

Benton Park West Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting January 8, 2008

Present: Bill Byrd, Carrie Sleep, Rhonda Shaw, Chad Johnson, Linda Hennigh, Eric Winters, Pam Welsh, Melba Arnold, and guest Cipriano Medina, President Benton Park Neighborhood,.

Guest Speakers: Na'im A. Muhammad, DeAndre Harris-Bey, Rev. William Lemons. Presenting "Club Step Above"

Meeting called to order by President Bill Byrd at 7:00pm

Guest Speaker Presents

DeAndre offered an apology to the neighborhood association board, due to the lack of knowledge on obtaining a business license in the City. Mr. Muhammad, Mr. Harris-Bey, and Rev Lemons talked about the history of their business Youth Awareness Program. The gentleman would like to open a Coffee House called "Club Step Above" at 2907 Jefferson. Due to lack of a business plan and board frustration in gaining answers to direct questions; Chad made a motion to send a letter opposing the opening of the coffee shop until we can receive a business plan for the Coffee House. Eric seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Eric Winters made an announcement that he submitted his resignation as Immediate Past President to Bill Byrd, President effective 1/8/2008, date of the letter. Two factors played a role in this decision, he will be wrapping up his Masters Degree along with he and his family having relocated to Tower Grove South.

Approval of Minutes & Treasurer's Report

- Pam moved to approve minutes, