

Benton Park West Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting October 3, 2007

Present: Eric Winters, Chad Johnson, Bill Byrd, Anne Childers, Melissa Winneshiek, and Carrie Sleep
Ohala Ward from Near Southside Employment Coalition

Meeting began at 7pm

Guest Speaker Presents

Ohala Ward from Near Southside Employment Coalition at 2649 Pestalozzi is seeking support for a new façade and parking lot for the establishment. She showed the board blueprints from the city. In this proposal the garage in the middle of the space would be cleaned out. Board suggested planter possibility. Chad motioned to provide a letter of support for the Façade Improvement Program and Parking Lot at 2649 Pestalozzi. Melissa second. Board signed letter of support and gave to Ohala. Ohala Ward was dismissed.

Approval of Minutes & Treasurer's Report

Chad moved to approve minutes, Bill seconded.

Carrie Sleep arrived at the meeting and took a seat.

Minutes from previous meeting approved.

Linda unable to make it to the meeting but sent report.

Chad had questions about budget and treasurer's report. Chad motioned to approve treasurer's report with a balance on 9/30/2007 of \$11,681.90, Anne seconded. Treasurer's report approved.

Committee Reports

- Beautification – Eric still trying to contact Carl. Eric to check with Jean to see who gets the planters so we can arrange for drop offs.
- Block Link – Report was emailed and not printed. Melissa to add a few blocks.
- Community Garden – Melissa worked on the flowers. We need to close the vegetable garden.
- Dog Park – Approval has been made on the second lot for the dog park. Alderman Craig Schmid to take care of the fence (6"), water, electrical. Board discussed funding to keep park sustainable as well as start up costs, member projection, insurance, surfacing, and thoughts to operate it as part of the NA.
- Facilities – More work with Five Star. They need clean up volunteers for the chicken dinner on October 7th. Spaghetti dinner planned for end of November or early December. Discussion of having a shred day for community and for the NA
- Membership – Auction donation list up to \$5,516.28, expect to have over \$7,000.00. They are on schedule with spending their budget of \$2800. Planning Taste of BPW with five restaurants already on board. Brick Award winners have been decided, but will not be announced until the dinner. Membership needs help on Friday, October 19th to set up.
- PR/Marketing – Press Release getting ready for Brick Awards and By-Laws.
- Publications – 300 brochures were made for the house tour. They are still getting ad money. The extra house tour packet will be available at the NA meeting. This is the last day to vote for "Celebrate Your Town" and the winner will be announced October 14th. We are looking to share credit if Benton Park wins as Bill's article was highlighted.
- By-Laws – To be voted on at the October NA meeting
- Quality of Life – Bill has been driving around and turning in street lights.

Support Organizations

- Sustainable Neighborhoods – No Report
- Weed & Seed – Next meeting is October 11th at 6:30pm with speaker Cathy Ruggeri-Rea, Court Administrator for the Municipal Courts for the City speaking about the Neighborhood Order of Protection.

Old Business

- By-Laws – Ready for a vote at October NA meeting

- Election Nominations – Eric has emailed out the nominees. All are undefeated except for the new “members at large” positions. Nominees are Pam Welsh, Jerry Pierce, Sherry Young, and Melba Arnold. Eric to pick an Elections Commissioner.
- For Sale House Tour Update – Total Expenses was \$361.85, total income from ad sales and donations was \$1365. Total precedes equaled \$1003.15. Two possible prospects – one contract was made. Bill suggested that we use proceeds to buy pole banners for the neighborhood similar to Fox Park. Chad motions to use for sale funds from restricted for pole banners. Bill seconded. Motion passed. Bill to look into costs, liability, weed/seed old ones, and other NA pole signs.
- Christmas Party Revisited – Board discussed just having a potluck and moving the movie to after the holidays. Board decides to move the Christmas Party to Thursday, December 13th. Bill to look into having Tanner B’s chicken and NA will buy along with some drinks.

New Business

- Roosevelt High School’s Breakfast Program – Pam Welsh has suggested that we help with Roosevelt’s Breakfast Program. There homecoming is on October 20th. Carrie to contact the committee to find out the homecoming plans and money needed. Eric would like to approve \$100 towards the Homecoming Breakfast. Bill motioned to approve \$100 to Roosevelt Breakfast Program earmarked for the Homecoming Plans based on what Carrie finds out. Info will be emailed. Carrie seconded and motion passed.
- November Speaker – Eric to call the Aldermen to find out who to have come speak about street issues.

Additional Business

- Chad would like to serve on the Cherokee Station Business Association. Anne motioned to approve this, Bill seconded. Chad approved to proceed.
- Chad motioned to donate already approved money to Five Star for Mike’s 50th Birthday. Bill seconded. Amount to be determined.
- Chad mentioned that membership has received \$70 in donations from the RSVP cards from those that couldn’t attend, but wanted to donate. Alderman Ken Ortmann donated \$150 for the membership dinner.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.