

HHIA Meeting  
March 26, 2018

Roll call

Present: Stacy Ross, Jim Sahaida, Anna Baldwin, Lisa Bertke, Eileen Muir, Beth Murphy, Tara Ohler

Absent: Kendal Dauphin, Michael Dauphin

New to the neighborhood? Frances McCray, have been in the neighborhood for four years lives in the 3800 block of Fillmore. First time at the meeting.

David and Brianna, live in the 4100 block of Federer St, moved in last March.

Guest Speakers:

Sara Figueroa –Thank you for having me. I am the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Dept of Human Services for the City of St. Louis. Want to talk about the Functional Needs Registry. One of the biggest things we do is benefits assistance courtesy of the Older Americans Act. Sit down with people to ensure they are receiving every benefit they are entitled to, receiving all the discounts available to them, case management, meals at the senior centers, Meals on Wheels, minor home repair. Help with chronic disease self-management, fall prevention, etc. Also are in charge of the Functional Needs Registry for the city. Database for disaster preparedness for those that may need assistance during a large scale disaster. People are aging in place, living independently much longer than before. All types of considerations when they are planning for mass evacuations for large disaster. In St. Louis we typically have extreme weather, but we are prone to tornadoes, earthquakes, severe storms. When we have a city wide emergency, we contact those in the registry. Depending on the situation they will send out city staff. Police, fire, CSB, etc. Perform health checks during emergencies. Does anyone have any questions?

Q: How many people are in the registry?

A: It changes. At times over 10,000. Currently 7-8,000.

Q: How do you get on the registry?

A: People who receive certain services from the Agency on Aging are automatically added to the registry. Anyone can self-register. Such as those with children who are autistic and are non-verbal. Will add simple commands to the registry. Where are your pets? Do you have a plan for them?

Q: If there was a need to contact people you couldn't make 8,000 calls. How would that happen?

A: We have an automated phone call that would go out with contact info. They get data back from the automated call to tell who answered and who is disconnected.

Last emergency was in December due to the extreme cold. They called 7,000 recipients and they reached over 90% of the recipients.

Q: how do you differentiate between 211 and Agency on Aging?

A: 211 is a really great resource. United Way 211 Call Center. They are connected to everybody. 211 directs people to the Agency on Aging. We are connected to these services during an emergency. During extreme heat emergencies those who have had their electricity cut off or their window unit stops working and the United Way works with us.

Q: Do you work with local food pantries?

A: Yes, we do.

Q: It got started with us after the Praxair incident. We helped determine who was in the area.

Functional Needs Registry, feel free to call me anytime.

Susan Jones – President of the Saint Louis Board of Education. Reelected back in April with 20,000 votes. I am one of the only elected officials that has to continuously prove myself to be worthy. How many in this room know that there are two school boards. My duties are to audit and report on SLPS. The duties of the Special Appointed Board are to negotiate on contracts. These rights were taken away in 2007. Since 2007 the elected Board has continued to meet and report on the status of the school system. Special Admin Board appointed by the governor, President of the Board of Alderman, and the Mayor. Elected board members who are elected by the citizens of St. Louis. Special Admin Board said it was their duty to ask you if you wanted the elected board, hybrid board, or no elected board. Elected boards are common across the U.S. You are paying into a tax base that is represented by elected officials. It gives us a say as taxpayers. The Special Admin board there is no accountability. Elected board has transparency, accountability, etc. They conducted transition meetings that recommended a fully elected board. 4 recommendations. The governor has removed most of the members of the board of education we don't have a quorum (only three members) so they can't even make a decision so that we can make a vote to return governance back to the taxpayers. Latest meeting with the Special Admin Board and we talked about training for the fully elected board. Learning what the priorities are going to be. Missouri School Board Association is assisting. Legislative action for the district: SB1099

- School board members may observe the proper role of a school board and respect the roles of the district superintendent, administrators, and teachers in running the day-to-day operations of schools in the district.
- A vote of greater than 2/3 of the members of the school board may be required in order to terminate the employment of a district superintendent.
- A school board may publicly establish annual goals, as set forth in the act, and provide a report at the end of each year on whether or not such goals have been achieved.
- The Dept of Elementary and Secondary Education may develop and provide enhanced training for members of school boards in districts that have previously lost accreditation.

