**Benton Park West Neighborhood Association Membership Meeting**

Five Star Senior Center, 2832 Arsenal

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Attendance: 42

Board Members

1. President – Linda Hennigh, Present
2. Vice President – Carrie Sleep, Absent
3. Secretary – Scott McIntosh, Present
4. Treasurer – Suzanne (Suzy) Hennigh, Present
5. Member At-Large – Becky Martinez, Present
6. Member At-Large – Vacant
7. Call to Order – 7:14 pm
   1. Review and approval of June Meeting Minutes – Mandy Mankin move, Bill Byrd seconds, approved
   2. Review of July Board Meeting Minutes
   3. Review and approval of June Treasurer’s Report and 2014 Budget
8. Guest Speaker: Jeffrey Boyd, candidate for License Collector for St. Louis
   1. 22nd Ward Alderman, Ways and Means Committee for 9 years
   2. 23 years in the army
   3. Holds an MBA
   4. Looking to use organizational design skills in the license collectors office
   5. Wants to make the office a one-stop-shop
   6. Have online tools to start the process and speed up process in the office
   7. Have compliance officers walk the streets to ensure all businesses are licensed
   8. Wants to be a team player and work with all City departments
   9. Endorsed by Alderman Ken Ortmann and 21 other City aldermen
9. Visitors/ New Members
   1. Seth, Nebraska
   2. Lisa, Nebraska
   3. Quianaca Wesseh, new member
   4. Rev. Paula Cooper, new member
   5. Cletus Terrell, new member
   6. Dan Gunther, Benton Park
   7. Charlie Lutz
   8. Dawn
   9. Josephine Golf
   10. Madeline Barnes
   11. Natalie Vowell, candidate for 78th District State Representative
10. Events
    1. Dollar General
       1. Dan Gunther, Benton Park representative
          1. BP Building Review Committee sent a support letter before speaking to the Neighborhood Association
          2. Process seemed to be moving too quickly
          3. Want to slow the process down to allow for community input; if not stop it
          4. The property won’t officially sell to Dollar General until it passes the Conditional Use Hearing
          5. Benton Park NA will have a special meeting to determine support/opposition
          6. Seeking greater transparency; improving the process to ensure order is maintained
       2. Alderman Ken Ortmann
          1. There aren’t any secrets
          2. There are no tenants for the second bay; they are still seeking
          3. Notified neighborhoods and CSBA during their June meetings immediately after learning of the proposal
          4. Private sale, City can’t interfere with private sales
          5. No letter of support from Ken
          6. The only reason there is a conditional use hearing is due to the size of the store; it is a permitted business (retail)
          7. Benton Park NA doesn’t hold NA meetings in June and August
    2. Fair St. Louis
       1. Worked beverage booth July 5 in Forest Park
       2. Made $800+ in tips
       3. Were okay with volunteers; could have used 3-4 more
       4. Should be a few months before we know our commission (Sept/Oct?)
       5. Have buttons for volunteers to keep that identify them as BPW volunteers
    3. Cherokee Neighborhoods Happy Hour
       1. First event happened last night at ArtBar St. Louis
       2. Bringing 4 neighborhoods around Cherokee street together for networking and fun
       3. Will likely be at Venice Café in August
       4. Will rotate through all 4 neighborhoods
    4. Community Garden
       1. AB Work Day w/Operation Brightside
       2. Sat, August 9 @ 9-2 pm
       3. Free lunch provided
       4. Benton Park will be following the Major’s Monarch initiative starting at the northwest corner moving inward along the sidewalk
       5. BPW’s garden will paint the concrete barriers
       6. BP artist created a stencil for along Jefferson (8 barricades)
       7. Peat W creating a design for along Arsenal
       8. Lunch at 12:30 pm; sign up in advance to ensure there’s enough lunch for everyone
       9. Can show up still, but will need to sign paperwork before they can begin
