

Tower Grove Heights

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting – June 26, 2018
Convened: 7:20 p.m. Adjourned: 8:30 p.m. 25 attendees

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

- **Opening of meeting and welcome**

- **Newcomer recognition**
 - Welcome to Jan Shirk - new resident from 3800 Humphrey!

- **Speaker: Dana Gray, Tower Grove Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation**

- Director Sean Spencer was unavailable to attend so Dana presented an overview of the work of TGNDC which was formed in 2013.
- The organization is a consolidation of individual CDCs in the Shaw, Tower Grove South (including Tower Grove Heights) and Southwest Garden neighborhoods.
- Their newest board member is Denise Rogers, representing Tower Grove South Neighborhood Association. She resides in the “Wedge” area. [Since Tower Grove Heights is not an official city neighborhood, TGHNA does not have a seat on their board.]
- The “Wedge” area has been identified as having the greatest need in the CDC’s service area due to its high concentration of vacancies, blight, etc.
- Dana manages the Landlord Training program and recently has partnered with entities on the north side, achieving what she describes as “great results.”
- Recently TGNDC received a \$1.2 million grant to help Tower Grove Park with infrastructure, access and safety issues.
- The CDC has also redeveloped eight townhouses, and 64 rental units in the 4100 block of De Tonty.
- The CDC has proposed developing housing for older adults in the Bevo neighborhood.

- **Neighborhood Reports**

- **15th Ward Aldermanic report**
Aldersperson Megan Green (megan@meganellyiaagreen.com / 314-591-9587)
 - The Board of Alderman will vote on a new city budget on Friday.
 - They will fully fund the affordable housing trust fund.
 - The Neighborhood Stabilization Office budget will not be cut so no Neighborhood Improvement Specialists will lose their jobs.
 - There will be an issues forum on Thursday evening.
 - About three agencies have submitted RFPs to manage Biddle House, the City’s homeless shelter.
- Student Hannah Schumway was introduced. She is doing a research project on getting around without a car in this area and would like to interview residents before August 2.
- **SLMPD 2nd District update** (see attached crime statistics)
Liaison Officer Ed Slade (edslade@slmpd.org)
 - There have been some robberies on Morgan Ford Road in Tower Grove South but car break ins are mostly being reported in Tower Grove Heights at the present time.
 - Bikes, scooters, and weed trimmers have been reported stolen. Vandalism has also been reported.

- *Officer Slade has been writing traffic violation tickets at Gustine and Juniata and will continue to do so.*
 - *Some homeless individuals have stolen tip jars from restaurants on S. Grand.*
 - *He advised being careful about phones and other electronic devices such as tablets, laptops, and Kindles while dining on S. Grand restaurant patios because thieves have been able to reach over the patio enclosure walls to grab them.*
- **15th Ward Neighborhood Improvement Specialist, Michelle Boston-David**
bostonm@stlouis-mo.gov or 314-657-1358
 - *As part of their duties, NISs drive around their ward (known as “field work”) to check for violations and issues that need attention. She reports she is continuing to respond to reports and issues observed during field work. One such discovery was a loose manhole cover on S. Grand which she reported to the Streets Department.*
 - *She has been spending a good deal of her time dealing with issues, especially trash and graffiti, in the area of Tower Grove South known as the “Wedge.”*
 - *In response to a resident’s question about scaffolding that has been in front of a house on 3600 Humphrey, she said she is aware of it. The resident then stated the scaffolding has been there for the last 30 years.*
- **Committee Reports**
 - **Treasurer – Rick Stein** (treasurer@towergroveheights.com)
 - *No report*
 - **Membership Secretary – Jean Iezzi** (membership@towergroveheights.com)
 - *No report*
 - **President – Vicky Dean** (president@towergroveheights.com)
 - *The Assessment Task Force (committee) expects their survey to be rolled out in August or September.*
 - *Ajifa Yusof of Edward Jones on S. Grand will be available to answer investment questions and give out her business cards during the post-meeting social hour.*
 - **Safety Committee – Ryan Barry** (safety@towergroveheights.com)
 - *The committee continues to work on lighting options that would improve the dark pools caused by the new LED lighting that was funded and installed in conjunction with the first participatory budgeting round. He showed a solar-powered light that could be attached to existing light standards to provide pedestrian lighting.*
 - *Renters who experience or witness crime should report it directly to SLMPD via 911 rather than to their rental management company or landlord.*
 - **Block Captains – Debra Knox Deiermann** (blockreps@towergroveheights.com)
 - *The most recent TGS-TGH Block Captain meeting featured TGH resident and multimedia artist, Justin King, who created the Carl-the-Duck sculpture in Ritz Park. Justin has also participated in the S. Grand Chalk Walk event.*
 - *Washington University’s Stop the Bleed project will be presented at a later meeting.*
 - **Social Committee – Patrick Weber** (social@towergroveheights.com)
 - *There was a good turnout for Heights Nights at Tower Grove Creamery.*
 - *The next Heights Nights event will take place on July 10 at VP Square, 6-8 p.m. Everybody is welcome.*

- *National Night Out is scheduled for August 2. [Since this report, the date has been officially changed to Tuesday, October 9.] There will be some competitions between blocks and stoops including best “selfies,” and number of participants, etc. Permits are required but there is no cost for these.*
- *Again this year, permits for regular block parties, up to one per year, will be reimbursed by TGHNA.*
- *Please submit ideas for 2019 events to social@towergroveheights.com.*
- *This quarter’s Matt-the-Cat (good neighbor) award goes to Erin O’Reilly, for her efforts in organizing a very successful alley clean-up blitz on 3800 Humphrey. See photos and details on the website, towergroveheights.com, under “Neighborhood Spotlight.” Debra Knox Deiermann accepted on Erin’s behalf. Congratulations to Erin on a job well done!*

- **Announcements**

- *Join us for pie for the post-meeting social hour!*
- *Save the date: October 13 – Autumn Fest*
- *Next TGSNA meeting: July 18, 6:30 p.m., Oak Hill Presbyterian Church, 4111 Connecticut*
- *Next TGHNA meeting: July 24, 7:15 p.m., Center for Divine Love, 3617 Wyoming*

- **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Knox Deiermann

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www.towergroveheights.com

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association values and seeks a diverse membership. The TGHNA Board recognizes and values the importance of inclusion.