Q: How many students are in the SLPS? I was recently involved in a bet in a bar...

A: Over 100,000 students. (It was later googled and found that there are 30,000 students in the district)

Q: Are there any school districts that lost accreditation that didn't get taken over by the state?

A: Riverview and Normandy.

Q: At one point the elected board was not allowed to have their meetings at the admin board offices.

A: We don't have any regular meetings at the district office but we were recently allowed to have a planning meeting at the district office. They typically place us at random places. We have people who are not getting paid to do this. We all really want the school system to succeed.

Q: How many people know that the president of the SAB doesn't even live in the city?

A: No, he does not.

Q: How long is the term for the school board members? And there are 30,000 students in the City of St. Louis.

A: There are 7 members and we serve 4 year terms.

Rachel Greathouse – Recycling Program Specialist with Brightside. Mayor Slay put our team in commission 3 years ago. Education and outreach for recycling. Increased recycling from 10% to 40%. When we do a waste audit, literally going thru the trash. We find that 50% of what we throw away could easily be recycled. Plastic bottles, aluminum, etc. Current diversion rate is 10%. Dumpsters and rollcarts. No other cities have that combo. We have a unique challenge of educating and bringing outreach to the community. Most of Holly Hills has dumpsters. A few have rollcarts. Brown is for trash, green is for yard waste (just now starting to be picked up again), blue is for recycling. If you have a rollcart you have a green one (trash/yard waste), blue for recycling. In the city we pay \$14 a month and we get trash, recycling, bulk pickup, etc. Surrounding municipalities have much higher prices and do not include all of these services. Our refuse depts. work really hard. Landfilled materials in 2017 was 141,000 tons of trash. Costs the city \$30 per ton to get the trash to the landfill. Landfill is in Marissa, IL. Driving 50 miles one way to dump our trash. Huge economic burden for the City of St. Louis. Recycled 16,000 tons. Private company (resource mgmt.). You are welcome to go on tours. We don't make any money from it. We don't profit. 10% recycling rate. The majority of it is paper. Plastics, metals and glass. Every ton that we take from the landfill towards recycling the city saves \$18. Goes back into the general revenue fund. Things that we can recycle: paper, flattened cardboard, plastic bottles and containers. Lids (put the lid right back on the container). Glass bottles and jars. Metal food and beverage cans. My cats love "wet food Saturday". Cartons (chicken broth, wine in a box, etc). Don't put it in the recycling bin: film and plastic bags, Styrofoam, used needles, and food waste. Don't put your recycling in a plastic bag as it won't get recycled. First step of defense of pulling out non-recyclables are humans...they could get injured. We know which routes get the most tonnage. We wanted to know how full the recycling dumpsters were getting. We performed a volume study. Always room for improvement. Economic benefits: St. Louis is a huge hub for recycling. Metro Area payroll...\$600 mil payroll in recycling services. Another economic benefit, resource management in Earth City they are close to adding a third line (an overnight shift). Adding new jobs. Environment: conserving and protecting our finite resources. Aluminum comes from bauxite. We have dug up all the bauxite in the US. No more fresh bauxite...we have to go to China or Russia. Ship it, melt it, refine it, etc. Recycling aluminum back on the shelves in 60 days. Heath benefits: less pollution.

Orange trucks pick up your trash, yard waste, and recycling. Next they head to a transfer station on South First St. Drop-off location for you to use. Semi-truck is loaded up where it gets shipped to the dump in Marissa IL or the Earth City recycling facility. Humans are the first line of defense, which is why it is important to put good stuff in there. Human and machine powered to process the recycling, gets baled up and shipped to different manufacturers. Aluminum and glass, they are endlessly recycle. Endless lifecycle. Plastic can become a carpet, sleeping bag, lots of things.

