

HHIA Meeting  
May 21, 2018

Roll call

Present: Jim Sahaida, Anna Baldwin, Lisa Bertke, Beth Murphy, Michael Dauphin, Julie Orrick

Absent: Kendal Dauphin, Tara Ohler, Eileen Muir, Stacy Ross

New to the neighborhood? Kevin lives on the 4100 block of Bates, Dennis on the 4000 block of Toenges, and Liz Wilcox on Marwinette with a home under contract on Holly Hills.

Guest Speakers:

Marnie Clark from DESCO and Joe from Whelan Security

Hi, I'm Marnie with the DESCO group. I know that Loughborough Commons is a place that a lot of the neighborhood shop. We have partnered with Whelan Security. We are no longer using the old company as of last Thursday. Doubled the numbers of guards from 6am-11pm Mon-Sun. Two guards on the lot every day. One will be walking and one will be in a vehicle. Big push for security. We want it to be a safe place for our tenants and the residents. Wanted some feedback from you...what else can we do to make it safer? This is a big first step. Just in the beginning stages. We really wanted to hear from you and partner with the neighborhood. We have partnered with our tenants.

Q: Do you have a way for us to give you feedback later?

A: I have a business card and the HHIA board is also knows how to get your feedback to me.

Q: I like to ride my bike there from the neighborhood...does the security extend to the bike path?

A: Security ends at the fence at the bike path.

Q: I have a friend who works for Rivers Greenway, could you partner with them?

A: We have reached out to them already...as well as the railroad. We are trying to eliminate as much of the problem areas as we can.

Q: I am the alderwoman for the area and I appreciate you guys coming. And for addressing any suggestions I have made. I really appreciate it.

A: We are doing our very best. There are a lot of landowners that we are working with. I'm there at least every other week. Performing visits on the property with my tenants. I see myself what is going on at the center and I want to make sure that it's safe for everyone.

Q: I was at Schnucks a week ago and my license plates were taken. Asked about cameras....was told they have them inside but not outside.

A: Tenants are the only ones that have them, inside their space. If we put cameras outside there are a myriad of things that go along with that. Never say never, but we are not pursuing exterior cameras at this time.

A: That falls under Whelan's responsibility. We have been there a month assessing the property. We do know that there is a lot of homeless and drug use in the restrooms. Tenants have been really good. Starbucks now is not going to refuse service to anyone. So it can present some problems. Homeless population looks at it as a source of revenue. This is a partnership...we may have to right size this. DESCO is stepping up but there are other issues there too. Trying to work with the railroad to dislodge some people living under the trestle. Lot of buy in from the tenants.

Q: What prompted this change?

A: We knew the prior security was not working out. We have been working for six months with Whelan to get this off the ground. Around July we will be installing LED lights on the poles which will increase the lighting immensely. Another really big plus to help with the security. Worked really hard with Firestone to keep the brush trimmed back behind Firestone. Took a while to get Firestone corporate on board. Injecting technology into it too...now when people are kicked off the property we are taking their picture and writing a report. We can then provide that documentation to the police. I can leave my business cards if you have any questions/concerns.

Q: Marketing for empty store going well?

A: We are so close to getting a new tenant. Can't say just yet. Hoping in the next month or two I can say something. We will then be at full occupancy.

Q: What about litter? Who is responsible for cleaning up litter?

A: We have a sweeping company that picks up litter every night. Our landscapers also pick up the litter. Unfortunately with the positioning of the property with the highway and Lowes...litter just gathers. Schnucks has porters that pick up in front of their space. Every single night there is litter to pick up.

Q: Do you have trash receptacles on the property?

A: Yes, they are there. We have tested more trash cans and they get run over or stolen.

Q: Are all of these issues affecting the business of the tenants?

A: The tenants are not required to report sales. But I have not had a tenant report any issues with sales. No tenant has left because of lack of sales.

Q: How do the issues compare with other similar properties that you own?

A: It all depends on where the property is located. There are properties that are similar to this and those that don't have the issues.

A: One of our Whelan goals, we want everyone to feel comfortable going there at night. You are going to see less people on the lot begging.

Q: Are the security guards going to be armed?

A: Not originally but we are considering off-duty police officers that will be armed.

Q: Lowes is not part of this effort?

A: Correct. This effort is from Schnucks up to BreadCo and Starbucks. The Bank, Burger King, and Firestone are also not under this security. But some of those tenants did come to our meeting a few weeks ago. Reached out and also asking them to partner with us. If you have any questions please reach out to us.

