

HHIA Meeting  
May 22, 2017

Roll call

Present: Anna Baldwin, Lisa Bertke, Eileen Muir, Lisa Coleman, Beth Murphy, Mike Dauphin, Jim Sahaida  
Absent: Stacy Ross, Kendal Dauphin, Tara Ohler

Introduce New Neighbors: Joe Lappi and my wife Sara. We moved over to Alaska Ave. Ryan Barnes, live over on Grand in the Grand-Bates neighborhood. Andy Steiner, my wife Karen we live at the end of Grand and Holly Hills. Billy Lawry, I live on Morganford been here 25 years. First time at an HHIA meeting.

Guest Speakers

Stacy Jurado-Miller from the Vecino Group: Thank you very much for having me this evening. I would like to begin by saying thank you. If you are an affordable housing developer, you get used to the response that neighborhoods do not want your development. This situation has not fit the same mold...I thank you for your support. Construction has begun at the corner of Grand and Holly Hills. Will serve people that make 60% of the area median income. Every Vecino project addresses a broader social need...in this case we will provide supportive housing for youth aging out of foster care. One of their greatest challenges is finding affordable housing. Odds are bleak for kids aging out of foster care. With Intrada, the intention is to change those odds and produce successful outcomes. Partnering with Epworth Children and Family Services, they will serve as the case manager. 50 units will be affordable, 6 will be market rate, 10 for foster kids. My main objective was to help youth aging out of foster care. Alderman Villa pointed out that there is a need for senior housing. This development is intergenerational...the same scenario has also worked at Bridge Meadows in Portland, Oregon. Pretty natural pairing...seniors are lonely, youth are longing for family relations. Hoping that relationships will develop. Ground level will be community space. Carondelet Betterment Foundation and Edgeworth will be on the ground floor. We hope to return the appearance of ground floor commercial space. Due to the nature of the development we were prohibited from having any retail. We contract with Coe and Ezry for our property management. They have many developments across the country. We have used them at Freedom Place. Located at 4011 N. Delmar. I invite you to visit any time...to give you an idea of our work. Construction schedule: demolition is nearly complete. Foundation work and tuckpointing has begun and is nearly complete. Demolition of the funeral home will start on Wednesday and will take two weeks. Concrete work to begin in early June, building to go up in July. In addition to saying thank you...we also want to apologize for the funeral home coming down. We have never taken a historic building down before. This building didn't have historic designation but it has been an integral part of the neighborhood. If we could have saved it we would have. It had fire, water, and structural damage and the fact that it had been a funeral home didn't make it ideal.

Q: What will go where the funeral home is?

A: That will be parking. What appears to be parking for the funeral home is actually parking for the church. The backside of the building will have an outdoor courtyard area.

Q: The building addition looks a little less distinguished than the rest of the development. Can you talk more about that?

A: That is also housing. The windows will face the north side of the building. It will be masonry and a solid concrete wall. We had to follow certain guidelines and submit plans for approval to stay in with the aesthetic of the existing building. We expect to complete the project in Jan 2018.

Q: Will your tenants be allowed to have pets?

A: Yes, it is pet friendly.

Q: Will the tenants have a chance to do gardening, at least in a certain portion of the courtyard area?

A: Yes, there will be some community beds in the courtyard area.

The Vecino Group is the general contractor, HBD is the onsite presence. We have partnered with them before and do not anticipate any issues but please let me know if we are ever a disturbance to residents.

### Matt Vianello and Judge Dowd – Missouri Non-partisan Court Plan

Matt Vianello: And Tom Neal is also here. I asked if we could talk about the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan. It has been in place since 1940. It is the system by which the majority of our trial, appellate, and Supreme Court justices are appointed. In the late 1930s people began to be sick of money influencing politics and the courts. A ballot prop went before the voters. Judge Robert Dowd, Court of Appeals judge and Tom Neal, commissioner who interviews all of the judicial applicants, are here with me. The judicial system has mandatory retirement at 70...several baby boomer judges are nearing retirement.