5 ways that you can help us: make a spot in your home to collect recycling. We have recycling bins tonight. Keep recycling loose, clean, and dry. Always break down cardboard boxes. Never put plastic bags in there. Become a recycling ambassador (volunteer with us). Follow us on FB (StlCityRecycles) or [www.stlcityrecycles.com](http://www.stlcityrecycles.com).

Q: My recycling bin currently is half-full of water.

A: Please make a CSB report. They can get that taken care of you.

Q: How greasy can a pizza box be?

A: No pizza crust and no clumps of cheese.

Q: Does your website mention the other places to recycle specialty things.

A: We have an awesome database system on our website [stlcityrecycles.com/database](http://stlcityrecycles.com/database). You just have to type in what you're looking to recycle (Christmas lights) and zip code and get you to the right place. It is an awesome resource.

Brightside been around for 35 years. We have a neighbor's nature scaping program coming up ...allows you to apply for \$1500 worth of plant and plant material to beautify public space. We will walk you through the process. We will help you figure out what plants are good for your area. Kickoff on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Educational event, technical workshop, etc. St. Louis Urban Gardening Symposium (SLUGS) held on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Allows you to learn more about native landscaping, want to learn from some experts. 9-noon classes learn about special topics such as the key to good soil, proper planting, pruning, gardening for birds. \$15 to attend. At Brightside 4646 Shenandoah. Blitz Cleanup programs, we provide tools for you to use. Trash bags, shovels, rakes, recycling carts, etc. Litter grabbers. If you register for a Blitz cleanup by 4/30 you will get Blitz Blooms (marigolds and dianthus). 200 count trays. Also perform graffiti removal. These guys are always hard at work. We have removed graffiti from 150,000 locations. Recycling Extravaganza on Sunday 4/8 at SLCC Forest Park 10am-2pm. Load up your car and drive through and volunteers with help you unload. Unstash that Trash 9/15 10am-2pm. William J Harrison near Vashon. In 4 hours we recycled tons of material. Old prescription medication, electronics, carpet, home goods, empty toothpaste tubes, old toothbrushes.

Q: Is there recycling for unused insecticides and pesticides.

A: Anything chemical like household hazardous wastes. In the county but we can use the facility too. North St. Louis and South St. Louis locations. You do have to make a reservation first. You can bring up to 50lbs of material for free.

Q: Light bulbs?

A: Collecting them at the extravaganza. Lowes also accepts them.

Q: What does the city do with the yard waste?

A: Alternative landfill cover. They have to cover the landfill with something. The mulch comes from the forestry dept.

Q: If we have a little bit of yard waste, can we put them in the street?

A: You can bundle branches and they are considered a bulk pickup item. Left in the street they will still go to the landfill.

Q: The leaves that are raked to the curb?

A: I'm not sure.

Q: Do you clean up graffiti on private property?

A: Yes, we can remove it as long as it is ground level. We inform the property owner.

Andrew Hernandez – Most of these people have talked about everything I was going to talk about. I am the Neighborhood Improvement Specialist. I patrol the neighborhood, we work in tandem with problem properties, drug activity, derelict vehicles. Officer Wilson does an awesome job of getting these cars out

of the neighborhood. Comptroller's Office is offering a Green Help Home Efficiency loan program. If you plan on replacing your windows, HVAC, home air filtration, duct ceiling, energy star appliances. They have a grant that they have to use \$2 mil worth by June. Low interest loan 2.11% up to \$15K you can borrow. Minimum credit score of 625 or above. GreenHelpSaintLouis.com

Alderwoman Beth Murphy – Blitz on Schiller in Ward 13. Andrew and I picked up bags and bags of trash. We are not in session right now. So we can't cause any trouble. Go back on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Sarah and I are working on replacing the light to cross at S. Grand to the YMCA. Hawk light will turn red at the crossing. Going to put in pickleball courts. It is all the rage. For now we are going to use two of the tennis courts which will mean six pickleball courts. Sarah and I said that we wanted them done in our lifetime. Will be beating up on them to get this done. Rumbleball court...Woerner wants to put one in. Epiphany Lutheran is going to help them, HHIA is going to help them. They need \$1500.

