

Holly Hills Improvement Association member meeting - Monday 3-27-2023

Present: Anna Baldwin, Tara Ohler-Jenney, Jim Forgash, Dan West, Loren Lang, Mike Dauphin, Andy Sciaroni, Amy Heater, Jim Sahaida

Anna Baldwin called the meeting to order. She announced Christa Jackson-Edelen is resigning due to moving out of Holly Hills. She stated Christa could not be in attendance due to another commitment. Anna recognized residents new to attending HHIA.

Treasurer Report: Jim Forgash, Treasurer, announced a balance of \$17,450.13 in the HHIA account.

Loren Lang, merchandise, stated we are light on t-shirts and clothing

Anna Baldwin stated our website needs updating.

Mike Dauphin, Board Vice President, introduced the new St. Louis Police Chief, Robert Tracy, who took command on January 9, 2023.

Chief Tracy introduced himself and stated he's been here for 9 weeks. He spent 24 years at the New York police department and was the Chief in Chicago for 5 years. He stated he ran 2 private sector companies. He said business management applies to police work as accountability is very important. Chief Tracy said a structure using business management principles needs to be ironed out. He said he know there are challenges here that include recruiting officers. He talked about the tentative agreement relative to pay increases that will help with recruiting and this is very important. He said having a contract is important. Chief Tracy said morale is an issue going back to Ferguson. Most recently Chief Tracy stated he has had 6 years as Chief working in Wilmington, Delaware. Chief Tracy sited statistics of how he was able to significantly reduced crime in all the areas he has served. An area Chief Tracy stated needs attention that involves Jefferson City is juveniles not being prohibited from carrying guns. He stated the current use of a point system with juveniles doesn't work. He stated violent crime will be a focus. He cited the need for consequences when the law is broken. Chief Tracy said things done here will professionally and that he wants to

be here. There will be a constant methodology of bringing managers in. Chief Tracy said

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there will be an emphasis on traffic enforcement and there were issues with traffic enforcement due to the Covid pandemic. He will attend as many community meetings as he possibly can. Chief Tracy said he will do and have some conversations behind the scenes when he feels that is appropriate. He stated that he had much success in Wilmington and plans to have it here. He stated we need to tell our story. He introduced officers he had in attendance with him including a Captain and Major. He stated there are structural issues such as the one with the 911 emergency number need to be ironed out. Chief Tracy stated that in regards to the Circuit Attorney he plans to have private conversations and try and reach some solutions as a first step. He talked about legal cynicism – not trusting the police and there also being police having legal cynicism as things that need to be worked on. He plans to be fair and keep politics out of policing. He talked about needing to get the work done with the officers we have and needing the trust of officers. Now officers do not trust the structure.

Captain Latrice Allen, Commander of the 1st District was introduced by Chief Tracy. She stated she has 34 years of experience. She stated Holly Hills is a safe area. An area crime is up is car thefts as we are at 21 whereas last year there were 17. There have been 267 calls for service and 232 were radio generated. Our new officer liaison for Holly Hills Improvement Association is Eric Henry.

Brooks Goedeker, SBD (Special Business District) Chair

The SBD was established in October, 2022. The SBD board is comprised of 15 people. Requests for proposals (RFP's) have been submitted. An RFP was approved for submission for bids by the beautification committee for signage. The infrastructure committee issued and RFP for gates. The safety and security committee is issuing a RFP for patrols.

Ted Hartzler, Carondelet Advisory Commission

Ted stated they met today. They discussed gates at Carondelet Park. Also there was discussion of the Gateway Offroad cycling proposal. It would need approval

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by the City Parks Department. Ted cited a need to have more people in the Park. He stated that Mike Dauphin ran their meeting.

Angie Butz – SBD beautification committee

Angie stated for those interested for more information they can go to HollyHillsSBD.com

Hannah Erlich – Holly Hills Community Garden

There are spaces open for those interested. The Friends of Carondelet Park have done a honeysuckle removal project in Carondelet Park.

Sharie Taylor – Neighborhood Stabilization Specialist

Phone #314-657-1390 Email: Taylorsh@stlouis-mo.gov

She said if cars have valid plates even though they may be abandoned are not towed. After a vehicle receives 4 unpaid tickets they can be towed.

Jimmy Lappe – 11th ward alderman

He stated he really tried his best and thanked all the residents for their patience. He stated at the next election voters will get to vote on Prop C- a charter amendment for the City that allows a commission to exist to look at changes. If changes are recommended voters will decide to accept or reject the proposed changes.

Anne Schweitzer – 13 Ward Alderman

There are sidewalk repairs at residences underway. Anne found a flaw with how sidewalk requests were organized and that has been corrected. City trees are now being planted. A raise for police officers has been approved.

Anne Schweitzer – 1st Ward Candidate for the Board of Alderman

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Anne wants to be able to continue to serve residents. She stated she can hit the ground running with her experience. She is ready to represent the entire ward. She stated safety is vital and that we need to work together. She stated 911 is getting better. She addressed a question about aldermanic courtesy in that sponsoring development outside of the ward should be done carefully. Anne supports the establishment of a reparations committee due to past discrimination and she would examine any recommendations that may be made.

Tony Kirchner – 1st Ward Candidate for the Board of Aldermen

He stated his top priorities are public safety and improved basic City services. He would use focused deterrence as a tool to improve safety. He would support TIF's (tax abatements) for development. He is opposed to a reparations committee being established.

An aldermanic debate was announced by Anna Baldwin. The debate will be on March 30th at 7pm at the Immaculate Heart of Mary gym.

Anna Baldwin announced our next membership meeting is Monday, May 22, 2023