Judge Dowd: Hello fellow neighbors. I grew up in this neighborhood, went to St. Stephen's and Augustinian, Quincy College, law school at St Mary's University. I ran for magistrate judge right out of law school, back when judges in the city and county could run in a partisan election back in 1978. Ran on the Dem ticket, got elected. Then the law changed, design to chane to bring the magistrate judges (small claims, landlord/tenant) into the plan. By law I became part of the Missouri Court Plan. Then I became a trial judge, circuit judge, then I was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1994. Been a judge for a long time. We have the executive branch, legislative branch (makes the laws), judicial branch (interprets the laws). The people that wrote our constitution designed it so that two branches are answerable to the people (executive and legislative). They get to talk to the people, raise money from the people and speak for the people. The judiciary by law is answerable to the law. We often make very unpopular decisions because we are following the law. All judges in Missouri in 1938 were running in partisan elections. It became somewhat scandalous. One faction would support one judge then the judge would get elected and favor those people. The court plan was a citizen's petition, a referendum on the state ballot. This was invented in MO. Has been copied in 35 other states in various forms. Some states still have judges that run in political elections. We like it in MO, we brag about it. There are segments that don't like independent judges. They want the judges to do what they want. Not what the law requires. Sometimes the MO plan is under attack. Let's say you have a lawsuit and your attorney sues another company and they have a lawyer...you find out your lawyer hasn't given any money to a particular judge but the lawyer for the other person has given money to the judge. You have to avoid the appearance of impropriety. This is why the court plan is designed the way that it is. Our founding fathers established a pretty neat democracy. Churchill said democracy is the worst form of government except for everything else that has been tried. The founding fathers who didn't want a monarch, created the legislative and executive branches...the judges are appointed for life. The reason is that they would be independent and not feel that their decisions would impact their position. When you hear people talk about getting rid of the plan, please note what the consequences are.

Tom Neal: Our plan is modified slightly. Some judges are up for retention. We as citizens do have the option to eliminate a judge. But if there is a judge that we feel is no longer fit, we can vote them out. It is an important tool. It doesn't happen very often, but it can happen. Recently happened in St. Louis County. Most voters take one of two strategies: either I vote all of them out or vote all of them in. Neither approach is very good...but it's your vote. We all spent a lot of time debating the stadium vote, I would suggest you go online the MO Bar Assoc and check out their judge ratings from jury trials, by lawyers that appear in front of them. Thumbs up or thumbs down rating. But they also show by what margin they have been rated. I wanted to tell you about my role...any time a judge in the circuit court (26 circuit judges and assoc judges) is nearing retirement the commission meets as the judges approach 70 years of age. We are meeting next Tuesday to select the replacement for Judge John Reilly...turning 70 in late June so we are picking his replacement. 36 people have applied. I will meet with every applicant (get a cup of coffee, grab lunch, get a beer). I want to know who these people are. Want to make sure that they are bright and that they care about the city. Want them to be committed, don't want them to be carpetbaggers to use this as a stepping stone. Also want people that have tried lawsuits or criminal cases. I don't want your first trial to be the first time that they are trying a case. We will get letters, phone calls, emails from people that are not attorneys that either know them for good or bad reasons. We also have two non-lawyers on the commission. I was elected by the attorneys that live in the city of St Louis. Two lay commissioners are appointed by the governor. The commission consists of two lawyers, two non-lawyers, and one additional person. I think it's a great plan. I would not spend the hundreds of hours a year I do (unpaid) to support this system. The difference is obvious if you have heard any of the judge ads for the state of Illinois. Thank you very much.

