

HHIA – March 28, 2011

Roll Call: Tara Ohler, Beth Murphy, Brenda Smarko, Anna Baldwin
Not Present: Stacy Ross, Paul Sager

Kendal Dauphin and Ted Disabato introduced themselves and were voted in as members at large

Community Outreach Officer Report:

Promoting “Old school community policing.” Spoke about Dutchtown and Lafayette Square (visiting policeman from Dutchtown).

Crime Victim Advocacy Committee-Call and speak to victims to communicate with victims. Mobile patrols – 18 members, weekend class for potential people. Two people that ride neighborhood to look out – type things up on form if they see suspicious activity. Give to police to follow up on.

Guest Speaker – Mayor Francis Slay

Prop E April 5. Mayor expressed how devastating it would be if prop E did not pass. \$8 to \$10 million shortfall with earnings tax in place. Would be compounded if not in place.

The mayor took questions from the audience.

Q: Recycling dumpsters: Are dumpsters beneficial?

A: Mayor Yes. It takes time to get used to, but is working. Saves landfill costs and is environmentally responsible.

Q. How long has the earnings tax been in effect and how long

A. Since 1949 at smaller percentage, 1950's 1%. Disadvantage for people/companies that are considering moving in the city.

Q: Convention Center – They don't have to pay earnings tax on it (e.g. shows)

A: Mayor offered to get more info on the details of the convention center rules.

Q: Who is regulating private dumpsters? Overflowing.

A: People can opt out of city program and can find a private hauler. Contact Refuse Dept. (monitoring who opts out) or Citizens Service Bureau if they are not maintained.

Q: People that do not have cars registered in city (plates). Living in city, working in county, or living in city and do not have car registered in city.

A: It is hard to police it, but city would like to know if people are avoiding taxes. Have to take up with Greg Daly's office.

Q: New construction in South Grand area...who is paying for it?

A: Been planned for a long time. South Grand Community Improvement District planned early on in mayors administration. American Recovery (stimulus) money is paying for it, not city money. South Grand is a destination and has come a long way, no impact by earnings tax.

Q: Any chance of revising Prop E so don't have to vote every 5 years?

A: Being discussed. Long term vision

Q: City employees retirement lump sum payout

A: Lump sum (for accumulated sick leave) eliminated for city employees because costing too much. Fire Dept. Suing over it. Limits have been put in place for sick leave accumulation – not vacation.

Guest Speaker

Mike Malone – Founder and Head of School for South City Prep School

New charter school opening on South Grand. Old Messiah Lutheran school 5th and 6th grade (75 each) opening this year. Free public school – just need to prove that you live in city and child is of age. Free and open until they reach capacity. Open house at building 4/9 10 am until 2pm. Renovations may be under progress. College Prep School. Goal is to get kids to college. 8 – 4:30. and longer school year (longer days and yr) vs. traditional public. Focus on reading and math, then progress to strong science, etc. to focus on well-rounded individuals. Year-round school. 6 weeks on and 2 weeks off. Can go to school to register or go online. Must prove residency. May eventually go through 12th grade. Will either expand to larger location or have multiple locations.

Aldermanic Reports:

Tom Villa – acting Alderman Ward 11

Loughborough bridge should be finished mid May. Holly Hills – finished by year end

Fred Wessels:

Most employers in city want earnings tax to pass.

Cars with Illinois plates – if been there for more than six months, police may ticket it. If police don't respond, call your alderman.

Dumpster – Trying to get it moved.

Recycling bins – most people really like them - 60% of ward have them – rest should be distributed next fiscal year – July 1. This was due to budget constraints. \$100K approved for this fiscal year, rest for next.

Q: Any plans to put in more recycle bins as it catches on?

A: No plans, just wait and see. Have to purchase either regular or recycle dumpster.

Q: The city took the city dumpster away due to private dumpster. Why did they take it away?

A: Took address to look into it. (Refuse Dept) May have been taken away due to recycle bin

Q: Who is in charge of trash receptacles at exit 203

A: Highway department – transportation department

Q: Advanced Auto – They have sign stated that they can install batteries

A: Should not be installing batteries or anything according occupancy permit.

Q: Speeding issue on Morgan Ford. Thank you for addressing, but spring is here. Timing is everything – police came right after a race, but they did not know that race happened.

How effective are speed signs?

A.: Very effective. Speeds have reduced. On Morgan Ford. Between Bates and Holly Hills – move curb out to make look better and make safer. Will reduce speed. Will have turn lane.

Neighborhood Stabilization Officer Report

Brian Kolde – Ward 11 NSO

Public Nuisance Ordinance can work to address any issues. Holly Hills Doesn't have a lot of these fortunately. Call police first (911 or non-emergency police) if there is a nuisance problem (e.g. noise, fights, etc.)

Two or more in six month period – property on probation. Can issue a cease and desist order. Once properties are on cease desist order can get citations if violated. Stressed calling police and NSO to determine if there is a problem.

Private dumpster issue – Health dept. monitors certain aspects of this (e.g. overflowing)
Call Citizen's Service Bureau

Ohler-Jenney brought up anonymous letter regarding plantings at circle at intersection at Leona and Holly Hills. Encouraged letter-writer to come forward so the issue can be discussed and resolved to his or her satisfaction.

Tim Bolt, volunteer neighborhood gardener, pointed out that plantings at this intersection have been changed from previous years. In addition, individuals should pull up to the stop sign where the sight lines are clear.

Neighborhood garden – needs volunteers to plant – parkways, please do not dump leaves, etc. to dump on parkways. Street dept. will not pick up on parkway. Blow onto street for street dept. to pick up.

Announcements

Recycle Bins, please pay attention – don't stack on items on the side of the bins. Call city if pick up is needed.

HHIA Board would like to pursue new location for neighborhood meeting at Carondelet Park Rec Plex.

Need writers for newsletter.

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