**We had ~35 attendees at the September NHNA General meeting. Peter Meredith, State Representative for St. Louis (District 80), and Alderman Joe Vollmer (Ward 5), discussed statewide and St. Louis City measures, respectively, that will be on the Nov. 5th ballot. Charles Bryson, a spokesperson for trailnet.org, spoke on Prop T which seeks to establish the City Department of Transportation. To kick off our biannual “Business Leaders of NoHa” series, we hosted Berto Garcia of Garcia Properties and Kathy Florek of People’s National Bank. Attendees filled 2 boxes with food donations for the Gethsemane Little Free Food Pantry. The next NHNA General meeting will be held on November 25th at Gethsemane Lutheran Church.**

**Please email the NHNA admin at** **admin@northamptonneighbors.com** **with any questions.**

**10/28/24 North Hampton Neighbors Association meeting:**

* Jane Rain opens the meeting at 6:05 pm.
* Peter Merideth, MO State Representative for District 80

- Presented a synopsis of the state measure on the Nov 5th ballot:

-**Amendment 2** to allow sports betting. The betting will be taxed (10%), part of which will be revenue for public schools and to fund support for gambling addiction. Approval requires 50% + 1 yes vote to pass. He suggested that we consider first whether sports betting should be legal. If so, is this the way it should be done?

-**Amendment 3** Reproductive rights amendment that will undo Dobbs decision and restores legal standard under Roe.

-**Amendment 5** to allow the state gaming commission to permit a casino in the Ozarks, which residents of the region support. A “no” says they can’t; a “yes” approves the casino.

- **Amendment 6** Revenue from court costs can be used to fund the Dept of Justice. In the city the sheriff’s dept draws from the Dept of Justice funds, which raised the issue of whether this posed undue influence on law enforcement (e.g. predatory ticketing).

-**Amendment 7** Prohibits rank choice voting and approval voting (a party candidate receiving the greatest number of votes at the primary election for an office shall be the only candidate for that party at the general election) and specifies that only U.S. citizens can vote.

-**Prop A** increases the minimum wage to $13.75/hr. 1/1/15 and to $15/hr. by 2026 and ties future wage increases to inflation. It also requires businesses to grant sick leave (1hr/30hr worked).

* Joe Vollmer, Alderman for Ward 5 (Contact: vollmerj@stlouis-mo.gov, (314) 622-3287)

-Discussed St. Louis City charter amendments which require 2/3 voter approval to pass:

-**Prop B** will allow the Board of Alderman to remove/add appropriations proposed in the City’s annual budget and to amend the amounts proposed in the line items. He prefers that a non-elected City Manager be in charge of the budget.

-**Prop T** will replace the St. Louis City Streets Department with a Department of Transportation which will be mandated to not only maintain and repair streets (current duties of the Streets Dept) but also to oversee overall planning, engineering and design of transportation projects without requiring approval of the Board of Alderman.

 -**Prop V** allows the city to increase fines (above the current maximum fine of $500) on landlords/owners of vacant properties.

-**Prop 5** allows an increase in tax (3% of nightly rental rate) on short-term rentals to be paid by the owners. This will require establishing and maintaining a database on all short-term rental properties.

**Q/A**: BB114 was discussed (still in HUDs cmte, hearing to be held on Oct 29th @ 6pm). The bill clarifies the process for shelters to apply for operation within the city, including community notification requirements and public hearings for new shelter proposals.

Tilles Park playground equipment was delivered but not installed. The contracted installers will have to pay for damages and stolen hardware.

* Charles Bryson, spokesperson for Trailnet.org

-Discussed **Prop T** – advocating for a long-needed update to the Streets Department, which was established in the 1914. The Department of Transportation will adopt an integrative approach to the city transportation system with the input of residents with a goal of safe streets for all modes of transportation. All current services carried out by the Streets Dept. will be part of the new Dept of Transportation mandate. As a result, most of the current staff will stay on and be assigned where needed in the new department.

* Business Leaders of NoHA

**Berto Garcia** of Garcia Properties spoke about their family history in the area and the properties and businesses currently being run or in development, especially in the area of S. Kinghighway and Chippewa. This area has several retail, entertainment and service businesses providing services to customers in the area as well as >110 jobs.

**Kathy Florek** of People’s National Bank introduced the company which has 27 branches (24 in IL and 3 in MO). They are a smaller bank that emphasized personalized service.

* Shanieka Jackson, Neighborhood Improvement Specialist for Northampton, Southampton, Old North St. Louis, Hyde Park. Contact: (314) 901-3065, jacksonshan@stlouis-mo.gov

-City Streets department is understaffed. There are currently only 4 people to handle potholes.

-CSB is working through backlogs in neighborhoods.

-When you call have a description of a problem and make sure it is in a public space.

-Issue details for the last 4 weeks:

5 potholes, 14 container damage, 7 container blocking, 10 downed trees, 4 street light outages, 1 bulk items, 14 vehicle towing, 6 sewer lateral line.

-Specific issues can be submitted to CSB using the online portal **(https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/neighborhood-stabilization-office/citizens-service-bureau/)** or communicated directly to your NIS.

* Marissa Owen, Community Engagement Librarian, St. Louis Public Library, Buder Branch

-Buder is hosting early voting M-Th 10-6 and Fri/Sat 10-4:30 but wait times are >1 hr.

- S. Kinghighway and Carpenter branches reports shorter waiting times.

-Please check the SLPL website for details on voting hours. <https://www.slpl.org/>)

* Tina Wong, NHNA Board member

- Holiday cookie project will be collecting and delivering cookies for local police and fire stations. We will be accepting baked or bought cookies packaged in small bags for delivery to South Patrol (200+ employees) and Firehouse 35 (40+ employees).

-Cookies collection date TBD – sign up circulated.

-Tilles Park cleanup on 10/2 was well attended with >14 volunteers to clear mulberry and honeysuckle, spread mulch and clean up trash.

-Thanks to all for your efforts

* Jane Rain -- Parting message for NHNA members to promote involvement. What do you want to get out of the NA? Bring areas of interest or activity suggestions to the board or volunteer time to ongoing activities.

-Adjourned meeting 7:40.

**To be added to the general meeting agenda, please submit a request though the NHNA website: https://northamptonneighbors.com/**