Matt Vianello: Every October before a general election, info is published at the MO plan website. The surveys that you will fill out after serving on a jury duty are used to rate the judges. Next posting will be in October 2018. If you go to the Missouri Courts web page [courts.mo.gov](http://courts.mo.gov) every time there is a vacancy it lists all the candidates. Tom mentioned that there are 36 people that have applied. You can go to the website and view the current candidates. It's important to be involved and you have the opportunity to. This is a branch of our government. Tom chooses a panel of three judicial candidates that is sent to the governor and the governor makes the final selection. People also lobby to the governor. The lawyer surveys are confidential as are the juror surveys. When Tom and his commission meet, it is a public meeting. Next Tuesday 9am at the Old Post Office downtown.

Q: Thanks for reminding everybody about the Bar Association website. Considering the system is already in place, what efforts are underway to undo it or revise it?

A: It varies. Several years ago there was a constitutional amendment that was floated. Fortunately the proposal to go to electing judges was so unappealing it failed by 75%. Green County (Springfield, MO) actually just opted into the plan. This is happening more and more as some elections were starting to get expensive. There are some business groups around MO that get fed up with being sued and try to target the plan. The small negative things in the system are greatly outweighed by positive.

Q: Will it ever expand to the 11<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> circuits? Jeff Co and St. Charles?

A: There is a Republican wave in those counties. They spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in those counties when judges have to run. There is an argument against "unelected judges"...code words for saying we should have the right to partisan elections. We need judges that we can defeat in 4-6 years if we don't like what they do. In our plan we can get rid of a bad judge...there is also a commission that can investigate and throw us off the ballot. Let's say that Tom Neal has a successful 25 year career, wanna be a judge? We'll support you. He makes one wrong decision and is thrown out in the next election. What good lawyer would give up their entire livelihood to be a judge for just a short period of

time? There has to be some degree of independence as a judge to make an unpopular decision. I don't know if there are any active efforts to include those counties. There would have to be an initiative petition in those counties.

Q: Can you speak about the last Cole County election and why cases are set there?

A: In Cole County (Jeff City) there are a lot of statutes which require that certain cases be brought into Cole County. Only 50,000 people...but the two circuit judges there have become uber powerful. They are actually making the initial decision about whether certain statutes are going to be constitutional. Those judicial elections are now becoming extremely expensive. Billboard campaigns, TV, more than a quarter of a million dollars spent on a circuit judge election. Every time the state gets sued it goes to Cole County. There is certainly an appearance of impropriety in this case.

State Rep Fred Wessels

Anybody here remember when Brian May was a State Rep? Before each meeting Brian would go up and ask them if he could speak first because his children were ill and he had to be home. Now it's 20 years later so I hope their health is improving. Fred is going to stick around until the end. The session in Jeff City in the House begins the first Wed of January. Ends the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in May. It's really intense. Particularly this year. First year the Republicans had an overwhelming majority. We also have a Republican governor. All those bills that were anti-labor and anti-working families that were passed in the last 4, 6, 8 years were vetoed by Gov Nixon and he was able to sustain those vetoes. We don't have that situation anymore. What got through the Senate and House will be signed by the gov. The governor did ask for a special session...starting today. I will be leaving for Jeff City tomorrow. Staying in my palatial suite, America's Best Value in Holt Summit, MO. It's convenient, it's inexpensive and I can't get into any trouble. I represent the 81<sup>st</sup> district Carondelet, HH, Bevo, Marine Villa, Dutchtown. 36,000 constituents. I get calls in Jeff City and a lot of emails. Constituent requests...people that have problems with food stamps, Medicaid, various state programs. Each house member has a legislative aid...she does a great job and handles a lot of those for me. Please pick up a handout on the way out. Brief summary of the bills that were passed and the bills that were introduced that didn't pass. Highlight a few: Real ID. Missouri is one of very few states that doesn't have a law for REAL ID. It passed this year, barely passed the House. Gives people the option: if you don't want to have one, you don't need to. You can still use a passport. Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> of next year you will need a Real ID or passport for entry to an airport or govt facility. Big controversy for circuit breaker for folks that rent. I voted against the house bill that eliminated the circuit breaker for renters. Maximum would be \$500 that they could get...now that is gone. Many people (including Republicans) thought this was a mean spirited bill to save money and put it where the Chamber of Commerce wanted it. This session was the Chamber of Commerce against the people and they won. Some of the really bad bills did not get made into law. I'm sure they're going to try again next year. Minimum wage pre-emption. This is another Chamber of Commerce bill. Prohibits any municipality from establishing a minimum wage. Lots of pro and con there...I look at it this way. This is a great system that we have...the federal govt relies on states as laboratories to take issues that affect people and come up with programs. The best of those programs end up becoming federal laws. At the same token, if you allow cities to try different programs, some are going to work and be productive and who is to say whether or not this would have decreased employment. We know one thing: It would have increased the amount of money that the working poor are getting today. The local govt folks in St. Louis City and County ought to have the ability to have their councils and boards take issues that are tough, put them to the vote of the people and try new and different things.

