

11-29-19 HHIA member meeting

7:05m Anna Baldwin, HHIA President, called the meeting to order

HHIA Board members present: Anna Baldwin, Beth Murphy, Michelle Bildner, Micahel Dauphin, Tara Ohler/Jenney, Kent and Julie Orrick, and James Sahaida

Also in attendance: Scouts from Troop 104 working on their Citizenship and Community badge.

1st Speaker: April Angela Walker, Recruiter for the 2020 Census

April stated she has been a census recruiter since 1990 and her position became permanent in 1992. Every household will receive a 2020 census notice. A citizen's response can be to mail it in, respond online, or call a response in. In the past only 50% of citizens were contacted.

The 2020 census will have 10 questions. The 1st five questions have just basic demographic questions and the other 5 questions are being finalized. A household will only be contacted if there is no response to the questionnaire. Typically ½ of households do respond. In 2010 73% of households go counted. Census numbers are important as \$675 billion dollars are distributed by the Feds based on the census count.

The plan is to hire 4,500 people for the City and 5,900 for the County. The past starting pay for census workers was \$19.50 per hour but due to the challenge of recruiting census workers the starting pay now is \$23.50 per hour with 58c per mile as mileage reimbursement. There are no benefits with the job. Employment is from April to October 2020. Qualifications are to be at least 18 years of age and a citizen. Noncitizens can be hired as translators. Office workers work from 7am to 4:30pm. The majority of the census positions are for field workers who go to homes where a response has not been received.

If a household does not respond to a census notice 3 reminders are sent and the third one states a census worker will be making a contact. Census workers will have a badge, a bag that says 2020 census, and an I-pad. A background check is required of census applicants and the census pays for it.

Census counts homeless, prisoners, and those in retirement facilities. Babies in hospitals (newborns) are to be counted and they are the most undercounted. Everyone needs to be counted.

Census field workers are typically assigned to work the area where they live. A lot of the work involves evenings and weekends. Workers are paid every week. There are three days of paid training. The minimum number of hours to work is 20 hrs. and a worker can work up to 40 hours per week.

Trying to get a response requires attempting to make a visit at least six times. After six tries the field worker can ask a neighbor for the information.

St. Louis lost a Congressional seat in 2010 because of a lower census count. A low census count has a cost in lost funding as well.

Speaker 2 Brendan Kirby, co-owner, Seed Sprout and Spoon Catering.

The former Grace UCC Church and more recently the US Marine Center on Leona St. is under renovation by Mr. Kirby and his partner. It will be a rental hall for weddings and other events and also a rental company. The plan is to call it the "Leona". Asbestos is now being removed from the building. A question arose about parking when a big event is held. Brendan said for those occasions a plan is underway for a valet service using the Woerner School parking lot.

For more information Brendan Kirby can be contacted by phone at 314-606-0165 or by email at Brendan@seedsproutspoon.com

Speaker 3 Steve Butz, 81st district State Representative

Mr. Butz recognized a scout from Troop 51 – Our Lady of Sorrows

Steve stated for the Mo. Legislature this is off season. The Legislature is back in session in January.

Steve had minutes available from a community meeting he organized and led at Woerner School. He stated his priorities are: Public Safety, Affordable Housing, Economic Development, and Education. Steve spoke about the St. Joseph initiative whereby older homes are rehabbed and made available to home purchasers who qualify and commit to living in the home for five years. He also cited Habitat for Humanity housing development. Steve said 343 households support Cops Walking the Beat. He stated the number of support has some decline due to persons moving or seniors moving to retirement facilities. There is always a need to recruit more supporters. For Cops Walking the Beat there are 4 shifts a week, 4 hours a shift. Steve spoke about the need for residents to get a real id by January. Without one or a passport one would not be able to use an airline for travel. Steve will be proposing a 2c a gallon tax increase to support needed infrastructure needs. 1996 was the last time there was a gas tax increase.

Speaker 4 Beth Murphy, 13th ward Alderwoman

Beth said the traffic light at Grand and Bates is going to be moved further back. Bates St. will be repaved but first Spire needs to complete work they are doing. Dead trees are being cut and the stumps will be removed when they can be got to. Michael Dauphin, the City Assessor, said that 2,400 trees are being removed and 2,600 trees will be planted. The City had to contract with a company to cut the trees because there are not enough City workers who can do the job. Doing this work is a skill and not enough persons have the skill or desire to do it.

In Carondelet Park the sunken area around horseshoe lake will be fixed. The Parks Dept. has been notified.

Beth talked about the St. Joseph's Housing initiative and said we are getting good publicity about it.

Speaker 5 Sara Martin, 11th Ward Alderwoman

Sara said the traffic roundabout project was supposed to start the Fall. This has been delayed. Sara spoke about a problem with City government where there is no financial penalty when contractors don't meet time deadlines.

Sara said Santa Claus would be at the Carondelet Rec Center on December 14 at 9am. and pancakes will be served. The Carondelet Y has been in existence for 100 years.

The Lutheran Church at Vermont and Koeln in the 11th Ward does a lot of charitable work. Sara said she wanted to give a plug to Pipefitters Union 562 that has donated \$80,000.00 worth of material and labor to the church.

Sara has a bill in the Board of Alderman to pay a prevailing wage.

She said work is going forward at the old Lyons School at Koeln and Vermont. It will have 32 new apartments. Also, the old Carondelet School has a contract signed for retail and commercial use.

Anna Baldwin announced on December 15th from 1-4pm there will be a Christmas social put on by the Holly Hills Improvement Association.

The next HHIA meeting is January 27th at 7pm The guest speaker Tishaura Jones, the St. Louis Treasurer

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm

