

## **Benton Park West Neighborhood Association**

### **Board Meeting August 14, 2007**

Present: Eric Winters, Linda Hennigh, Chad Johnson, Bill Byrd, Anne Childers, Carrie Sleep  
Mark Bohnert from Black Bear Bakery to present.

### **Meeting began at 7pm**

#### **Guest Presentation**

- Mark Bohnert from Black Bear Bakery showed the board his plans for the empty lot just north of the bakery off of Ohio. He is planning for employee parking and possible future space for customers, fruit trees, and a garden with possibilities for a community garden in the future. He would like a consent letter from the board to proceed. He has received approval from Alderman Ken Ortmann, Mark has a conditional use/zoning hearing scheduled for after Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Chad motioned to accept plans and to send a support letter from the BPWNA, Linda seconded. Eric to send letter.

#### **Approval of Minutes & Treasurer's Report**

Chad moved to approve minutes with spelling change of nigh to night, Linda seconded.

Minutes from previous meeting approved with this change.

Treasurer's Report approval with a balance on 7/31/07 of \$11,919.08 Anne motioned to approve, Bill seconded.

#### **Committee Reports**

- Beautification – Planters are at Gringo Jones and they need to be delivered. Eric to talk to Carl and Jean about who wants planters and if storage is necessary.
- Block Link – Backpacks were distributed at National Night Out and to Blocklink suggested blocks for a total of 20 backpacks and at a cost of just over \$200. Linda to give board actual cost. This was a success and it is recommended that we do it again next year. Thank you to Carrie Sleep for donation of supplies.
- Community Garden – Eric to talk to New Executive Director of SSDN the week of Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>. The lights at the garden were called in as well as trees to be trimmed. Pam Welsch would like to establish a garden in the LRA lot next to her. Eric to talk to her about plans and how the board can help her get this accomplished.
- Dog Park – Sign is coming. We are waiting to hear from Alderman Craig Schmid about the adjacent lot.
- Facilities – Need 8.5 X 11 paper and toner for copier. Chad motioned to approve up to \$600 for paper and toner, Anne seconded. Cherokee Place has been sold and closed on Aug 8<sup>th</sup>. Bill presented two letters speaking of this. One from SSDN and one from WJL Companies Cherokee LLC. These are to be filed with the secretary. We are in communication with the new owner Will Liebermann regarding a room to rent for storage for the membership dinner and regarding DSL service. Our rent is paid until March 2008.
- Membership – Chad presented donation list and as of today 38 items have been donated. He is expecting 200 people for the event. He proposed to put \$5 entry fee into budget because of increased food costs. Food contract has been signed. Bill motioned to adjust approved amount for membership dinner by adding \$800 to Chad original \$2000 and to also add \$800 of income to Chad's proposed business plan, Linda seconded. Motion passed.
- PR/Marketing – Two press releases going out for Brick Awards and By-Law Review. Waiting on final revision from Phil Jarvis to proceed with the sign.
- Publications – We had a compliment from Greg Daly on our newsletter. Eric to bring letter to next board meeting. Please submit any pictures from National Night Out. September newsletter is underway. Board discussed possible flyers of early month events to be distributed by block links on the few months a year that this happens.
- By-Laws – See New Business
- Quality of Life – No Report

### **Support Organizations**

- Sustainable Neighborhoods – No Report
- Weed & Seed – Capt. Hobbs was here this month. Next meeting is Sept 6<sup>th</sup> where presidency is being passed over. Bill will continue to serve on board. He encourages others' participation.

### **Old Business**

- National Night Out – Our movie night received a picture in the Everyday section of the Post Dispatch as well as on STLtoday.com. The event went very well 40-45 people were in attendance. Board discusses possibly doing it again in the fall or winter in the gym.
- Yard Sale update – A very successful event with profit of \$440. It worked out well not to have large items. Afterwards, the clothes were donated to Goodwill.
- Update on Colt Motors – Letter of non-support was mailed.

### **New Business**

- Elections Process – nominations will be at September NA meeting and voting will be at October NA meeting. Eric to appoint someone to run the voting process.
- Board Meeting change – Due to multiple conflicts, the September board meeting will be Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- Meeting Speakers – Eric looking into Brother Don from Franciscan Connection or Jason Deem from Cherokee Station Business Association. Eric to see which of them would like August and then the other can come in September. He will email board these results.
- Looking ahead to December – The December NA meeting is scheduled for December 20<sup>th</sup>. Board discussed possible move or to keep the date and plan for a fun meeting with a possible movie.
- Realtor Open House Tour – Chad is having a September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. All homes on the market in our neighborhood will have an open house during the tour. This event will showcase our neighborhood to those looking to buy. Chad looking into having hors d'oeuvres at the houses and he will have more info at the September board meeting.
- Review By-Laws Changes – Chad presented the by-laws to board members. The committee is finished with changes. Board discussed by-laws and discussed changes. Chad to change Article 4 title and add to/change Article 14. Chad to email the board a final draft for board to review and board to give suggestions/changes by August 20<sup>th</sup> at 9pm. Chad will also mail this draft to By-Law Committee for their input. The final revision of the By-Laws will then be brought for a vote to the September board meeting.

### **Additional Business**

-Carrie Sleep shared that the Five Star Senior Center's Cool Down was successful and volunteer turn out was great. She brought a flyer to copy and have for the meeting regarding Educational Surrogate Training.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.**