Sue DiRaimondo and Curtis Farber from the Board of Election Commissioners

Sue is the Democratic Judge Coordinator and Curtis is the Republican Judge Coordinator. Has anyone here ever worked on the polls? The election judges makes \$125. It is a long day, it begins at 5am until the polls close at 7pm. Way better than jury duty, right? Once you work as an election judge you could move up to a manager spot, \$150. Tech Savvy persons can be technical specialists. The specialists is a non-partisan position. Curtis really needs Republicans in the city. I need Democrats in this area. It is a very simple application process, you can also do it online. We verify your voter registration and you

start receiving our notifications. It is tax free money. We would love to have you. Most of the people that work have been working together for years. They have developed lifelong friendships. You can play cards, potluck dinner, etc. Training takes place at the Sheet Metal workers Hall on Chouteau and we can get you very close to your area.

We brought some flyers about the new voter id laws. We still accept all the same types of ID but we prefer that people provide a photo id over the bank statement, etc. We have made it easier for voters that have no id at all to vote. You can come to the polling place. You can fill out a provisional ballot, they will compare your signature on the ballot and validate. You have to sign an extra affidavit that swears that you are the person you say you are. Show it to Vote, you can call the Secretary of State's office. They will provide you with a state issued ID.

Q: Are provisional ballots always counted?

A: The prov ballot envelope has to be filled out. If all the info is correct they will count it. They have up to two weeks to count and certify them. If you went to the wrong precinct it cannot be counted. If the signature is way off they will not count it. There have been a dozen or so to date and they have all been counted. They count all the prov and absentee ballots.

Q: How do you get the state issued ID?

A: The state will pay for it. They have an 800 number that you can call. It does take a few weeks to get the state ID. If someone comes in and votes without that type of ID you will get a letter trying to help you to get an ID.

We also have voter registration forms if you need to change your address. Kids can register to vote at 17 and a half. Lastly we have the application for permanent disability. Once this is filled out you automatically get an absentee ballot in the mail for each election.

Q: I moved over from St. Louis Hills to Holly Hills. Where do I need to go to transfer?

A: You can fill out one of these today. Or you can change your address up to and including election day (in the same jurisdiction) by filling out the consolidated voter affidavit. It would be easier to do it today. One other thing, when you get your voter notification cards, always pay attention in case your ward and precinct changes. Bring your card with you so that you know which precinct you are in.

Q: Sometimes I vote Dem sometimes I vote Rep. Can I still work for the election?

A: We do have to have a bipartisan team. In the state of MO you don't register under a particular party but when you fill out a poll worker party it will ask you if you are Republican, Dem, Independent, or other. On election day you will have a badge that will say Poll Worker Dem or Republican. Do we know how you vote? No, we don't. But they do want you to know that you will be representative of that party that you sign up for. Except for the technical specialist which is a non-partisan position. And it pays more.

Kathy Soehngen representing Oakville High School Band

Oakville Band Association, we are just down highway 55 a few miles. You may not have heard about our band, but you will be hearing about us soon. Our little band has been invited to play for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France. It's a great honor for the state of Missouri. We are the only high school band from the state of MO that has been invited. Only 13 high school bands in the country have been invited. We will be playing on Omaha Beach on D-Day. Playing at a French cemetery, American cemetery, and concert in St. Marie-Eglise. This is quite an event for us. Mostly it is a great

honor for the students to pay tribute to our veterans on that day. The student's curriculum this year will be based on D-Day and American and French culture at the time. With this great opportunity comes a great responsibility. To carry on the memory of our WWII vets. Knowing these students they are going to be living up to their goal. This also carries a great expense. Will cost \$560,000 to get the students there and back. It costs \$38,000 alone to ship the instruments. Hosting a live concert next week on the Steve Harris show. The reason I am here this evening is because I have a great affinity for our veterans. My father, husband, and daughter have all served. You can fill out a card with the name of any veteran and the cards will be carried in a pocket of the students' uniform. These cards come with a \$5 donation. My personal goal is to have every student carry 50 veterans with them. I have three things to ask of you. We need to know who your vets are. Whose service are they carrying with them? Also asking if you know of any organization or business that would contribute to us. We would be most grateful. I will go anywhere that will give me 10 minutes. Third thing I am asking is that if you know of an organization that would let me speak for the valor cards. Even if they cannot give a financial donation, there has to be vets involved. I want to thank Anna for inviting me and thank you to all of the vets for your service.

