

## **Benton Park West Neighborhood Association**

### **Board Meeting April 1, 2008**

Present: Chad Johnson, Bill Byrd, Anne Childers, Melissa Winneshiek, Carrie Sleep, Rhonda Shaw, Pam Welsh, Linda Hennigh, and Melba Arnold. Guest Speaker: Joy Dell'Aringa and Paul Viemann from EMSL

### **Meeting began at 7pm**

#### **Guest Speakers**

EMSL described the company EMSL, an environmental and analytical testing lab. They have 30 locations all over the country since 1981. They are a privately held corporation providing environmental and food testing. The company has bought the building and lot at 3025-29 Jefferson to house its St. Louis location. They presented a packet outlining the business and answered questions regarding safety and building improvements. The board is interested in touring current location in South County as well as the new location once they get moved in.

#### **Approval of Minutes & Treasurer's Report**

Chad motioned to approve minutes with name correction, Melissa seconded. Minutes approved. Anne motioned to approve treasurer's report, Carrie seconded. Report approved with balance on March 31, 2008 of \$10,129.79.

#### **Committee Reports**

- Beautification – Board looked at Brad's submitted report and discussed where to get soil and plants to break the budget down. Pam motioned to approve the selection of the three walled plan, Carrie seconded. Three walled plan selected. Melissa motioned to approve proposal, but to ask Millennium to donate materials before budget is approved, Carrie seconded, board split on vote: 3 in favor, 4 un-favor; motion did not pass. Pam motioned to approve the current budget with knowledge of coming under budget with asking Millennium to donate materials, plants and soil possible donation, Chad seconded. Motion passed with 5 in favor, 1 un-favor, and 1 abstained.
- Block Link – started a list serve for block links to keep in touch and report crime on the blocks, block link BBQ is being planned as well as recruitment for additional block links. Thank you packets distributed to block link in April.
- Community Garden – work day is planned for April 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am, but will be pushed back because of NA meeting. 3300 Iowa – possible new community garden.
- Dog Park – Everything is on task and bids are being created for companies. Thank you to Melissa for picking up trash at the park. It looks great.
- Facilities – Lease in process and we received another circuit for the office. Board discusses rent payment schedule. Chad motioned to six months of rent upfront, Anne seconded. Motion passed. The copier is working great now. Facilities proposed the purchase of paper. Chad motioned to approve up to \$500 for paper to take us through this year for the newsletter, Melissa seconded. Motioned passed.
- Membership – still growing in members. The next NA social will be at Luvy Duvy's for happy hour on April 25<sup>th</sup> from 5p-7p. Trivia Night is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> at Five Star and details are underway. Looking for a guest speaker for the membership dinner. Trivia Night for Fox Park is in May. Contact Chad if interested.
- PR/Marketing – Looking for a PR and Marketing Committee Chairs. Discussed sleeves for signs for meeting change or other reasons. Adopt a sign at the next NA meeting.
- Publications – April newsletter will be ready by the weekend and this month the focus is on spring activities
- President's Report – Action Items: follow up on 2709 Cherokee, stay connected with BP concerning Blues Festival, continue recruitment of committee chairs, and continue building relationships with presidents of adjoining neighborhoods.
- Vice President's Report – update on Roosevelt Community Council activities.
- Quality of Life – Bill and Chad have been driving. Updates given on 2709 Cherokee and 2651 Ohio. Concerns voiced for properties at Arsenal & Texas and Arsenal & Ohio.
- Youth – No Report

#### **Support Organizations**

- Sustainable Neighborhoods – Last month's meeting cancelled.
- Weed & Seed – Next meeting is April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Five Star. If anyone is interested in being the representative for 2008 please see Bill.

## **Old Business**

- Board Planning Session – Bill to email dates.
- Blues Festival in May – May 17<sup>th</sup> 4pm-6:30pm, Alderman Ken Ortmann is really getting behind this event.
- Easter Egg Event – a big success. Pam submitted a report with expenses and donations.
- Aprons – Aprons were purchased and worn at the Easter egg event. Chad motioned to purchase aprons for \$435.59 some of which will be reimbursed by board members for name embroidery, Melba seconded. Motion passed.

## **New Business**

- Volunteer Incentive Proposal – Chad suggests that we give an apron with the volunteer's name on it for 40+ hours of volunteer service as a thank you gift. To give at the NA membership dinner. Board members are not included. He presented a budget to purchase and embroider 15 aprons. Pam motioned to approve up to \$375, Melissa seconded. Motion passed.
- April NA meeting agenda – Cindy from the City Service Bureau as speaker or Joe Thiele from St. Louis Neighborhood Stabilization Team.

**The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.**