@stlouis-mo.gov)

Alderperson Daniela Velazquez spoke about legislation being discussed at the Board of Aldermen and of upcoming meetings.

\* Changes in the city Charter.

\* Tighter laws and penalties on gun control in the city.

\* Changing the procedure on how a liquor license is obtained.

\* Having laws in place to handle the abundance of Airbnb's in the city.

\* A meeting on the Development of Fanning Middle School on Sept. 28, 2023, at the Carpenter Library from 6-7. Screaming Eagle Development will be there to answer questions.

\* Town Hall meeting for 6th ward residents and other interested people on August 29, 2023, from 6:30-8:00 at 3611 S. Grand.

President of TGHNA Erica Westbrooks reported on new and old business....

\* The Association needs people to run for President Elect.

\* Other positions that need to be filled are: Social Committee Chair, Communication/Media Chair, and Block Captain Chair.

\* Considering the fact that TGHNA has not had a fund-raising event since pre-COVID, the Association is embarking on a fundraising campaign to raise \$4,000.00.

\* Speaking on behalf of Rachel Witt, director of the S. Grand Business District, the Annual S. Grand Fall and Music Fest is September 16, 2023, from 11 am to 8 pm. If interested in volunteering to help with this event, contact the S. Grand Improvement District: [southgrand.org](http://southgrand.org)

\* A TGHNA fundraiser event is ZUMBA in the Street on Saturday, September 16, 2023, at 3719 Juniata at 9 am. \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Go to <http://www.towergroveheights.com> for more details and payment information.

\*UMSL workforce training series for building human skills in the workplace. This is a ZOOM video (virtual) webinar on Saturday, September 16, 2023, from 10:30 am to 12 pm

\* A response was received to the letter sent by the TGHNA Board regarding the criminal activity witnessed on July 11, 2023, during a Heights Night. Thanks to the TGHNA Board's letter, the city will look into how to stop miscommunication and improve response time on 911 calls.

\* The next Heights Night is September 12, 2023. The location has not been confirmed.

\* A new business on S. Grand, Social Goods Market Place, would like to have a gathering for TGHNA residents.

Rick Stein, treasurer, reported that on July 31, 2023, TGHNA had \$8549.92 in assets. Rick also said that there is a fundraiser for the Roosevelt H.S. football team Saturday, August 26, 2023, at Riley's Pub from 1 pm to 6 pm.

Jean Iezzi, membership secretary reported that there are 397 members.

Unrelated to membership, Jean reminded attendees that residents are responsible for the new trees planted by the city in the easement. The Forestry Department recommends that the new trees be watered weekly if there is no significant rainfall. One should water slowly, so the water can saturate the ground 16 inches from the trunk. For the water to reach the root ball of the new tree, ten to fifteen gallons is a recommended amount of water per watering. The tree should have at least 3-4 inches of mulch around it but NOT next to the trunk. Keep the mulch 6 inches away from the trunk. There are two schools of thought about the water retention bags planted with some new trees. Some believe the bags should be left in place and covered with mulch. Others believe the bags should be removed and the mulch should be directly on the soil.