Steve Butz – Hard to follow that. My name is Steve Butz. You've known me as a local neighbor for a long time. Running for State Rep in the 81<sup>st</sup> district. There is a primary coming up on Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>. I have served as a poll judge, it is a great honor. Getting involved in any level of public service is a high honor. We do need people to be active and involved in the political process. WE have a primary every two years for the State Rep position. I wanna make a difference. I have lived in this area for about 51 years. I just moved in in 1967. Went to St. Stephen's, Bishop DuBourg. As of Wednesday, wife Angie and I are celebrating our anniversary. Six children. The youngest just graduated from KU. There is a time of life, a season of life. That active parenting role has ended for my wife and I. I can now step up my game and offer more to my community. For my entire life and many decades, I offer you my life's work. This YMCA, active in several of the churches, active in homeless and poverty ministries. Women of Achievement luncheon. Terrible personal tragedy. My sister was brutally raped and murdered...you mourn for a while but at a certain point you have to forgive and reconcile different groups. Out of that a young mother Rachel Ranken she and another young lady from the neighborhood started an outreach of survivors of rape. The Angel Band project. Taken that tragedy and turned it into a great outreach to make something good come out of something bad. Rachel was honored as a women of achievement. I look at that experience and I want to be on a bigger picture I want to be a bridge builder. Racially and economically. I consider it to be the highest goal in pursuing this office. If I am so chosen I will represent the district with a level of passion and integrity. Not many will match my level of work. I will bridge the rural and urban divides, racial divides. Check out the Steve Butz campaign page. I have many public events. I like that kind of civil discourse. Will do my best to represent South City and this area. Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> is the primary.

Fred Wessels – I am Fred Wessels and I represent the 81<sup>st</sup> district in the Missouri House of Rep. In session Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 18<sup>th</sup>. There were well over 2,000 bills introduced. 144 passed into law. Very brief synopsis. If you want some more info email me at [fredwessels@hotmail.com](mailto:fredwessels@hotmail.com). If you can wait a month I will be sending out a written synopsis to all households in the middle of June. Good news first. Your income tax is going to decrease. 5.9% down to start falling to 5.5% next year. Keep going down until it meets 5.1%. If you have a corporation you will get a bigger tax decrease. From 6.25% to 4%. We also passed a bill that will put the sales tax for gasoline on the ballot in November. 10% tax increase spread out over four years. Why do we need a tax increase? We have the 7<sup>th</sup> largest number of highways in the country. 33,000 state roads. But we are the 47<sup>th</sup> in terms of revenue raised per road. Most of us are driving more efficient cars. My son Ben has an electric car. Hybrids are taking off, have

been for years. The gas tax is not going up very quickly in Missouri. There hasn't been an increase since the 1990s. Our roads are in terrible condition. Bridges, viaducts. I personally will vote for it. I hope it passes. Elementary school funding went up \$100 mil dollars. Higher education, the money that the governor cut was put back in by Congress. Removed the statute of limitations on sex crimes. Historic tax credits went from \$140 mil per year to \$120 per year. It could have been a lot worse...the people that worked on it did a good job to maintain the money. MO is the only state in the union that doesn't have an opioid restriction program. We did pass some legislation to that end. Merit system...more state employees were moved off the merit system. It makes it easier for the state to hire and fire employees. I voted against the bill. The lobbyist gift ban did not pass. It passed the house but died in the Senate. Anytime a lobbyist takes one of us out to lunch there are two options: I can pay (which is what I have done) or you can accept the lunch and report it to the Ethics Commission. It doesn't say that it is wrong but it identified what was spent and who paid for it. You can look at my record, I am one of the few that have no lobbyist gifts. That group is growing each year. The bill to allow conceal and carry on campuses and bars failed. I should give you a goofy bill list. Some of the stuff that was introduced is just nutty. Medical marijuana...thought that had a chance to pass this year. Would have allowed doctors to prescribe under certain conditions, essentially in a hospice situation. It passed the house died in the senate. If someone has a month or two to live, let them have whatever they need.

Q: Syringe exchange didn't pass?

A: No it did not.

Q: 10 cent gas increase is that earmarked for roads?

A: Directed at highways, viaducts, bike paths.

Q: All these tax reductions are well and good but where is the revenue coming from?

A: Yes. That is why I voted against the tax decreases. We have 117 Reps and 46 Dems. You can talk about reaching across the aisle and working with the other side. But the truth of the matter is when they want to do something they can do it. What we can do is try to expose it. The debate is horrendous down there. They will say we can't fund this program or that program because we have a budget problem. We have a budget problem because you cut the corporate tax rate and other tax cuts that are just now coming to roost. It is a self-imposed budgetary issue.

Q: What is the argument for not having an opioid program when we are the only state without one?