Q: The governor still hasn't signed it yet, correct? Any idea how long he might wait?

A: He has to sign by June or early July.

I voted not to increase my salary. They have a strange system...set up to allow the legislators to vote themselves pay increases. But using the pay commission as a reason. This year they came up with a \$2,000 pay increase for Senate and House members. Maybe \$15,000 for the Governor, Sec of State and others. We have the authority to negate that raise. In the house...2 brave souls voted to accept the raise. The lobbyist gift ban failed. I voted in favor of it. We took this bill up really early, first day of session. It passed the house easily. Did not pass in the senate. Will be considered in a special session. Right now a lobbyist can give me a house. Or a car. Or a boat. The only requirement is that I have to report it. It's crazy but that's the law in MO now. Some folks in key positions getting hundreds of thousands of dollars from companies. The attorney general got \$3 mil from someone in Springfield. Prescription drug monitoring program. I sponsored that bill. Didn't quite make it across the goal line. Holly Rader sponsored the bill...I worked the Democratic side of the aisle. Got 102 votes in the house. Senate came back with some killer amendments, wouldn't go to conference committee but on the last day agreed to some changes but it was too late to pass. MO is the only state in the country that does not have a prescription drug monitoring program. This bill would require certain drugs to be reported to the registry.

Revolving door bill...when folks leave the house and they take a job as a lobbyist. We wanted to make it at least two years before you could lobby, the bill now is 6 months.

Lots of others bills if you have any questions, give me a call or email me.

Q: How can we undo the state budget cuts to Community Colleges?

A: Higher education took a hit. The budget is passed now. I suppose I can say...lobby the governor, email the governor, but he proposed these cuts. I don't see him making any changes. We debated this at length. The length of the debate...some bills we spent two hours or more talking about it.

Q: On that note...what can be done to minimize some of these tax credits?

A: There is a commission appointed that will have a report on the tax credits. I expect that there will be some changes. What the commission will propose and what the legislature will approve...we will see. I think there will be some decreases in the tax credits. Lots of tax credits benefit us...historic tax credits preserve a lot of buildings. Without those tax credits downtown St. Louis, those old industrial buildings...what are you going to do with them? You have to have some type of subsidy.

Stacy from Vecino: this project wouldn't be possible without tax credits. It subsidizes the rents to make the units affordable.

Officer Wilson: Crime stat sheet. 4/1 to 5/20. You will notice, nothing regarding the homicide on Wilmington because it was a justified police shooting. It was ironic....I was in front of the house I was waiting for city tow 15 minutes before she started shooting. They thought they had towed the wrong car. Heard gunfire 5 blocks up...women came running up screaming that her friend was shooting at her. This woman was high and in a bad mental state. She reloaded twice...can't believe only two cars got hit. Shot off at least 12 rounds. Robbery at the Domino's. Robbery is taking something by force. A sibling ripped his sister's checkbook out of her hands. Your house is not robbed...it is actually a burglary. Burglaries, 5 of them listed. All happened in the daytime. Businesses get burglarized at night. Homes are burglarized in the daytime. 3 of them were unoccupied and the other 2 were empty homes. House for rent or house for sale. It's easy for a burglar to get into them. Back in the day they would steal stained glass windows. Getting copper mainly, chandeliers if they are nice ones. Larcenies from

