

HHIA General Meeting

November 22, 2010

Roll Call: Board Members Present: Tara Ohler-Jenney, Stacy Ross, Brenda Smarko

Board Member Rich Hutson has resigned

Guest Speakers: John Hicks, St. Louis County Highways Department and Tia Thurman, Vector Communications

Many years ago proposal to have north/south connector to connect Clayton to north and south county. Original idea would have been a highway that would have passed through too many residential areas.

Now they are looking at some kind of a parkway or arterial road. Just starting the planning and environmental study.

Some areas already don't like it – Shrewsbury isn't happy about potential traffic. Showed a map.

Problem with I-44 as well – not a full interchange between Jamison and Elm. Exits were designed to 1960 standards. Lots of accidents.

Tia – Developing a web site will be up in a couple weeks. The important thing is public involvement. Want to hear concerns, share things about your community.

John – We're kind of excited that the first neighborhood group is in the City.

Thursday, Dec. 9 Open House to meet study team, find out purpose, history, timeline for project. Study will take place over about 30 months – community meetings. Holly Hills is one of first communities to hear about the study.

Community Outreach Officer Report: Officer Mark O'Brien

Passed out Home security checklist

Dist. 1 Information sheet – has O'Brien's email and phone number, let me know about any concerns, I don't care how small it is. I do get a lot of calls so if I don't get to you that day or the next day, it is coming.

Thursday Dec. 9th Open House quarterly 1st Dist. community outreach at Feasting Fox banquet hall

Commander Capt. Dan Howard – Took over for Joe Spies: You guys are fortunate enough that you don't have much crime in Holly hills, at least not the persons crime, maybe some shoplifters at the Walgreen's.

We caught a burglar with a big screen TV. The victim said he had just bought it the day before. How did the thief know? Saw the box in the alley. Keep that in mind.

Don't put any stock in the crime rankings. It's a numbers game. It's just a matter of how you document things and how you look at reports.

UMSL has report on its web site that two researchers won an award for their research indicating the crime rankings are invalid.

O'Brien – Operation Park Smart – signs remind you to hide your valuables

Howard – You'd be amazed at how many attempted burglaries there are – the alarms, a dog scares them away, very valuable tools.

Aldermanic Report: Matt Villa

In the 11th & 13th wards completely going to recycling dumpsters or roll carts. Hopefully before spring but it looks like it might be early spring.

Based on the usage of the recycling area in the park, refuse has a hard time keeping those containers empty.

Long term I'd like to get rid of those recycling containers in the park. Several years down the road, maybe after everyone starts recycling in their neighborhoods.

Loughborough bridge in front of the shopping center is being widened. Unfortunately it's a long project, probably won't be finished until late spring. Money came from DESCO, stimulus and 11th ward capital projects fund (Matt saved up over five years)

Phase II is widening the south side of the bridge, don't know when they will get funding for that. They're also stabilizing the bridge, extending its life and resurfacing.

Bridge over railroad tracks to the rec center. It has a big hole in it – currently covered with a metal plate. Long term it needs to be removed and replaced.

One school of thought – close to vehicular traffic and leave it for bikes and pedestrians. Railroad would like to tear down the bridge and build a new loop road to the rec center that comes straight out of the parking lot to Holly Hills Boulevard - would eliminate need for the bridge, but that would cut off access to the western side of Holly Hills – would make it very inconvenient.

The other idea that I think has some merit – it would take some engineering. If they took that bridge out, replace the two bridges with one bridge. Can they configure the area in such a way that if they move the access could they build one bridge.

Union Pacific will pay for it if we work with them. Why? Because currently they don't have rights to run through Carondelet Park. They would want a longterm agreement that would let them continue to run through the park.

Nothing will happen anytime soon. This is one, two, five years down the road. It's safe enough now but longterm something needs to be done.

Speaking to bridges, MoDOT and the city have a long range plan to build new bridges over the River des Peres – start 2013.

Southbound on 55 get off at Germania would add a bridge to get across to River des Peres (road). Right off the exit there would be a bridge to take you right over the river. Congressman Gephardt got money for a long range study about transportation and economic upgrades.

Money to pay for the bridges was originally earmarked for the Weber Road project with Pace Properties. That fell apart with the economy. Now the money is there for these bridges.

