

Benton Park West Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16th, 2020

Submitted by: Erin Godwin

Call to order, Scott McIntos -7:02 pm

Attendance - **20 adults** - Roll Call

- President - Scott McIntosh - **Absent**
- Vice President- Tim Thomas - **Present**
- Secretary - Erin Godwin - **Present**
- Treasurer - Linda Hennigh - **Present**
- Member At-Large - Pam Welsh - **Present**
- Member At-Large - Gwynn Jackson - **Present**
- Beautification - Stephanie McKinney - **Present**
- Block Link - Chris Schmidt - **Present**
- Communications - Scott McIntosh
- Community Garden - Linda Hennigh
- Our Neighborhood Garden - Scott McIntosh
- Dog Park - Jeni Poole - **Absent**
- Facilities - Bill Byrd - **Present**
- Fundraising - **Vacant**
- Housing Committee - Scott McIntosh
- SLACO Committee - Linda Hennigh
- Membership – Bill Byrd /Rosie Jackson - **Present**
- Quality of Life and Safety - **Vacant**
- Youth Outreach - **Vacant**
- Cherokee Street Liaison - **Vacant**

Notes

Review March Meeting Minuted- Minutes were not sent out, so they will be approved at the next meeting.

Review March Treasurer's Report- There is no treasurer's report this month; it will be available next month.

New Member and Visitor Introductions - One new membership: Beth Sturgeon on Utah. Four confirms and two possible visitors who called in to the meeting and were not identified.

Events/Budget

- Most neighborhood events have been cancelled due to COVID, but we still expect to do Back-to-School, STL Night Out, and Trunk-or-Treat. Fair St. Louis, BPWNA's largest fundraiser, is also cancelled. The proposed annual budget has been adjusted to account for these changes.
- The budget won't be balanced but we will be able to cover the shortfall with savings and

will look to do fundraising in fall.

- Community Garden plots have been all sold for the season, which provided some funds.
- Easter costs were zero, and we hope to avoid costs of trunk or treat by having people bring their own candy.
- We will continue to adjust and review the budget each month with the budget and expenses subject to review by the NA.

Communications

- The BPWNA website has a new page for pandemic resources at bentonparkwest.org/pandemic-resources, and there is also a link on the main page. It provides a listing of resources and available services like free meals, food and diaper banks, healthcare providers/information.
- It also has information about renter's rights for those facing potential eviction; the St. Louis Housing Authority issued a moratorium on evictions, so those in public housing can not be evicted.

Dan Guenther - 9th Ward Alderperson

- The Board of Alderman is in recess so they haven't had any recent committee meetings. They have tried to have a couple public health meetings, and today was the first board committee meeting via Zoom. You can find the meetings and how to participate at <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/aldermen/>.
- The Mayor announced today that the stay at home order will continue indefinitely, and through May 15 at the least. It will be reevaluated at that time, and is expected to be extended. Even when things do begin to resume it would be a slow, rolling reopening.
- People can still use public parks. Please wear masks in public and practice social distancing to help keep the curve flattened.
- The Board of Aldermen will resume business on Monday.
- The campaign to Close the Workhouse will have to wait until things return to normal. Currently a lot of nonviolent offenders have been released to provide more room for distancing
- The Board is looking at possible paid family leave, but the City budget is not looking good this year.
- Some reliable places to get help:
 - Salvation Army has a food giveaway 3-5 on Wednesdays.
 - Wings of Love offers food pickup every Friday, 8am -12.
 - Last Day Apostolic Church- will be having its first food and personal care giveaway next Friday. These will be weekly events; donations are needed.
 - Guardian Angel Settlement Association is providing utility assistance.
 - Five Star Senior Center provides meals to seniors.
- **Rants John(?)** and Bespoke are making homemade masks.
- Please feel free to reach out to Alderman Guenther or NSO Barb Potts for any questions.

Officer Jazmon Garrett -District 3 Community Outreach Officer

Officer Garrett is our new Outreach Officer; she provided recent crime stats:

Between March 12-April 8, larcenies, burglaries and assaults are up across the city. In March 2019 BPW had 2 burglaries; this year there were 4. Number of larcenies last year was 4; this year we had 10. BPW vehicle thefts were 0 last year, and this year we had 2.

YTD 2020 vs YTD 2019:

- Vehicle thefts: 12 vs 6
- Larcenies: 32 vs 15
- Burglaries: 20 vs 8
- Assaults: 14 vs 9
- Robberies dropped- 7 last year, 2 this year

The burglary squad has caught a couple suspects for burglaries and are trying to solve them.

You can email Officer Garrett at Jdgarrett@slmpd.org or call her desk phone at 314-444-2595.

Barb Potts - Neighborhood Stabilization Officer

- Barb is still working as she is considered essential personnel. Marine Villa Strong parade on Saturday will be led by Officer Jack Khoudian. Barb and others would like to do this in all other neighborhoods. This would be an informational no-contact parade. All cars would have posters with COVID safety information and info on the 2020 Census- all neighborhoods are down significantly in Census responses.
- 5 Star will provide meals on wheels for disabled people 18 and up and will do grocery pickup. We need to connect as many people as possible to ensure elderly and disable people are getting fed; stores' delivery services are booked nearly a week out. Reach out to Mike at 5 Star if you know of anyone who needs this.

Announcements

- Cherokee Street CID and the Cherokee Lemp SBD have launched a fundraiser to help small businesses along Cherokee to make it through the pandemic. You can donate to ShowUp4CherokeeStreet on GoFundMe at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/show-up-4-chokeee/>.
- Bill Byrd will also have a fundraiser for the neighborhood to coincide with his birthday in May.

At this point my internet failed.

Meeting Adjourned - ? PM