

Holly Hills Meeting Minutes 5-23-2016

Board Members Present: Anna Baldwin, Tara Jenney, Jim Sahaida

Treasurer's report: Printed copy available to all in attendance

Guest Speakers:

Professor Damon Hall, St. Louis University – Center for Sustainability – Bee Study Program and Gerardo Camilo, St. Louis University – Biology Professor and Entomologist

Bees are in decline. There are 450 bee species in Missouri. An effect of the fluctuating food prices are the diminishing number of bees. If we want to maintain our food supply we need a diversity of bees. Holly Hills has the second to the lowest diversity of bees in St. Louis City. St. Louis has more diversity of bees than the following cities: Cleveland, NY City, San Diego, Chicago, and Detroit. Actually, cities, instead of suburbia or rural communities, are becoming a refuge for bees. There are 22 to 30 study sites here for bees where bees are caught and are categorized. Community gardens that have flowers are an asset for bees. Flowers with high nectar help bees. A grant was funded by the Missouri Department of Conservation to plant more flowers. A study was done on lawn mowing and it was found that mowing less produce more bees. There was a 300% increase in the number of bees when the lawn was mowed every three weeks over being mowed once a week. It is called a low mowing regime over a high mowing regime. In June and July those interested can sign up to attend workshops that will be about 1½ hours. The website is www.slu.edu/sustainability The funding grant is for one year. Signs will be available to residents in two to four weeks that read "pollination research area".

Dan Skillman, Parks Commissioner, St. Louis City Parks Department – Carondelet Parks Project

Funding is available in the amount of 2½ million dollars from bond sales tax money for improvements to Carondelet Park. The comfort station by the tennis courts has been renovated. Stone walk paths are being removed from around the park, and are replaced with asphalt and covered with limestone. The ball field and tennis court lights will be replaced. The tennis courts will be repaved after the first part of July so as to not interrupt scheduled uses before then. There will be renovations to the lower part of the Boathouse. Restrooms will be rehabbed with new plaster and paint. On the dock the wood docking will be replaced with composite and will be ADA accessible. This will go out for bid in the next couple of weeks. Stone signs will replace wood signs at each of the entrances to the park. The signs will mirror, in appearance, the entrance signs at Forest Park. The bid will go out in the next couple of weeks. There will be remodeling of the Lyle House that will include the kitchen, flooring upgrade, and electric. It is about 50% along the way in design. Loughborough drive will be resurfaced from Loughborough blvd. to Grand dr.

13th Ward Neighborhood Improvement Specialist, Andrew Hernandez

Mr. Hernandez introduced himself as our new Neighborhood Improvement Specialist. He previously was assigned to another ward and before being in his current position he worked for the City as a Citizen Service Specialist. He is getting familiar with our area. He did state the operation Brightside will assist with new gardens.

Ginger Kavanaugh, St. Louis Police Officer, Problem Properties

Officer Kavanaugh is the St. Louis District One, Problem Property Officer. A problem property is a nuisance property and it becomes a nuisance property with a high call for police service. 90% of problem properties are rental properties. If a person calls about a problem property give the address for the property when making the call as this is how calls for services count and are added. If a property is deemed a nuisance property by the City then it is shut down for a year and has to go through stringent requirements before it can be removed as a nuisance.

Neighborhood Liaison Police Officer, Steve Wilson

If Officer Wilson is contacted he stated he responds real quick. If a vehicle such as a dump truck parked in the alley on Arendes was ticketed. He is also being alert to those who are living in our community but have Illinois plates and is ticketing those vehicles. He is open to stopping by to say high at street parties. He invited Holly Hills resident to attend the 1st. District Police Quarterly meeting on June 15 at 7pm at the Feasting Fox restaurant. He said there usually is a good showing of residents from Bevo and Princeton Heights and usually no one is in attendance from S. Hampton or Holly Hills.

Fred Wessels, candidate for Missouri State Representative, 81st. District

Fred stated his experience includes being a Vietnam War veteran and hospital administrator in Saudi Arabia for two years. He served as the 13th ward alderman for 28 years and was the Executive Director of the Peregrine Society that provides cancer services for 30 years. He was appointed by Mayor Slay as Executive Director of the Community Development Agency and was successful in creating an open, fair and competitive process. Over 500 housing units were funded during his service as Director. One of the projects that was funded was the Charless Home on Broadway at Highway 55. The home had been vacant and now will be renovated into senior independent living apartments. Each unit will have its own kitchen – there will be no common dining area. Fred stated those interested for more information can go to his website – FredWessels.com He asked attendees to consider him for their vote.

Steve Butz, candidate for Missouri State Representative, 81st. District

Steve introduced himself as a candidate for the State Representative Office. He is currently the President of the Crawford-Butz Insurance Company. He introduced several family members who were present with him at the meeting. Steve talked about the need to have a new way to rid the City/Rural divide in Jefferson City that now exists. He stated he has both experience of living in the rural and City community and stated he would try to bridge that separation. He previously lived in the Fox Park area and saw a quick and rapid deterioration of that neighborhood and doesn't want that to happen in Holly Hills. His two big emphasis are to see a rebirth of the Meramec Street Business District and he wants to bring people together and feel inclusive with him as a State Representative.

Mary Pat Carl, Candidate for Circuit Attorney

Mary Pat stated she has 13 years of experience in the office of Circuit Attorney. She said all the other candidates for the office combined have 1 year. She spoke of her experience in prosecuting homicide cases. She stated she has the support and endorsement of the current Circuit Attorney, Jennifer Joyce. She sees her most important role as that of being a mother and she can empathize with many of the victims of gun violence. She spoke of wanting to see a practical witness protection program adopted so that someone who is willing to be a witness is not left out feeling afraid because of their willingness to get involved.

Patrick Hammacher, Candidate for Circuit Attorney

He is an attorney in the Circuit Attorney Office. He prosecutes murder, robbery, and assault cases. He stated while experience is important a fresh perspective also is important. He stated he has been reaching out in the community listening to the public. He has been going to community meetings and other places to get the community perspective on crime.

13th Ward Alderwoman – Beth Murphy – was out of town

Announcements - Southeast City yard sales will be held every month through June. The one for Holly Hills will be on June 25 and this is advertised on Facebook

HHIA Merchandise was noted

There was no 50/50 drawing

HHIA Board Openings – Election in September

Next Meeting – September 26th at the Rex Plex

Meeting Adjourned