A: Their answer is freedom. They want the government to stay out of their life. They want services but they don't want to pay for it.

The special session for impeachment starts in June. The impeachment committee is made up of bipartisan folks.

Q: What does it cost when they go into special session?

A: I don't remember what the cost is per day. \$115 per day for me to be down there. Multiply that by 163 house members and 34 senators it adds up.

Captain Donnell Moore

My name is Donnell Moore. Captain Mueller has transitioned to a different position downtown. I am taking over for him. 23 year vet of the SLMPD. Newly promoted in April 12<sup>th</sup>. Been in the district for about a month. I consider myself a policeman's policeman. I still see myself in blue. Still want to be out on the street. If you don't want problems to go away don't call me because I will go to work. Capt

Mueller was very prominent on FaceBook. I will try to keep that going but I have zero social media skills. My aide will be monitoring that from me. She is going to get me from kindergarten up to the college level. I am old school. Prefer that you call me. Let's have a conversation. A lot of things get lost in social media and text messaging. With that in mind I do not have a problem with you calling me or emailing me.

Q: What is your relationship to Officer Wilson?

A: I am the new captain of the 1<sup>st</sup> district. Officer Wilson is still our liaison officer. You will see him much more often than me. This is my fourth meeting today. But you will primarily see him. He was off today and I'm here. You can still go to him or any 1<sup>st</sup> district officer. Social media does not take the place of 911. When you see things, please call. We have had a couple citizens that have put stuff on ND and FB and expected the police to show up.

Q: Can you advise what the responsibility is of the police dept in regard to the parks? As far as activity in the parks.

A: The key thing is enforcing any city ordinance. Parks typically open at 6am and close at 10pm. We do have assistance from park rangers but if you happen to see something call 911 and the officers will respond.

Q: How about parking in the pavilion or on the grass?

A: That is illegal, please call. Any ideas that you want to see in the area, I will be honest, I will plagiarize it. I want you to be safe.

Officers Jessica Walsh and Lindsay Anderson – We are usually on the bikes in Bevo and we try to hit Carondelet Park in the morning for the walkers. Normal hours at 6am to 2pm. Hit the parks about 6:30-7am. I know Steve is your normal guy, bear with me. Aggravated assault...it was a domestic argument between a boyfriend and girlfriend arguing over text messages. Someone's foot got stepped on. No injuries. 8 burglaries. Mostly unoccupied homes, in the process of rehab or unsecured. Neighbor had their window open heard a glass shatter, police arrived and arrested the suspects. Thanks to the alert neighbor we were able to arrest them. Vehicle theft, two of them were unsecured. Arson, one neighbor was angry and set fire to come clothes. Destruction of property, a lot of them were disturbances between neighbors about parking spots. No reports of bored juveniles. Other crimes would be your car getting hit and leaving the scene. Huge decrease in crime in April. Due to us police officers as well as the Rat Patrol, the Cops Walking the Beat effort, and diligence of neighbors. It's not only us it is you guys contributing to the decrease in the crime.

Q: Seems like there is more info about ATMs having been jimmed. Are we seeing that in the city?

A: Couple reports but if you go up to the ATM machine or gas station. Jiggle it...if anything is lose, report it to the front counter. Check first and then report it.

Q: Stolen plates. Why is that picking up?

A: Especially in the summer this picks up. They commit a crime with that plate. We also have automatic license recognition scanners that will alert the police. The real time crime center also monitors that city wide. If you plates have been stolen, please report it immediately.

Q: I think the biggest problem is expired plates.

A: Irritates me to no end. Two teenagers driving around and their car got struck by an expired driver. Requested the traffic division to come into the district between four and eight hours. Gave them

specific points for them to focus on. Looking into expired temp tags. This past week alone they wrote 186 tickets. How does that increase from previous months? This is new for me. The tint on the windows...the front windshield tint is illegal and I have also asked them to check for that. The tint ticket charge is \$500. If it is a decent citizen...write them a ticket first. If we have given you a chance and we find the expired tag again we will tow your car. Traffic enforcement is here to stay. We have a lot of stop signs and children walking around. We may not be pulling over a lot of people on bikes but we do ticket a lot of parking tickets for expired tags and plates. We are new to the bike unit for the past two months.

Q: There's a cop car that is parked at Holly Hills and Arendes.

A: Could be a shell car. It is used as a deterrent. Steve Wilson moves them around. One at Virginia and Bates and the 7-11 lot.

