

BPWNA Meeting
Feb. 17, 2005 @ 7:05, 28 residents in attendance

Introductions and welcomes were made.
Minutes from the previous board meeting were reviewed.

Alderman Ken Ortman discussed the current street alley repavements, which were started in 2002 and continue through 2005. He explained that he was able to spread the program throughout the ward. He also encouraged residents to sign-up for the 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Plan, in which the city and property owner split the cost of replacing the sidewalk in front of a property.

Galen Gandolfi was recognized as past president for his service to the association.

Presentation – Weed & Seed

Kim Norman, Executive Director of Weed & Seed, explained the role of Weed & Seed in the neighborhood since 1995. The program works to “weed” the negative elements from an area while “seeding” the positive elements. She credited the program with an 80% increase in federal prosecutions, which often mean longer sentences but are difficult to obtain. Also the Juvenile Diversion Program piloted in Benton Park West and Gravois Park has created a tool in Family Court for juvenile summons, which require parents of juveniles to come to court. Last summer, 62 were issued and 88% went to court with their parents. In addition, funds have been available for overtime hours to increase the training and service of police in the area. The DEFY program for 9-12 year olds is a camp and year-round program that promotes drug-free youth. Also the Youth Employment Project has helped 143 kids get employed since 2000 and stay in school. Weed and Seed will continue in BPW through December of 2005 with an option for a southside cluster focus after that.

Committee Reports:

1. **Block Link** – Tom Stehl explained that a planning meeting for the program will be held at SSDN on March 15 at 7 p.m. All interested in participating or learning more should attend.
2. **Community Garden** – Contact Eric Winters to help organize the garden, including constructing a fence, soliciting plants and determining plots. Planning is now underway for several upcoming workdays.
3. **Communication** – Thanks to Donna for her work, but the committee now needs a new editor. See Bill Byrd or Chad Johnson for more info.
4. **Beautification** – On hold until warmer weather arrives.
5. **Facilities** – Bill Byrd presented a proposal to relocate BPWNA offices to the SSDN Incubator on Cherokee Street. The new space will require some minor electrical work and clean up, but it will be rent free for a year in exchange for that work. Donations for furniture are being sought. The motion to pursue the space was approved by the membership.

Support Organizations’ Reports

1. **Sustainable Neighborhoods** – Scholarships are still available for early childhood classes and college courses.
2. **Weed & Seed** – A speaker will present on the DEFY program in April.
3. **Incarnate Word** – Chad Johnson presented on the availability of BPW youth to get involved in ArtWorks job training program for this summer. Applications are available now. See Chad or Jean Durel for info.

Old Business

1. **Membership** – Thanks to those who have signed up as members of the association. Anyone interested in joining should see Eric or Linda.
2. **SLACO** – Eric Winters encouraged everyone to sign up for the SLACO Neighborhood Conference on March 12 at Forest Park Community College. The registration fee of \$15 will be paid for by the BPWNA.

New Business

1. **Operation Brightside** – Chad discussed that this program is a day in which the whole neighborhood can get involved in cleaning up. Look for more details soon.

Announcements

- Anyone interested in helping re-design the neighborhood website should contact Eric.
- Maggie Lampe presented information about the Management Assistance Program which works with nuisance properties, defined as problems with prostitution, drugs or loud noise. The program works with landlords by screening and managing the properties. She encouraged all residents to call 911 or 231-1212 to report these problem properties, as they must have documentation of the problems.
- Brianna Dorsey read an essay commemorating Black History Month about Jackie Joyner Kersey.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.