

Benton Park West Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting November 6, 2007

Present: Eric Winters, Chad Johnson, Bill Byrd, Anne Childers, Melissa Winneshiek, Carrie Sleep, Rhonda Shaw, and Pam Welsh

Meeting began at 7pm

Approval of Minutes & Treasurer's Report

October Minutes not emailed. To be approved at December board meeting.

Linda to email Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

- Beautification – Linda to see Carl this week. Eric spoke to Jean and board decides to put planters in storage until spring. Storage ideas discussed. Linda and Eric to arrange pick up from Gringo Jones.
- Block Link – No Report
- Community Garden – Closed veggie garden on Sat. with help from Unitarian kids. Almost all beds are clean and covered with black tarp to kill the grass. Eric met with the new director of SSDN, Ann Lowell. Things are going better for SSDN and she wants to be more involved next year. The veggie garden still has a sign available, but still needs a name. Board discusses possible names and Bill moved to approve the name "Lettuce Grow in BPW", Chad seconded. Eric to see about sign installation for next spring. Aaron Wyle and Melissa Winneshiek have been working on the flower garden.
- Dog Park – Needs a letter of support from the board for application for city dog parks Chad motioned for the letter of support to be written for the BPW dog park, Bill seconded. Eric to send the letter to Melissa. The park is set to be ready by May of 2008. We need new quotes for insurance. Melissa showed the board Craig Schmid's letter with what is being covered by him.
- Facilities – Spaghetti Dinner this Friday at 6:30pm. New board is asked to arrive at 5:30pm. We need to help set up. Mike at Five Star really needs help with people becoming tax certified. If we know anyone who may be interested see Bill. Would like Linda to issue the check of \$250 previously approved by the board to be given to Mike at Five Star in honor of his birthday and for all that they do for us. Bill talking to Mike about a shred day
- Membership – Auction raised \$2898.00 even with less than 100 people in attendance. Melba and Jean interested in looking for a city caterer next year. Comments on the dinner included in Chad's report and will be taken into consideration when planning next year's event.
- PR/Marketing – Bill presented website results of 2007 so far. It is time to renew our web host. Melissa motioned to approve \$153.40 on NA credit card for web hosting, Pam seconded.
- Publications – New writers are welcome. Celebrate Town results showed that Desoto, MO won the big prize. BP or BPW as a finalist will receive \$1000 which we plan to use for a party for BP and BPW at Benton Park.

Support Organizations

- Sustainable Neighborhoods – They are working to keep their music program. Meetings are third Tuesday of each month at Siegel Elementary. Linda to email with confirmed location.
- Weed & Seed – Next meeting is November 8th. No featured speaker. Meeting will focus on residents speaking with officers. This is the last full meeting for 2007.

Old Business

- Christmas Party – potluck planned. NA to provide chicken and paper goods. Bill is proposing for weed & seed to bring soda.
- Indigo Massage and Wellness Therapy – Bill motioned to support this new business in the neighborhood, Chad seconded. NA approved to support Anne's business.

New Business

- Dog Park Event – Melissa proposing to have a Blues, Brews, and BBQ Festival fundraiser to raise money for the dog park. This could be an annual event to help sustain the dog park. Melissa described

the event and is working with Cipriano, the treasurer of Benton Park NA. It would be planned for next May the weekend of the house tour. Melissa would like for it to be a nonprofit event to benefit our neighborhoods and the dog park. Melissa and Bill to continue conversations with Benton Park to confirm date/time/info before a support letter is sent to city for the application to use the park for such event. Melissa to present proposal next month including budget for the event. Linda motioned to send support letter as needed, Pam seconded.

- Election Transitions – Board discussed how to handle transition of officers. 2007 board members to bring all files to the NA office and the new board members can come to the office at the same time to familiarize themselves with the space.
- Membership – Chad proposed membership incentives: A Garden Party for all members at \$50 or more. Chad asking for \$250 to use for party if sponsorship does not cover all of the costs. Chad brought examples of BPW logo bag incentives with a budget to be printed/embroidered at Personal Momentos on Cherokee. \$25 membership– silk screened bag; \$50 membership – embroidered bag; \$100 membership – large bag w/embroidery. Board discussed possible changes to proposal in order to reduce costs. Bill motioned to have silk-screened BPW logo on canvas bag for \$25-\$50 membership and embroidered BPW logo on large bag for \$100 membership, Melissa seconded. Personalized Momentos has had requests for BPW logo to be printed on merchandise sold by Personalized Momentos. They would like our written permission to do so. Bill motioned to send a letter to Personalized Momentos granting them permission to use our logo on merchandise for sale, Anne seconded.

Additional Business

- Bill asking for \$100 for 2008 to support Weed & Seed south cluster advisory meetings. The use of the money is for postage, envelopes, paper products, etc. Anne motioned to approve \$100, Melissa seconded. Linda to write check and send directly to Weed & Seed.
- Discussion of the board about the neighborhood newsletter. Suggestions of offering it on the BPW website and choice of receiving it via email. More discussion to come.
- BPWNA contributes along with other south side neighborhoods Barb Potts cell phone bill payment. Every year we usually contribute \$250. She does have a new contract which is cheaper. Bill to follow up with her to see what amount we should contribute. Board to finalize amount next month.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.