vehicles. Two of them were over \$500...most likely they took the fancy wheels. Larceny under, when you leave something in your car and they get in there and get your stuff. Vehicle thefts, 5. Dope rentals...friend took the car and never brought it back. These are more of a civil matter. If you have a Dodge or a Jeep, make sure you buy a club. Two drug incidents: one was heroin and one was marijuana. These addicts take more and more to try to get back to the feeling of the first high. Other crimes...leaving the scene of an accident. City ordinance violations, scraped your door, knocked off your mirror. We do run the calls for the panhandlers at the highways...they take off when we come. New people, I have a card, please contact me and I will add you to my email list.

Q: It's unclear if this is the city's official boundaries. Within these stats...how many homes and businesses are included?

A: These crime stat boundaries are the city definition of Holly Hills, not the same boundaries as the Holly Hills Improvement Association.

Q: All the stuff that happened in Bevo, and Dutchtown. It's close.

A: Bevo got tore up last night. Bevo has a lot of concerned neighbors...Bevo meetings are huge. I don't work weekends...still pulling up all the stats. Sunday and Saturday were bad. Getting a lot of robberies. Got a search warrant right where the homicide was...retrieved guns, pistols, heroin. That was only three apartments. Some of these guys are the reason there was a homicide there...same location. Same guys. Drug dealing. When that stuff is in your neighborhood...the only way it's going to end is in a homicide. They're hitting everything except for the bad guy. Bevo has got some issues going on right now. We're working on it.

Q: Used Auto place on Bates. Is it shut down now?

A: Yes, it is shut down now. I stopped by there several times and told him to not park his cars without plates. They complied immediately...they wanted me out of there. They found all that stolen property...had a fencing operation out of there. If you have a business...it's hard to tell. They're shut down now, yes.

Q: Just a statement...I have a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at St. Stephens. Nothing more terrifying to hear that there was a shooting near the school. I know that everyone does what they need to do. But let me share the terrifying concerns that it happened that close.

A: We didn't have this back in my day. These bullets they travel a mile. That one at Busch Stadium came from 14<sup>th</sup> and Chouteau. I understand...I feel you.

Q: What can be done about controlling guns to people that are mentally ill?

A: They shouldn't have guns in the first place. We don't really have checks in MO.

I personally like it when people conceal and carry...so many victims don't have guns. So why can't an ordinary citizen have a gun. In my opinion, we like for the citizens to be armed. Imo's pizza...don't rob those guys cause the Imo's drivers were shooting back. The joke became that the only guys that had guns were the police and Imo's drivers.

Alderwoman Sarah Martin

I represent the 11<sup>th</sup> ward...I am 4.5 weeks into this job. And I am learning quite a bit. Met with the Dept directors last week. That has helped me a lot more if someone comes to me with a problem...I now know who to contact. I have cards now. Very fast at responding to emails...phone calls might take me a day or two. Quick updates: Virginia and Bates will start seeing some cameras at Virginia and Grand. Paperwork is in and the project has to be complete by 7/31. Now have access to the problem property

database. Let me know so that I can start that process for you. Want to talk about legislation in Jeff City that was filed that will probably appear again. KC Legislature wants to prevent landlords from hiding behind fictitious LLCs. Hope that if we see that next year to get some momentum from alderman and residents, currently we can't figure out who the owner is. It's a company name...this would allow us to get in touch with absentee landlords or landlords that try to hide. We do not have a lot of money. Wish that I could fix everything right away. First meeting is 5/31 right here...to discuss how to clean up the 11<sup>th</sup> ward. Encourage people to join us, even Holly Hills residents not in 11<sup>th</sup> ward...we all go to the concerts in the parks. Want mini clean ups for the park prior to concerts so we can represent ourselves at our best. Planning a big clean up in the fall. HH is co-hosting along with CCBF, Patch Neighborhood Assoc. Some interest from students at St. Stephens and St. Mary's. If you have a group that would like to help...please join us at the meeting.