       10. Mayor Slay will likely be there around 12:30 pm
    5. New bentonparkwest.org site live
       1. New features and updated information
       2. Blog feature is new
       3. Will roll out a “shopping” page to purchase t-shirts and memberships
    6. BPWNA Elections
       1. Positions are listed in agenda packet – may also read on new website
       2. Nominations will be accepted in August
       3. Board members vote
       4. Committees don’t require a vote and you may join at anytime
    7. National Night Out
       1. Tues, August 5 @ 6-8 pm
       2. Utah at Michigan
          1. Will have a popsicle parade to invite people in
          2. Just popcorn and water
          3. Sidewalk chalk
          4. Dodge ball game
          5. Police will attend; possibly a fire truck
          6. Send additional ideas to Chris Schmidt
       3. Wyoming will also have a block party
    8. What is a Nuisance? How to Make a Call
       1. Form on the back of the agenda
11. Cherokee Street Liaison, Ann McCullough
    1. Largest CSBA meeting tonight – primarily due to Dollar General proposal
       1. The architect for the Dollar General attended
       2. Conditional Use Hearing coming up
       3. Strong opposition by CSBA and area residents
       4. There will be a petition
    2. Earthbound Brewing will move into space next to Melt
    3. Kissmet Creative Center
       1. On Iowa next to Yaquis
       2. Selling records and space for creativity
    4. Cher on Cherokee (event)
       1. Sat, September 6
       2. Sponsored by Major Brands
       3. Dress as Cher or Sonny
       4. Will have bands and activities
       5. Attempting Guiness Book of World Records for the most Cher impersonators
    5. Blank Space (event)
       1. August 11 workshop for kids to make art
       2. Will have artists showing kids how to do various forms of art; jewelry, painting, etc.
12. 9th Ward alderman, Ken Ortmann
    1. St. Louis Community Credit Union
       1. Oregon at Gravois
       2. LRA has accepted their offer for the vacant lot and building
       3. Working on a deal with the used car dealer
       4. Will review the plans before construction begins
       5. Will ensure Tower Grove East is aware as well
    2. 2704 Utah (LRA property)
       1. Proposal for a clock business (cuckoo clock)
    3. 3130 Gravois (LRA property)
       1. Call about this – proposal coming soon
    4. CDA Funding Round
       1. 3000-3004 Texas will be converted to townhouses for owner-occupied
       2. Arsenal also selected for funding (Rubicon Co)
       3. Ohio (De Sales Housing Corp)
    5. August 5 Elections
    6. 9th Ward Beer and Pretzel Fundraiser August 8
    7. her
13. District 3 Community Outreach Officer, Joe Calabro
    1. Community Outreach at Five Star
       1. Officers will record problems, nuisance properties
    2. Hops for Cops will happen again in the fall
    3. Scooter thefts are up
       1. Lock steering columns locked to make it difficult to steal
    4. Larcenies are down 33%
    5. Secure window ACs to prevent burglars from pushing them in and climbing through the window
    6. 444-2500 call to complete a Citizen Absence from Residence form
       1. Will notify police that you’re gone and can keep an extra eye on your property
       2. Can call you if there is an issue
    7. 20 arrests; 4 drinking in public, 3 fireworks, 3 controlled substance, 1 assault, 1 interfering with a police officer,
    8. Continue to work towards organizing NOM
14. Neighborhood Stabilization Officer (NSO), Barb Potts
    1. National Night Out – more than a party; take a stance against crime
    2. Don’t allow gangs and criminals to find a home on your block; call them in!
15. Barr Library, Tonnya Joy
    1. Downloadable materials are available on the library’s website; books, magazines, audio books, movies, and music
16. Prizes
    1. Attendance Prize: T-shirt donated by Art Monster (winner Jerry Monti), Scrabble board game donated by (winner Frank)
    2. 50/50 – $32 for winner (Brian Kenney)
17. Adjournment: Pam Welsh moves, Cletus Terrell seconds, passes 9:14 pm