Q: What about the bird sanctuary?

A: they ran into another issue. Something about the bid and it has to meet all the requirements for minority participation, etc.

Q: The entrance signs are really neat.

A: I think so, there was one complaint. This was part of the Carondelet Master Plan. Wayfare signs are coming. We are also getting those.

Alderwoman Sarah Martin – The baseball fields are a muddy pit right now. Trying to get them up to snuff for older kids to play ball games there. Updating the backstops, laser graded, build a shelter. Whitewall also will see a makeover. Got tired of driving to Brentwood to play city teams in the county. We were able to tack on to another contract that the city had. Lyle Mansion is also getting a sign too. We had such a successful event with the beignets. Hannah Ehrlich is looking at doing a Mother's Day event. Great cleanups thanks to Brightside. We had 25 people...Bar PM provided bloody marys and pizzas afterwards. Want to do little cleanups before the Carondelet Concert Series. Nice to have our best face forward for that.

Q: Empty school on Vermont will be rehabbed?

A: Historic tax credits, SLPS for a reduction in the price. Just sitting there not on the tax rolls. Lyon School.

Q: When is the building on Grand and Holly Hills going to be open?

A: Waiting to hear back on how seniors can apply to live there. Some low income and some market rate apartments. CCBF will also manage some of that.

Q: Do you think a red light is going to do any good at the YMCA? I wouldn't believe how cars just run through stop signs and lights. Multiple times. Not just here and there. You're taking your life in your hands.

A: We are hoping that the red lights will help. St. Louis is up there with pedestrian and cycling deaths. Other cities have started campaigns that have helped. A lot of people don't know that you have to stop for a pedestrian crossing the street.

Q: Any plans or support for a dog park?

A: Not in Holly Hills, but in the 11<sup>th</sup> ward, Carondelet Lions park. They are working on a dog park. Approved a water fountain there that will have a doggie bowl. Would like to see more activity and families in that park. They have their non-profit status and they are working on their committee.

Officer Steve Wilson – Trash task Force. City received a grant we hired 15 officers. Investigating dumpings again. Getting about 25 cameras. If you do see something, please call the CSB. Tell them to assign it to the trash task force. They are responding very quickly. Writing summons, rehabbers filling dumpsters, etc. Everybody has been commenting on the last response. Crime reports. 1 robbery...50 year old female, leaving her house 5500 block of Grace. Was walking to pay her phone bill at Grand and Bates. Doesn't make it there. Two young guys took her money. Couple burglaries, 3600 Bellerive. Getting tools and bikes out, just remember they are looking for open garage doors. Two nice bikes taken. Rehabbing house 3500 block of Burgen, took lamps, rugs, pictures, etc. Watch out for your neighbors. 3600 Holly Hills, apartment building, basement storage unit. Took lawnmower. 5500 South 37<sup>th</sup> St., rear door forced open during the day. A lot of these guys are dope fiends they are looking for stuff to pawn. 6300 South Grand, stolen property, a gun was stolen. Lock up your guns. Property damage 5400 37<sup>th</sup>, gunshots to the vehicle. 5400 37<sup>th</sup> two tenants got into a fight. Crime stats are usually good. I see the Rat Patrol out there. See the derelict vehicles in your neighborhood, expired plates. Neighborhood blitzes going on now. Forestry unit, towing cars, smoke detectors, etc. Cleaning up the blocks.

We are looking for residents interested in participating in Neighborhoods United for Change. Bridging the gap of understanding between communities, people, and races. We had an event last year with Lewis Place. Sponsored by SLACO. Residents of Holly Hills and Lewis Place visited each other's neighborhood, toured, then we had lunch together and a facilitated discussion.

Q: A lot of people with outstanding dues.

A: Memberships are also due, what a bargain for \$15. You can renew at [www.hollyhills.info/membership/](http://www.hollyhills.info/membership/).

Next meeting is May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018