Alderwoman Beth Murphy

Good news: there is a hot jobs list posted from SLATE. If you know of anyone that needs a job, the website is [www.stlworks.com](http://www.stlworks.com). They list hundreds of jobs trainings, and all sorts of things. Good place to start. Permits for improving properties are up as of March. Issued 1.4 mil dollars in permits for improvements to homes. Bevo opened, Das Bevo. Please visit, it's really good. They hit a snag in the design for their biergarten. Someone in Washington decided that the plan was too modern. I think they want to see more stucco. But he does have tables on the patio. The inside looks like a German bierhall. Lemmon's is opening Wednesday. They have had some soft openings this week. Open to the general public on Wed. I'm proud that the city got the sidewalk done in time. We are working on our budget right now. A little over a billion dollars. We have a \$17 million deficit. We have to pass a balanced budget. Every dept is cutting...mostly through attrition. Some will be offset when the ½ use tax goes into effect. It doesn't start to get collected until October. Ways and Means goes through the budget...summary of the budget can be found on the city website. Good summary.

Q: What's up with the Christy Park concerts. Is that new?

A: It is new, a woman from Bevo put that together. It will be the part of Christy Park near the firehouse.

Q: What's going on with the improvements in Carondelet Park.

A: Have approval for the playground to be resurfaced. Everything is on schedule. The tennis courts are finished. Wayfare signs should be coming soon. We are going to put a sign up for the park hours. More trash cans are coming too. Had 30 second graders send me letters asking for more trash cans and it worked. They will be ordered soon. Took out the dog trash bins.

Update from the Carondelet Park Supervisor, Marsha Pearson:

They got behind because of the rain. Then they were short 3 of the 5 summer workers they were supposed to have. Then they had problems with the mowers and got further behind. The trash truck needed repairs so trash was overflowing. They have their 5 workers now so they're trying to catch up. White wall was planted with deciduous holly with help from University students. Regarding mowing, they like to try to get the whole park done in two weeks. Then they start over. They do picnic pavilions, concert lawn, and other "hot spots" weekly.

Any concerns: Talk about Morganford and Loughborough. The utility companies come and dig a hole and patch it up...

A: Sarah asked the Streets Dept about that. Maybe that's something we can look at down the line.

Jim Sahaida: At the last HHIA board meeting we talked about potential improvements. If you have improvements that you would like to see (on your wish list). Can we hear some of those ideas.

A: Planters. Police ID cameras? Yes. They are coming to Grand and Bates. I wouldn't be happy with more cameras without some type of accountability for where the data is going.

When they complete the building project at Grand and Holly Hills...are they going to repave the sidewalk. I need to check into that. We would like a freshly painted Carondelet logo. Another wish list...would be extra leaf pickups. I would love extra leaf pickups. The new mayor has a plan to help with crime prevention, one aspect besides more cops on the beat. After school programs for youth. Do we have any idea of anything that we are doing in this area in conjunction with her office? Investing in people is one of the best ways to fight crime. A: There are a lot of after school programs. A lot of retirees can work with kids and keep them busy...they have to have a sense of purpose.

Sarah Martin: Forget something really important...my husband Jake Hummel can't be here. Sean Faus is collecting signatures for the Right to Work petition.

Steve Butz: To build on this...we started this voluntary Cops Walking a Beat program, 368 families involved. Wed night 7pm at St. Trinity Lutheran they want to host a meeting for residents east of Grand.

Save the date for the 2<sup>nd</sup> inaugural Holly Hills Grills event. On Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Off during June, July, and August  
Next meeting, September 25th