

BPWNA Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2007

Call to Order – Welcome from President Bill Byrd. 35 people present.

Review of Minutes – Melba Arnold moved to approve minutes from Nov. meeting, Carrie Sleep seconded. Attendees were also shown Jan. board meeting minutes. Anne Childers moved to approve treasurer's report from Nov. meeting, Phil Jarvis seconded. NA will see December minutes and final 2007 treasurer's report at next month's meeting.

Alderman and NSO Check-In's – Alderman Ken Ortmann gave updates on the Jefferson/Arsenal project: Millennium as with many companies have properties that need to sell before they can take on new projects. This project is on hold until further notice.

Lemp Brewery: more changes to the plans, contract date extended to July.

This Saturday is the Cajun Cook-off at the Casaloma Ballroom.

Alderman Craig Schmid spoke about the recent article in the paper and how using statistics can be helpful, but problematic. Dog Park is underway and meetings are happening to move the project along. They have marked down on Cherokee Street for the bike trails. The Metro has chosen Jefferson as the route for the North/South line; however the money is not yet there so we have no time frame for the project. Remember to vote at the Presidential Primary as there are also local issues on the ballot including sales tax increase for the police and fire pension plan as well as one million in crime protection. Please research these issues before deciding how to vote. NSO Dena Hubbard told us that Barb is on medical leave. She has met with 2725 Arsenal and they have moved out. No one should be in this building. Jan 30th is meeting with owner of the Penny Saver. Please write to Robert Kraiberg with your input as a neighborhood as the Excise Hearing is on Jan 30th. Feb 7th is the nuisance meeting with the owner. Please email Dena with questions at nsodena@aol.com or habbardd@stlouiscity.com.

Featured Speaker – Captain Hobbs from the police department

He announced that crime reports were distributed on the tables. He also distributed info regarding arrests. He spoke about how crime in BPW has changed. Crime is down lower than 35 yrs ago. 15.5% down from last year within the district. 20.3% down in BPW. The strong NA is the key. He sees lots of renovation going on, activism more then he has ever seen here, just like Soulard, Fox Park, etc. He also disagrees as Alderman Craig Schmid did with the article written mentioning BPW. He is pushing officers to get out of their cars and walk, get to know the neighborhood. Steven Hobbs desk number is 314-444-0125.

He knows that the neighbors are his customers and he enjoys working between the officers, departments, the ten Aldermen in this district, and the neighborhood people. He thanks the Aldermen for making the nuisance ordinance possible. With crime going down, the focus can be more direct on nuisance problems and youth outreach. He hopes we can achieve the same this year as 2007. Captain Hobbs answered questions about neighborhood stats and access to the safe city website, bad experiences with police and/or technicians. He urged neighbors to call him if they have any problems like these so that he can address them with the police officers or technicians. Please get the # off of the car when speaking of an officer. Continue to call on nuisance properties, kids gathering-skipping school, etc. He appreciates all of the calls.

Feb 28th is the officer of the year banquet. Alderman Ken Ortmann recommends that we get a NA table

Feb 2nd is Mardi Gras. If going to the festivities, please give beverage support to the Benton Park and Fox Park Neighborhood booths.

Committees -

- Jan 31st is a private hearing for the PennySaver at Minnesota and Utah. Feb 7th is the nuisance hearing.
- Jan 31st is the public hearing for 2907 Jefferson. Bill to send out more info about this hearing and he spoke about getting a petition to go with the NA letter.
- Quality of Life/Safety Committee – Bill described this new BPW committee and encouraged members to get involved by helping out with the NA committees. Info is available.
- Dog Park – Scheduled to be open this summer. Thank you to Alderman Craig Schmid for making it possible. Location is pocket park at Nebraska and Utah. Melissa Winneshiek gave details about the Dog Park and membership. It is 7,000 square feet and can allow 13 dogs at a time. They are looking forward to the Blues Fest in May as a fundraiser. More info to come.
- Membership - Brick Award was given to Dan Morgan for best storefront 2007 for his Tailor Shop

Tamara Taylor from the St Louis Family Courts spoke about the Accountability Board being developed for Benton Park and Benton Park West. This is a great opportunity for neighbors to get involved in addressing juvenile issues of youth in our neighborhoods. She explained the duties of the board as well as the requirement for applying. Applications are due Feb 1st, interviews are at the end of Feb, training in April, start in May. Alderman Craig Schmid is on the board. If interested call Tamara Taylor at 314-552-2470.

Holly Ingram from UMSL spoke about the Neighborhood Leadership Academy that begins Feb 26th-May 20th with 10 sessions meeting on Tues. evening and Sat. mornings. She explained the three main focuses of the Academy (develop community building principles, organizational management and leadership, and personal leadership development). Dan Morgan then shared his experience as a 2007 NLA grad. The leadership projects he worked on involved the Jefferson/Gravois Business Association in getting 91 trees planted recently along Jefferson as well as other community support projects that he has now been leading. He encourages others to get involved in the NLA.

Three local events coming up with flyers/info in the newsletter:

Jan 20th Chicken and Dumplings at Five Star, Feb 9th Clowder House Sweetheart Dance, Jan 19th Franciscan Connection Trivia Night

Adjournment – refreshments and a cake for Linda Hennigh were available at the meeting.