

HHIA Meeting Nov 27, 2017

Roll call

Present: Anna Baldwin, Lisa Bertke, Beth Murphy, Mike Dauphin, Jim Sahaida, Tara Ohler, Stacy Ross

Absent: Kendal Dauphin, Eileen Muir

Introduce New Neighbors:

- Tony D'Angelo and Madison, just moved in at the beginning of the month, pastor and a teacher
- George and Stacy Crawford just moved back to St. Louis after 30 years
- Michelle is Jim's neighbor at Morganford and Bowen, works for the county dept of public health

Boy Scouts from Troop 104 are here at our meeting, working on their citizenship and community service badge.

Guest Speakers

Alderwoman Sarah Martin - Hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. A little shy on info as we were on holiday break at the board. Hannah Butz and I met about Hannah taking over Friends of Carondelet Park. Would like to see the Lyle House...start out small with some Christmas lights. Trying to work on a pop-up hot chocolate or coffee shop. People of a certain age have never been in there. It's historical and important and a big part of our neighborhood. Cross your fingers as this would be great for the neighborhood. Francis Park has a coffee shop and it is always packed.

Lyons School pending historic tax credits. A lot of people in the neighborhood attended the school, it was open until the mid-90s. Will be turned into condos. Hinging on historic tax credits which have all been sold for the year. Lots of talk about whether or not these credits will continue to exist...call your governor or legislator to tell them how important the credits are. Most new developments use these credits. Second largest pasta manufacturer is buying Apex Metal finishing. Apex Metal is buying an entire block for their new place. Had a huge 11th Ward clean up a few weeks ago. The Spanish Society hosted the after-party.

Amanda Doyle – St. Louis Author

My books were in the recent warehouse fire. Author of "100 Things To Do in St. Louis Before You Die". All books written about St. Louis. Published by local Reedy Press. My first book: "Guidebook to St. Louis Neighborhoods". Covers Wentzville to Belleville. "100 Things To Do in St. Louis Before You Die" is a bucket list of 100 things to do in the area. "To the Top, the Gateway Arch Story" is a children's book. I thought how hard could it be to write a children's book...apparently it's really hard. Story of two kids and their first trip to the arch with their grandpa. "Standing Up For Civil Rights in St. Louis" is a history of civil rights in St. Louis, a

companion book to the exhibit at the History Museum. "Missouri Almanac 2018-2019". Famous Missourians, largest walnut, etc.

We played Bing-Lou for prizes...just like Bingo.

When we first published "100 Things To Do in St. Louis Before You Die", first edition, they wanted more. There are now 73 of these books across the country...all written by a local crazy person like me who is really excited about their city.

Officer Wilson – Looks like we have a bunch of potential police recruits in the front row, keep those uniforms on. Want to thank everyone for voting for Prop P. Millennials are leaving us...but they like the city work. They are dedicated when they come on...we are the best police dept in the area. County has no problem gobbling them up...they love the city experience. Just wanted to say thank you for that. Crime Summary. PCS on Bates and Grand seems to get robbed a lot. Domino's is another big target, unfortunately. Carjackings are up in the city of St. Louis. Just had one in St. Louis Hills over the weekend. Holly Hills hasn't been touched. If you're not paying attention, you are a good target. They're just walking around, not shying away or hiding in the bushes. If you see someone suspicious, call someone for help. Don't stick around. Just be aware of your surroundings. It's the holidays...the FedEx trucks. Have your neighbors keep an eye out. Package pirates. Shaw and Soulard have taken a beating. Got a call the other day about a car following the UPS truck. Didn't see anything once I got there.

Q: With regard to the time of day...is there a pattern to these car jackings.

A: The one we had over at Regal and Pernod was 7:30pm in the evening. More towards evening. I've been on 24 years and to listen to the calls, I've never heard this many before. Go up to the pump, you step away, they take your car. We don't call them car jackings, but when you leave your car running and they take off with your car. More men than women? Both. They will also bump you...if someone bumps and it doesn't feel right, just drive off.

Q: Certain kinds of cars?

A: Any kind, really. They like sporty cars though. We can't chase these cars anymore so that no one gets hurt.

Just be careful out there. You pull over to the curb, you park, then you've got a car boxing you in. Make sure there are no cars around that don't look right. These car jackings are up. Age range 14-20 years old. These guys are dangerous. Male brains don't develop until they are 25...these are young kids. What capacity are they operating at? You interview them...they're trying to be accepted with the gang.

Q: Difference between robbery and larceny?

A: Larceny is a theft not involving you...robbery is something taken physically from you.

Crime stats in Holly Hills: One burglary, daytime burglary. Unoccupied building. Keep an eye on your neighbors' house...suspicious vehicles. If you feel the need, take a picture of the plate.

Later on it might be helpful. We always look for peoples with cameras up. They can be very helpful.

Simple assault, was a peace disturbance. 12 larcenies, stealing from motor vehicles and stores in your neighborhood. Destruction of property...fraud. Stores taking in phony money. Disorderly conduct, could be drinking in public, peace disturbance. Other crimes...car was hit, leaving the scene of an accident.

Q: Has crime gone down since there have been police officers patrolling?

A: Absolutely. Any time you get police walking a foot beat, there is a drop in crime.

Q: Were there any break-ins of houses?

A: One burglary of a home that was for rent/sale.

Q: When they do rob unoccupied homes, do they usually go for ones where the people still have their stuff in there.

A: They will take the copper in your basement. Brand new microwaves, chandeliers, etc. They will sell it. Lawnmowers to pawn.

Q: Can these criminals be any age?

A: Absolutely. But usually they are older than you (asked by a Boy Scout).