Alderwoman Beth Murphy – The bridge to the YMCA will cost \$2 mil to replace. It was a wooden bridge when we were kids. They left the stone abutments. So much traffic because of the Recplex. We can't just keep repairing it and it is a money issue. They said they can't replace a bridge that is worn down because of too much use. It's a money issue. Could build another road with an entrance near Tennessee. We will keep fighting for the bridge. Holly Hills Automotive...forced them to go to a zoning hearing. Starting to look like a junkyard. The decision was he can have 4-6 cars. He is doing better but still not what it should be. Supposed to be working on cars and getting rid of them. SnoCone cart is starting to look a little shabby. Looking into who has the permit for it. Gateway Science Academy was trying to expand to Sorrows but the South Side Deanery won't let them. Delfino's pizza is going in where Mr. Yummy's was. Losing our St. Joe's orphan home on St. Mary's property. Broken into all the time. Water damage. Got permission from the preservation board to tear it down. Can't be saved. St. Mary's wants to put a fine arts building on the property. Spring and Delor apartments are a constant thorn in my side. They have a new manager and I have spoken with her. Working with her on getting better tenants. Successful Holly Hills Summerfest at Woerner School on 5/19. Combination of Epiphany Lutheran and Woerner and HHIA. We got blown away. We lost 5 tents, saved two. One bouncy house blew away. The bubble machine made all the kids happy. Epiphany is trying to be real active in the neighborhood. Some cleanups in Carondelet Park coming up.

Q: Observation from a park walker...most ignored pedestrian signal is the crossing at the YMCA.

A: We are working on getting a hawk light. Blinking yellow no one cares, working on a red light. Working on getting more pedestrian signs. I hope that it works.

Q: I called about the recycling bin that was in my alley.

A: Thank you for calling them. I called City Services twice with no response. The drivers say that they are so overworked and short staffed.

Q: Your vote on the ward reduction. I have many neighbors here that couldn't come.

A: I wasn't there in 2012. I got calls about 50/50 either way when it came up again. Some people wanted to vote on it...it wasn't advertised up north. Advertised that it would save money which it will not do. I was moved by the North Side's concern about losing representation. I know. I'm getting beat up from both sides.

Q: It was more frustrating that you voted for it to be on the April ballot.

A: Little bit of political horse trading for another bill. That's what is done in politics. I heard someone mumble that I don't represent the North Side. But we all work together. I think it is going to die anyway.

Q: When they reduce the board will those become full time positions?

A: The level of service is going to be a shock. Going forward you can't expect us to be at every meeting every time because the meetings will double. The expectation of you folks is tremendous and that will be a shock to residents. Money will start going into the elections to select who those 14 will be.

Julie Orrick – Julie would like to become a member at large of the Holly Hills Improvement Association. Unanimously confirmed.

Alderwoman Sarah Martin – Few exciting things. The new baseball field. We consolidated the underutilized baseball field with the larger one in the park. Added backstops, laser graded. Dugouts. Other amenities that now allow our kids in the city to host games here. New sign at the Lyle Mansion. That has been in the works for two years. New signs in the park, directional signs. Intrada grand opening ribbon cutting around mid-June. Looks great already. People living on Tennessee have asked me about traffic issues. The residents are not likely to have a vehicle. If they do, it should be only one. Alderman Murphy and I are working on the bridge issue. They wanted to close it permanently. We said no. It is a safety issue coming out of the only working entrance. Trying to work with streets on a plan. Il Grani is the largest semolina plant. They are expanding on S. Broadway. Good construction jobs as well as some permanent jobs. Apex Metal is expanding and adding 15 jobs. Total of 25 additional jobs, three vacant buildings being filled. More people to eat at lunchtime, more foot traffic.

Q: You said last time there would be ball fields over here. Camps going on with the YMCA...people will be parking all over the place.

A: for the most part the ball leagues are through the end of June 1<sup>st</sup>. There shouldn't be too much traffic. You already had folks practicing there already. Really important for our city kids to be able to host a ball game on their own home field. Also working with the Spanish Society on putting in a new improved soccer field. Wanted to be at Alaska Park but MSD will be using it. Couple different options. More MSD land along River des Peres. Michigan Hills Park is another option. Not a very active neighborhood...it would be nice to bring activity to that area. Whitewall will be improved. It is getting laser graded.

Q: I heard the city was fighting with the railroad about the bridge.

A: There is no fight. The railroad doesn't own it. The city built what is there now built in the 70s. The railroad claimed they didn't need a bridge after a train hit it.

Q: The expansion on Broadway...all those companies receive TIF money?

A: No, no one did. My predecessors saved their money and used federal matching. There is a CID and tax credits already in place for some landscaping.

Next meeting is September 24, 2018