

Holly Hills Improvement Association
General Meeting Notes
Monday, January 26, 2009

Present: Paul Sager, Kate Hastings, Tara Ohler-Jenney, Patrick Hanlon, Stacy Ross, Barbara Russell

Unable to Attend: Brooks Goedeker, Beth Murphy, Anne Borgmeyer

Paul Sager called the meeting to order. Minutes from the November 2008 meeting may be found on the website and in the newsletter. Copies of the financial report were available at the meeting.

Captain Spiess reported that the district has experienced a reduction in crime in the past two years. Three robberies took place in 2008. There has been one robbery (purse snatching at a bus stop – no weapon was involved) and no burglaries reported so far in 2009. There has been a series of car break-ins in the Holly Hills and Boulevard Heights neighborhoods. The thieves are juveniles and they are armed. Captain Spiess stressed that residents should call the police and NOT take matters into their own hands. He reminded residents to use “the club” on their vehicle steering wheels to reduce the likelihood of theft. Officer Bottini noted that the St. Louis police officer of the year awards banquet is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18 at noon at the Christy. Call Officer Bottini for details.

Due to inclement weather, Dan Rechtien, Coordinator of the Fraud Prevention Task Force with the Circuit Attorney's office, rescheduled his presentation for the HHIA March general meeting.

Alderman Matt Villa reported that the property owner of Foodland must obtain a conditional use permit from the city zoning department in order for the tractor-trailers to park on the back parking lot. The process includes a zoning hearing where interested parties can express their concerns or support. A developer is still being sought for the property at the corner of Grand and Holly Hills. The city and the YMCA are in the process of finalizing an agreement for the Y to operate the new community recreation center in Carondelet Park. Five new homes are to be constructed along Bates east of the Jack-in-the-Box. Zoning was approved for the Fifth Third Bank to build a branch at Loughborough Commons. While the city's portion of the funding for road improvements on Loughborough is available, Federal funding has been held up. Plans call for the bike trail along Germania to eventually continue east, then south to Jefferson Barracks.

Alderman Fred Wessels did not attend the meeting due to illness.

Neighborhood Stabilization Officer TJ Minden of Ward 13 encouraged residents to participate in the St. Louis Public Schools' community education program. In addition to a variety of course offerings, Bevo-Long Middle CEC (314-353-1034) holds Community Education Council meetings on the second Monday of each month.

Nini Harris, local historian, is in the process of conducting a survey to determine if the Holly Hills neighborhood will qualify as a Federal historic district. The survey area is bounded by Bates, Grand, Holly Hills and Morganford. Nini will be describing each building. If awarded, the designation as a Federal historic district may make some entities eligible for Federal and state tax credits and encourage proper rehabbing of the buildings. The designation would be less restrictive than the City's historic district designation. Nini is also working on a series of books about the Bellerive, Holly Hills and Carondelet neighborhoods. She is looking for information on the Great Depression and World War II. Details on the information she hopes to find will be available in the next newsletter.

Tara Ohler-Jenney reminded residents that HHIA annual membership fees for 2009 are due (\$10.00 per household and \$25 per business). Holly Hills flags are also available for purchase at \$30.00 each. Paul Sager announced that HHIA, in conjunction with Front Door Features, will host an outdoor movie on Saturday, June 13 in Carondelet Park. The next General Meeting will be held in March.

Residents may contact the Holly Hills Improvement Association by going to the website: hollyhills.info.

The meeting was adjourned.