Loughborough Commons: Fifth Third Bank is almost finished. Bridgestone Firestone is building a new auto repair/tire store next to Burger King.

One outparcel left for sale – several companies are interested – DESCO has not decided yet. Not a sit-down restaurant. The remaining parcel isn't big enough. The previous plan for a restaurant was going to be on two parcels combined. DESCO held out as long as they could but they just couldn't hold on to it any longer so they sold one parcel to Firestone.

Lot behind Jack in the Box on Bates. Habitat for Humanity is proposing 5 houses. Committee to make sure they blend in. NiNi Harris, Patrice Petrich from Woodward NOW, architect on Bellerive and one other person. Houses back up to alley on Bellerive.

We would get 5 nice new houses that would fit in with the neighborhood. I think it would be a positive. Habitat is fifth largest builder in the U.S. All the builders in the state are supporters.

Once the Loughborough bridge is finished and then the Holly Hills and Delor bridges will be removed. There's going to be congestion for the foreseeable future.

City Budget – we're trying to do everything we can. It's going to be a tight budget year. Our budget year starts July 1. We're on track to have a \$10 million deficit.

Neighborhood Stabilization Officer Report: TJ Minden

Operation Brightside in the running to get a \$250k from Pepsi Foundation.

Alarm management – false alarms are a big problem. Police say the program has dropped from tens of thousands to the hundreds.

Guest Speaker: Jill Hamilton from Refuse Division Recycling Management and Elizabeth McAdams – focuses on residences

Landfilling 200,000 tons, fees = \$6-7 million just to bury solid waste in the landfills

We don't pick up any solid waste from businesses or institutions

Of 200,000 tons over 140,000 tons comes from alley dumpsters and roll carts, so the majority is coming from city residents. Urging residents to reduce reuse recycle

Some of these ideas will actually save you money. A lot of it is packaging. You're paying for it twice – for the product packaging and to dispose of it. Historically people think the trash service is free but you were paying for it through your taxes.

Recycling household batteries. Recycling compact fluorescents – last 10x longer than incandescents, reduces amount of lightbulb waste. They do contain small amounts of mercury but I find them to be a little sturdier. They are so incredibly efficient that the tiny amount of mercury is very small compared to the mercury that is coming out of coal power plants

Re-use is different from recycling. Re-use is washing out a jar and using it to store pennies. Recycling is melting down that glass to make a new jar. Recycling still uses resources but less than landfilling.

One thing to consider is donating to charities – dropping things off. There's a whole bunch of charities that will actually come and pick up your stuff. Focus on things that people can really use – if not it's just causing waste for that charity, particularly electronics.

27 drop off sites for recycling – accept food and beverage, body care products etc. Accept #1-5 and 7 plastics

We do earn some money on our drop off service, just not enough to cover all the costs.

Terminating curb side service

Business cooperative lists materials – usually construction materials – they need to get rid of.

Buy items made with reused or recycled content.

20,000 tons of yard waste – of the 200,000 ton total – end up in land fill because people put it in wrong dumpster

Largest part of our waste stream is paper 35-40%. Yard waste and food waste 12-15% each

Worm composting can be done indoors or outdoors – worms are very, very effective in food composting. Has to be at least 40 degrees.

City doesn't have funding for collecting household hazardous waste. City encourages people to reduce use of hazardous waste – one of the biggest is lawn and garden chemicals. Use native plants – requires less water too.

Twice a week trash, once a week yard waste, once month bulky items. Automotive batteries, tires, appliances. Once a month can bring a pickup truckload to dump.

Refuse is completely automated – don't block dumpsters!

Subscribe to monthly newsletter.

In July Board of Aldermen passed ordinance to pay out of pocket for trash. \$11/month billed quarterly. Fee is to cover the cost of service. We have done everything we can to try to reduce costs. Tried the once a week pick up – lots of complaints

That's a short term thing. Long term – city is implementing alley/curbside recycling

Blue recycling dumpster. This one is going to be different. Big heavy steel lid with slots to discourage people dumping big bags of trash.

Be patient with us – it's taking time and logistics and reorientation

By recycling and avoiding landfilling these materials we'll be avoiding landfill fees. We do earn a little bit of revenue from recyclables.

The meeting was adjourned