

Benton Park West Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting July 10, 2007

Present: Eric Winters, Linda Hennigh, Chad Johnson, Bill Byrd, Anne Childers, Angie Narozinski and her daughter (Angie is chair of the Quality of Life committee for BPWNA)

Betty Hancock and Betty Franken visiting from Tower Grove Neighborhood

Eric Wolfman and father Stan Wolfman to speak about possible business in BPW

Meeting began at 7pm

Guest Presentation

- Eric Wolfman gave a presentation regarding his interest in relocating Colt Motors, a used car business, to the 6200 block of Gravois. His father's business specializes in used police cars and municipal vehicles and as his father is less active in the business, Eric's involvement has increased. Eric expressed his interest in living and working in the city. He handed out copies of his business plan to the board members and gave details of his and his father's backgrounds, his business with real estate, and Colt Motors. The packet included copies of past inspection permits, photos of redevelopment, and current support letters. He gave details of why they are interested in this specific piece of real estate and how they plan to run this business including estimated hours of operation. He answered questions from the board regarding concerns with Eric Wolfman's current real estate in BPW. President Eric Winters explained that the board does look at past business operations of proposed business owners when they approach the board for approval. Visitor Betty Franken voiced her satisfaction as a repeat customer of Stan Wolfman over the years. Eric and Stan Wolfman were then dismissed. Betty Hancock and Betty Franken also left at that time. Committee chair Angie Narozinski and her daughter also left at this time.

Approval of Minutes & Treasurer's Report

Chad moved to approve minutes, Bill seconded. Minutes from previous meeting approved.

Treasurer's Report approval with a balance on 6/30/07 of \$12,309.41 pending change of quicktrip to say CPA Transport. Chad motioned to approve, Bill seconded.

Committee Reports

- Beautification – Planter order is in. Carl is coordinating placement and board discussed possible storage.
- Block Link – Bar-b-que planning is underway
- Community Garden – SSDN is currently selling properties, not sure if the garden is included. Eric to look into this. Still trying to better organize watering. Eric to see if light can be fixed to keep area safe. Two individual garden beds won in the urban garden contest. Eric asked to reallocate garden money that is left (approximately \$200) for plumbing to help solve the watering issues. Chad motioned to reallocate up to \$200 of the pre-approved money for plumbing, Linda seconded. Motion passed.
- Dog Park – no report
- Facilities – Bill spoke with Mike from Five Star regarding other ways we can volunteer instead of or only the fish fries. He mentioned the Avitis Center which helps seniors file their tax returns. Volunteers would need to be trained, but once they are, they can work elsewhere in addition as an income tax filer. Facilities will need 8.5 x 11 paper next month. Copier has been problems with the booklet maker. They have been coming and working on it which is free. We hope it is fixed soon. Wednesday, July 25th is the Cool Down at Five Star. Board approves a general donation to come from community partnership to Five Star for their continued neighborhood support. Chad motioned, Anne seconded. Amount to be determined.
- Membership – Chad gave Brick Award information. We may have possible sponsors for the Membership Appreciation Dinner. Board nominees are due by this Saturday. We received another \$100 membership. It was from Sharon Burgess.
- PR/Marketing – Brick Award Committee press release for Aug. Bi-Law press release for Sept. New design for NA meeting signage looks great. Bill to place the order.

- Publications – August focus is “Back to School”. Advertising is going well. Board is encouraged to ask new/existing businesses to advertise and pass info to Bill. More production of membership brochure is planned for July.
- By-Laws – By-Laws are almost done and draft will be presented to board next meeting. Then will be brought to the NA meeting for approval.
- Quality of Life – Barb sent out an e-invite about fighting against crime. Amber Narozinski has been driving around and starting to make calls. She is committed to attending future meetings. Concerns voiced about 3350 Ohio “snack shop” and also July 4th firework concerns and experiences shared.

Support Organizations

- Sustainable Neighborhoods – Focusing on grants.
- Weed & Seed – This month and moving forward the meeting time will be 6:30pm on the third Thurs. at Five Star Senior Center.

Old Business

- Signage – Bill to send email to board of the final meeting sign design.
- National Nigh Out – Happy Feet movie has been confirmed. Board discussed snack plans and decides to have popcorn, can soda, and hot dogs for 50 cents each or all three for \$1 movie pack. Plan to receive items by donation if possible. We will need board and volunteer participation for this event. Eric sent a letter to Frontyard Features with local business names for them to look for advertisers locally. Signs that will be needed were also discussed. Chad moved to approve up to \$200 from Youth category for school supplies to give away as a raffle at the event, Bill seconded. Motioned passed. Bill moves to approve \$100 to donate from Youth category for the Back to School festival on Cherokee, Anne seconded. Motion passed.
- Cinco de Mayo update – Board is happy with the results of the beer booth. \$592 was made. We will make sure to be set up on the corner next year.
- Yard Sale update – Yard sale plans are moving along. Fawn Montjoy is now heading it up and we have volunteers. The event is Aug. 4th with set up on the 3rd. We have a house to store things in and Eric is making a sign out front for the day of the event.

New Business

- Discussion of support/opposition to Car Dealership – Board discussed proposed car dealership. Board is interested in what other properties Eric Wolfman owns in BPW and the board discussed its concerns. Board to further investigate; Chad to call Barb Potts, Eric to call Alderman Craig Schmid and Alderman Ken Ortmann, Bill to call Diane Huriwitz who owns cat retirement house next door to proposed sight. They are to email board of info that is found. Board voted and as of now opposes this proposed business until we gather more info from city officials. We will then write a letter accordingly.
- Garden Watering and Land Issues – Board is interested if garden lots are for sale and for how much. Eric to keep conversation open so that we stay informed of SSDN plans.
- Vice-President position – Carl Jones is most likely moving out of the neighborhood. Carl is still Vice-President until he moves. Board agrees to leave slot open until end of the year.
- Mid-Year check-up – Things are going very well. More discussion of this at a later meeting.
- Budget Mid-Year check-up – Advertising is doing very well and may make up for other losses. Membership is up to 102, fundraising unrestricted is doing well Board discusses budget.

Additional Business

-Chad motions for Eric and Linda to look into getting a CD from the bank with \$5,000 from savings, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

-Bill to follow up with Day Com

-Publications: With stamp increase, we may start hand delivering the newsletter to some businesses. Bill is looking to acquire stands for our newsletter to place at some interested businesses.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