Hannah Ehrlich – Recently took over Friends of Carondelet Park Assoc. It was started in 2001 by a bunch of moms in the neighborhood to get new playground equipment. They went to the Parks Dept and they asked for a civilian board group. They have helped a lot with the walking trails, paving them, replanting of trees, new trash cans, etc. As is the nature of the beast, it has ran out of steam. We hope to rectify that.

Former Ideas for Carondelet Park:

Dog park

Boats at the boat house

Cleaning up the lake

Lyle House on the historic register

Getting valleys back to their intended purpose

These are old goals but still relevant today. Please rank them in order of your interest. This is your park and you know best. Three people on our board currently. If you have some time, talent, or treasure, please join our board. We would also love to have you just help out.

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<https://friendsofcarondeletpark.org/>

Q: Are the pinochle guys still there?

A: They just left...they now come to the RecPlex. It was \$600 to insure the building, they couldn't afford it anymore. It is owned by the city. It is on the Master Plan of Carondelet Park. We're getting new windows. Plumbing and electricity would be next.

Q: Just a comment. As someone that patrols the park regularly, I do appreciate the lighting that was installed. I really oppose the late night revelers, but at least they are well lit. No more cloak of darkness.

Carondelet Park actually has some money coming to it...the Carondelet Park Advisory Board handles that money.

Q: Friends of Carondelet Park T-shirts?

A: Stacy used to have them...we are probably out of them now.

One more quick shameless plug...I run the community garden and we are always looking for gardeners. Still have beds available.

Alderwoman Murphy – 13th Ward – legislation, not a whole lot going on right now. Lawsuit against ScottTrade, will be heard next month, concerning the amount of money that the city is putting in to renovate ScottTrade. The initial lease, they weren't honest and we are trying to get them to put a ticket tax on the ticket so that the people that use ScottTrade on a regular basis will help pay for renovations rather than the city. Legalizing marijuana bill, Pres. Reed introduced another bill before Thanksgiving. I think the city passing something is going to be kind've ridiculous because the state law can override. They will override it just like the minimum wage. We will eventually get medical marijuana at the state level. My biggest problem is that it has already been de-penalized. It is a ticketable offense only at this point. Isn't a priority currently for the police anyway. My problem with Megan Green's bill, it took away the authority of employers to test employees. I would think that almost any employer would want to retain that option. Megan may have removed that section already. Three Habitat for Humanity homes going up...on Ulena. New home on Grace being built. St. Cecilia's Historic District is starting a new neighborhood association. Carondelet Park improvements, as the monies are made available. Went through the dog park thing a year ago...the park can donate an area to use. But it has to be managed by citizens or an association. In Wilmore Park, which isn't very far, the people that use it pay a fee...you need running water and other amenities. Sarah and I have scouted the park for a good spot...it has to be fenced and need water. Need an awful lot of people to sign on and pay a certain fee to make it work. People also need to volunteer, you also need lighting. Lyon Park is already fenced, that might be a good choice for someone that is interested in a dog park. Mr. Yummy....trying to put in a pizza place. They're going to go for a beer license and outdoor patio. It is all feasible. They haven't showed me anything yet as far as plans. Delfino's...he already has a pizza place downtown. I'm going to go check it out...it would be nice if something would go in there. St. Louis Chess Club is looking for a place to put outdoor chess tables. Thinking of Sebilj park. We would like some in Carondelet Park too. Also adding playground equipment near the Carondelet YMCA.

Q: Flagpole in the park is up. Why isn't it as big as the old one was?

A: Not sure...had nothing to do with that. The Parks Dept put it up. I know that they wanted to make it easier to see...maybe that's why it is smaller.

Q: Lighting in the park. Is there anybody in charge of the lights on the soccer field? They're on but nobody is using them.

A: They have tried different things...I can inquire. They may go on automatically like our street lights.

We're also working on pickle ball courts near the tennis courts.

Q: Are they ever going to build basketball courts in Carondelet Park?

A: I don't know. Every place that has had them has taken them down (St. Stephen's, Woodward, Woerner School)

Steve Butz – Cops Walking a Beat – We have a unique program in Holly Hills. Just two weeks ago we had our one year anniversary of our Cops Walking a Beat program. The idea was that we would get local cops and we have several of them that live in our neighborhood or grew up in the neighborhood and they patrol in pairs in uniform. It's been going on for about a year. I went back on the SLMPD website and I got the last nine years of crime data, came up with average month of crime stats. Based upon that large sampling pool, crime in our neighborhood has gone down 29%. We have about 2,000 households in Holly Hills. The goal was 25% participation. That is the money that we use to pay Campbell Security to hire these officers to work secondary. We just broke the 410 household mark. There is also a link on the Holly Hills Improvement Association website which has a Paypal option. You can sign up for \$10-20 a month...all I ask is that if you love the program, if you love your neighborhood, it's a great way to help. Between that and the neighborhood patrol (Rat Patrol) we are bucking a trend. The idea is spreading...Channel 5 called today. The interest is growing...tomorrow night I will be at Trinity Lutheran in Carondelet to expand to Carondelet. The program has expanded to the Hill, also spoken at Tower Grove Heights. If every person helped out it would be \$2 a month, per household. All of these cops they have to work secondary. They have all the rights and privileges of an active duty officer. Have a meeting tomorrow to discuss Deputies on Duty...another way to expand it and make it more affordable for other neighborhoods. We have done a few homes where an off duty officer sits on the front porch and takes notes. When an off duty cop calls in a problem...it makes a difference. We did push a few drug dealers off a block in Carondelet. This group Holly Hills does more than any other group...successful because of HHIA.

Please donate to Toys for Tots, the Marine Corps League on Leona is collecting toys.

Next meeting, January 22, 2018

