

## **BPWNA Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2007**

**Call To Order** – Welcome from President Eric Winters. 28 people present

**Review of Minutes** – Carrie Sleep moved to approve minutes, Jerry seconded.

**Alderman and NSO Check-In's** – Alderman Ken Ortmann mentioned the Cherokee History Fair this weekend May 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> 10am-5pm. The green building on Pennsylvania has arrived and Benton Park is getting one soon. Check out 3319 Selena and 3140 Pennsylvania.

Alderman Craig Schmid told us about the great diversity on Cherokee and new businesses that have opened. He is looking for thoughts about Cinco de Mayo for planning next year's event. The convenience store on Cherokee is participating in the 50/50 façade program as many other storefronts have. Come out for National Night Out. There is a Business Expo on May 24<sup>th</sup> at St. Alexius. Barb Potts is pleased with the police response that our neighborhood has been seeing. Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at Roosevelt High School there is a bar-b-que at 11am and a tour of the school starts at 10am. Roosevelt principal is working hard. She also announced the death of Marti Frumhoff who was a great city advocate. On Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> there is a service at 1pm at the Central Reform Church on Waterman. She will be greatly missed.

Bill commented that when calling 911 be prepared to let them know that it is really an illegal thing you are calling about as the operators have been asking that more frequently.

### **Main Presentations –**

**Charles Bryson from the Mayor's Office** – He thanked us for all that we do to make this neighborhood great. Many changes have been made in the last five years. Ken Ortmann knows how to turn around a neighborhood. There has been a large effort by the mayor's office and city officials. He mentioned things going on in the city: Ballpark Village, bringing in more conferences, large bridge project, and summer jobs initiative. If anyone knows of businesses looking to hire summer help please call Charles at his direct line 314-622-4043. He also spoke of housing development and how to green up the city. The city budget has lost about 28% of federal funding in the last five years. They are still bringing good if not better service to us. The mayor brought the city view program to help keep a look at government offices although a lot of the city government is not under the authority of the mayor. They are working very hard to keep the same services available to us and they know the neighborhoods are the backbone of the city. He then answered questions regarding the

Public Schools: as of June 15<sup>th</sup> the state is un-accrediting St. Louis Public Schools. The mayor's position is that the system is not working and that they are hoping for there not to be a lawsuit so we can move forward with change. Charles's wife teaches in public schools so he hears first hand about the issues going on within the public schools. They would like to get greater parent involvement. There are three new charter schools opening up this fall. We all need to be committed to education.

Highway 40: The obvious challenge is traffic flow. They are keeping an open relationship with MoBot. The construction may hurt our revenue and businesses. Charles would love for us to see how we can market from this by keeping people in the city during high traffic hours.

Public Transportation: Mayor's office is working with Trail Net and Metro. Bistate bus is cutting things. We need to decide as a city and region what we want to do regarding public transportation. As gas prices go up the need will present itself.

#### **Committees and Activities –**

**Cinco de Mayo** – This was a great success! Thank you to all the volunteers. They had absolutely no crime situations at the event.

**National Night Out** – August 7<sup>th</sup> at the Cabrini parking lot. Everyone is encouraged to have their own block parties and to come out to the movie after. The winner of the movie voting was Happy Feet. Ants is the back up movie if Happy Feet is not available. There will be popcorn and snow cones. Bathrooms will be available at Cabrini's gym. If anyone is interested in advertising please see Eric.

**Yard Sale** – August 4<sup>th</sup> from 7am-2pm at Cabrini. We have space to store things at the Business Incubator. We are looking forward to another successful yard sale.

#### **Announcements –**

- New Signage for meeting reminders is coming. We are looking for volunteers to help spread out signs and collect them each month.
- Please come next month and hear from the principal from Roosevelt High School.

**Adjournment – cookies and refreshments were available at the meeting.**