

**SIXTH WARD DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2011**

MINUTES

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Consent Agenda—Minutes/Treasurer's Report

The Minutes from November 18, 2010 and the Treasurer's Report (11/15/2010-01/18/2011) were M/S/A.

Election of Officers

The slate of candidates presented in November, and listed in the November minutes, was approved by acclamation.

Candidate Presentations

For Alderman: Bradford Kessler discussed the basic right to run for office. He noted his 30 years of advocacy and the need for people to step forward and not wait for things to get 'fixed'. His own experience in criminal defense has shown him how innocents can be found guilty because they have nobody to advocate for them. He declared he will be 'infinitely available' to all constituents because everyone has a right to be represented. He is trusted by the families he has helped and because of a lifetime of standing up for what is right. QUESTION: where do you stand on Ballpark Village? ANSWER: Tax credits should be used to get more business, we need revenue and he supports the tax credits, though does not believe they should be taken advantage of. QUESTION: What is your position on local control of the SLMPD? ANSWER: Supports. QUESTION: What can be done about wellness/fitness of kids in the ward? ANSWER: it is hard to get kids to do what you want them to, but having safe places for them to go would be a great start. QUESTION: Where do you stand on consolidating city offices to streamline city government? ANSWER: Supports reducing the numbers of elected officials given the reduced population in the city.

For Alderman: Kacie Starr Triplett, current Alderwoman, stated she has been around the whole ward over her term and not just before the election. She has been a lifelong resident of the Sixth Ward, going to school, playing, and working in the ward. She has spoken before at Heritage House about problems with vacant properties, attracting new businesses and improving the quality of life in the ward. She noted she will be a full-time Alderman, through thick and thin and not just for one term. She mentioned a blind, deaf resident of Tower Grove East who lived alone with his dogs and told her he was thinking of moving because he was scared of activities in the vacant house next door. She took this citywide issue to the board and got an ordinance passed to hold owners accountable for boarding up windows on upper levels as well as the first floor, to mow the lawns, and minimally maintain the vacant properties. Her grandfather, former Senator John Bass taught her never to be afraid. She has worked to bring jobs to the ward, including the Chouteau Corridor \$18 million investment in green technology. BB111 will provide the framework for more jobs and protect existing small businesses. There are \$700k+ loans available in façade grants to businesses who have been in the neighborhood for 10+ years. This will help them stay vibrant. Diner's Delight is one example of success. She noted how she has helped secure funds and install green 'permeable alleys' in the ward after learning about them in Chicago. This is the first ward with a LEED-certified building. The momentum is

building, she said, and she would like to be able to continue to make change. [questions were held until after Lewis Reed spoke]

For President of the Board: Lewis Reed noted he has no challenger in the primary, but a Green Party candidate in April. He asked for the support of the ward to continue as President.

Local Control of the SLMPD

Lewis Reed presented the history of why SLMPD has been governed by a Board of Commissioners accountable to the Governor since the Civil War, in fact pre-Gettysburg, pre-Emancipation Proclamation. He noted it is time that St. Louis—one of only two metro areas in the country (Kansas City being the other)—that does not have local control. He believes it is time for the SLMPD to be accountable to the taxpayers who support them. He also mentioned that this could bring efficiencies by eliminating duplication of services, for example IT and HR. It is also one-third of the city budget. Freeing up more resources would allow for officers not to ride solo; he mentioned the death of Officer Norvelle Brown, a young officer who was shot and killed while riding alone in his patrol car. He also noted that 69% of city residents voted for a non-binding resolution in November calling for local control. The mayor would be in charge, not the Board of Aldermen, but that could be changed in the City Charter. Representative Nasheed has the House bill and Senator Keaveny has the Senate bill. Busses will go to Jefferson City on Wednesday, January 26 to attend the Senate hearing. He asked for the Ward to endorse the efforts. A motion to support local control was unanimously approved.

Candidate Presentations—resumed

Kacie Starr Triplett took the floor to answer questions. QUESTION: Why is the speed limit on Lindell west of Grand reduced by 10 mph to 25mph? ANSWER: Not sure, will need to check and get back. QUESTION: City is largest owner of vacant properties. What is being done to hold city accountable? ANSWER: The first version of her vacant property bill included the City, but there were not enough votes to pass it. She got push back from the Mayor and LRA. It took 3 years to pass the current bill and she will continue to work on improving the ordinance in incremental ways. For example, Chicago requires an alarm and a steel door, as well as posting on the door who owns the property. She continues to get pushback from the Mayor and realtors given the bad economy and increase in foreclosures. QUESTION: where do you stand on Ballpark Village. ANSWER: She was one of 3 'no' votes on the TIF and she said she would vote 'no' again. She stated she supports more economic development, but there is an overabundance of office space and this just continues to move employers within the City rather than attract business to the City. QUESTION: What is a TIF? ANSWER: Tax Increment Financing. QUESTION: What do you think about a City/County merger? ANSWER: She wants to make the City better by consolidation of services, collaboration, and possibly a merger with the County; we will need to see what works. QUESTION: What about fitness of kids in the City. ANSWER: The City is broke and facing a \$40 million deficit, however there may be Federal funds to promote Michelle Obama's drive to end obesity and encourage kids to eat healthy.

The candidates were asked to leave during the discussion period. There was no discussion and voting was concluded.

Elections

The Election Committee—John Maxwell, Kit Jenkins, Mary Sue Rosenthal, Nicholas Williams, and Matt Potter—counted the ballots. The Ward endorsed Lewis Reed for President of the Board and Kacie Starr Triplett for Alderman.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.