

HHIA Meeting Minutes  
January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

HHIA Meeting called to order by President, Anna Baldwin

Roll Call:

Present: Anna Baldwin, Michael Dauphin, Tara Jenney, Jim Sahaida, Beth Murphy

Steve Butz – “Cops Walking the Beat”

Steve spoke about a meeting held two months ago at Woerner School that concerned “Cops Walking the Beat”. He stated there was a lot of interest. A goal was set to get 500 of 2000 residents to contribute \$20 per month to hire off-duty SLPD officers by Campbell Security. Thus far 343 households have signed up. The present boundaries are Grand, Bates, Morganford, and Loughborough. Steve stated 2200 letters have been sent and 2000 fliers distributed. He states that residents can go to the HHIA website ([www.hollyhills.info](http://www.hollyhills.info)) and can use PayPal and there are tabs for \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100. Also checks made to Campbell Security will be accepted. “Cops on the Beat” will be kept going for the time being. Cops work 4 hour shifts and either walk or bike. The shifts are 6-10, 10-2, 4-8, 8-midnight. Average is 32 hours per week.

Anna Baldwin presented Steve Butz with a check for \$500 to support “Cops Walking a Beat” donated by HHIA.

Brooks Goedeker, Executive Director for Park Central Development

Brooks spoke about taxing Districts. The boundaries for Park Central Development are Lindell on the north, Grand on the east, Highway 44 on the south, and Hampton on the west. The two types of taxing districts are Special Business Districts which are residential (oddly named) and Commercial Improvement Districts. Brooks talked about that as Bosnians moved out of the Bevo area, poverty moved in. Recently Bevo voted to become a Community Improvement District. He states that the CWE has 12 special taxing districts. Together they raise \$3 million dollars. The majority of those funds go toward safety and security: supplemental police patrols and over 100 security cameras. He believes special taxing districts are a great return on investment. Property values increase more than the investment that is paid in. Plus you can invest in being proactive rather than paying for things like merchandise stolen from cars or from backyards, front yards, or worse. The Grove area came together to support a CID for security and they have had one now for seven years. He compared how well this area has done compared to Dutchtown that does not and how Dutchtown has fared citing a derelict building at 5200 Louisiana. Special taxing districts are approved by a vote. If approved a CID is ran by a 7 person board (5 homeowners, 2 renters) appointed by the Mayor. Meetings are open to the public. In addition to safety and security funds can be used for cleaning and maintenance, landscaping, and public infrastructure. If Holly Hills was to create a CID at \$.85 per assessed valuation the amount raised would be \$390,000.00. The least a resident would pay would be \$11.00 per year and the most \$700 per year.

Andrew Hernandez Neighborhood Improvement Specialist

He stated he has been assigned to this area since May 2016. Car clubs can be purchased for \$13 – cash only. He stated yard waste roll out pick-up will resume in March 2017. A problem property has been added to the list. It is located at 3656-3660 Bates.

Officer Steve Wilson Neighborhood Liaison Officer, Saint Louis Police Dept

Illegally parked cars have been a problem in the 3600 block of Bates and Wilmington at Livingston. Some vehicle owners use Illinois plates so as to not pay personal property tax.

Alderman Tom Villa, 11<sup>th</sup> ward

Kim Haegle is the new Parks Commissioner. Finally the real estate transaction for the properties at Grand and Iron closed last Tuesday. Alderman Villa stated that HUD delayed the project for six months with their contention the Southern Funeral Home should not be razed – it will be. Per the developer, demolition is about a month away. Removal of asbestos is being filed with the Dept of Natural Resources for permission. The developer is meeting with the Housing Development Commission tomorrow. Historical remnants from Southern Funeral Home that can be saved will be incorporated into the new project. Construction will take about twelve months and the target for completion is December 2017. The apartment building will have 55 units of which 10 will be for youth who age out of foster care, 10 will be market rate units, and the remainder will be for elderly. In regard to Loughborough Commons TIF bonds are being paid off more quickly than was expected. New bonds will be sold out at a lower rate and this will result in a savings of about a million dollars. The 75 million dollar River City bill was perfected today. In order for tax breaks to occur job creation must occur. The time frame for the development project has been extended to seek a better quality tenant. A contract has been let by the Board of Public Service for improvements on South Broadway that will include lighting. Gershman Construction will do the work. A delay was caused due to two railroad crossings. Cameras will be installed at Bates and Grand and at Bates and Virginia. Also, the BPs contracts were let for Boat House, Bird Habitat around Feb 28<sup>th</sup> and Lyle House window replacement bids are due on March 3 and interior improvements, including ADA upgrades will be performed by a contractor. Kim Haegle, is the new Parks Commissioner. She replaced Dan Skillman who retired December 31, 2016. Alderman Villa said he voted against a ½ cent tax for a soccer stadium. He feels there are other more important needs. He also stated he opposes funds for MetroLink expansion and thinks trying to do this without the support of County Executive, Steve Stenger, is foolhardy. Funding for a soccer stadium is tied to a bill for Metro expansion. Another factor related to a soccer stadium is Governor Greitens and we don't know where he stands. Also it will take a judge's approval to put it on the ballot as the time to approve it without a judge's approval has expired.

Alderman Beth Murphy, 13<sup>th</sup> Ward

Regarding a soccer stadium Beth stated most calls she has received favor a public vote on it. She stated a soccer stadium will generate jobs and that both a soccer stadium and ScottTrade would draw a lot of St. Louis County residents. She stated Lemmon's on Gravois was given an occupancy permit. Grbic's on is doing the project. Hobart's at Wilmington and Dewey received an occupancy permit to be a catering company. She stated a fiscal note bill was passed. As a result bills will have to contain a note attached to say what the cost of the project for that bill will be. A house located at Milentz and Macklind will get a TIF for rehab. It was derelict and located in a very visible location. A request was made for curfew signs at the entrances to Carondelet Park that are very visible. Curfew violations are a problem.

Jennifer Bess, Executive Director of City Seniors

Jennifer introduced herself. She gave a description of the services of City Seniors. She spoke of the vision of City Seniors to see senior citizens living active, independent lifestyles as long as possible. She reviewed that in 2016 the City Seniors transportation program delivered 615 clients safety to their destination 18,607 times; the senior socialization program served 88 folks 3,307 hot meals; the home delivered meal drivers delivered 300 home bound persons 43,172 lunches. The food pantry program kept 2028 individuals fed. Senior activities include social outings and lunches. Seniors play bingo and cards and have various craft activities. If need be City Seniors will pick seniors up and bring them to the

center located at 4705 Ridgewood Ave (behind Burlington Coat Factory and near the U.S. Post Office on Ridgewood Ave). The City Seniors transportation program takes seniors to go shopping, for doctor appointments, hair appointments, banking, and other social trips. A senior can call 314-352-0141 to schedule transportation. Also City Seniors provides home delivered meals by staff that have been given complete background checks and trained in elder and disability issues. Staff wear a pictured ID badge for safety. City Seniors welcomes volunteers. For more information please call City Seniors, 314-352-0141.

Sarah Martin and Dee Brown introduced themselves as candidates for the 11<sup>th</sup> Ward alderperson election.

Anne Schwetizer spoke on behalf of Tishaura Jones, running for Mayor.

The meeting was adjourned approximately 8:40pm.