

Northwest Coffee 7 PM

September 8th, 2026

General Assembly Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 pm

President; Harold Karabell

karabell52@gmail.com

Vice President; Dug Feltch

bkmarionnettes@charter.net (not in attendance for September's meeting)

Treasurer; Terry Werner

terryfwerner@gmail.com

Secretary; Nicole Ewing

postonni@gmail.com

GUEST SPEAKERS

MacKenzie Grayson

Campaign Director; Best Start for Kids STL

Best Start for Kids is an initiative on the Nov 3rd ballot named Proposition B, aimed to help fund early childhood education and care in St. Louis City. Best Start for Kids is a community led initiative that will raise \$22 million for early childhood education funded by a ½ cent sales tax increase. With this funding, parents as well as childcare providers will be able to access funds via grants. Teachers and early childhood care workers are left trying to close a 5 million dollar funding gap for early childhood education. There are currently 6,000 seats in St. Louis City that children aren't able to access due to lack of funding.

Our early childhood education system is facing a \$270 million dollar loss in revenue, facing a childcare crisis. There is a waitlist of over 7,000 families that are waiting for funding and lack the ability to enter the workforce so that their children can attend early childhood education. MacKenzie encourages you to reach out to her with any questions or concerns to her email address at mackenzie@beststart4kidsstl.org

Teresa Meier suggested that Best Start for Kids word Proposition B carefully in terms of how this additional funding will be managed to ensure as much of it as possible is actually spent on kids and childhood education. She noted that there have

been issues in the public school system in the past of funding not ever making it to the students for whom it is intended.

ALDERMAN REPORT

9th Ward Alderman

Michael Browning

browningm@stlouis-mo.gov

(314) 622-3287

Straub's in the Central West End is closing and their last day will be Sep 25th. Starting tomorrow, 9/9/26, store hours will be changing to 10am-8pm. They are having a closing sale that includes 20% off beer, wine, liquor, and tobacco until they run out of inventory. Please stop by to shop at Straub's as they have been a great neighbor to our organization for the last 78 years. Alderman Browning reports that all current employees will be relocated, and no employee is losing their job.

NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS

Review and approve August 2026 Minutes-

Harold requests a motion to approve August's minutes taken by Teresa. Terry moves to accept, seconded by Katie.

All in favor; motion passes by consensus.

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION UPDATES

Treasurer

Terry Werner

Update on financials:

Checking: \$3,843.21

Savings: \$1,360.17

Time Deposit (business CD): \$4,547.77

***ANNUAL DUES** are \$25 per adult (Ex: a family of 4 with two adults would pay \$50 total).

You can pay via check written out to WPLNA, online at our website

<https://westpinelaclede.com/> or via Venmo @WPLNA. **If you pay via Venmo, please list your address and name in your payment.** If you have any questions about paying dues, please reach out to Nicole or Terry.

If you are new to the neighborhood, we appreciate your support by contributing to the organization by paying yearly dues.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND UPDATES

On August 21st, at 1:07am multiple gun shots were fired in the alley behind a short term rental at 4380 West Pine, that was host to a private party. At 1:07 am, there were 90 to 100 gun shots fired that led to multiple victims of assault, property, and vehicle damage. The short term renters of the property that night covered up internal cameras and the landlord was not able to see who or how many people were in attendance. At around 1:00 am, one attendee left the party and couldn't start his car. As he continued to try to start his car, someone was waiting for him and fired approx. 100 rounds of ammunition. There apparently were no serious personal injuries, only property damage. Ron Coleman has been working closely with the STLPD on the investigation and has found the alleged perpetrator.

Ron indicated the city believes this is an isolated incident and has made recommendations to the short-term rental operator as to how to avoid such problems in the future, such as not renting to someone whose zip code is the same or nearby the rental building. NIS Ron and the police department will remain in contact with the owner of the short term rental. They will insist that in the future the owner require a two-night minimum stay and not rent to anyone with a local zip code.

A resident asked about the many cars parked in the neighborhood without license plates on them. Alderman Browning advised that residents take pictures of the car and send them to the city via the Citizens Service Bureau. These are classified as "right of way" vehicle reports. The Alderman said to take the photos without anyone seeing you, for personal safety reasons, and that it likely will require 15 of such reportings before the city will take action.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beautification Committee Chair

k@eyestone.us

720-231-4678

Katie Eyestone

Katie asks Alderman Browning and NIS Ron Coleman, "What does the city do or not do per the city litter ordinance for businesses that are responsible for recurring litter problems?"

Katie brings up the fact that several businesses on Lindell are repeat offenders of not picking up litter around their place of business, and then the litter situation becomes a

community and resident problem to fix. Katie questions why local businesses are not held to the city ordinance of picking up litter 1 time per day (within 24 hours) of every day they are in business. When the businesses don't pick up their property, it becomes a problem for the residents.

A: According to Ron, the Health Department issues a fine, which gives a business or residential owner 10 days to pay the fine. If the business or residential owner cleans up, or pay the fine, the issue is "resolved" and the process starts over the next time a ticket or fine is given. There is a task force on environmental safety that can support by writing tickets and fines, but is difficult to track and manage on an ongoing basis.

Beyond situations that require Health Department involvement, both Ron and Alderman Browning affirmed that the City does not enforce the litter ordinance for businesses. They acknowledged that the litter then becomes an issue for residents to deal with. Katie noted that this is not fair to residents and also creates friction between some business owners, such as between Walgreens and the Leonardo, which does not clean its property adjacent to the Walgreens parking lot.

Katie asked that The City utilize a different approach with Places for People, which is preparing to resume operations at its Lindell location and already does a poor job maintaining their property. Katie asked that Ron proactively schedule a meeting with Places for People, prior to their re-opening, to include Katie, to review what the City's expectations are (per the litter ordinance) for businesses to pick up their properties daily to clear them of litter on each day they are operating, rather than relying on neighbors to call or complain when there is a problem with the cleanliness/maintenance of Places for People's grounds.

Development Committee Chair

Dan Hellmuth

dhellmuth@hellmuth-bicknese.com

Not in attendance and nothing new to report.

Neighborhood Improvement Specialist

Ron Coleman

colemanron@stlouis-mo.gov

Demolition permit 4215 West Pine is upcoming. Ron recently talked with Steve and Amy Levin who have plans to demolish this historic 2 family and build 4 new townhomes. Steve is applying for a demolition bid in the coming weeks.

Oct 5th is National Night Out and Ron communicates that our taxing district will pay for supplies needed. If you are interested in taking part in National Night Out or organizing reach out to stlcitynationalnightout.com

If you are interested in having a tree planted in the tree lawn near your house, contact Ron at his email above. The city will plant a variety of trees, and water for up to 3 years. Ron indicated that if a resident has already filed a tree report at the Citizens Services Bureau, those tree requests will be included on the list he is compiling. If you have questions or are interested in having a tree planted, contact Ron at his email listed above.

Security Liaison: Open position

Block Captains:

4100 - 4200 Laclede: Dug Feltch (314) 531-3313

4300 Laclede: Scott Gilbert (314) 406-3536

4100 - 4200 West Pine: Teresa Meier (314) 973-1097

4300 West Pine: open position

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next General Meeting: October 13th, 2026 @7pm @Northwest Coffee. Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.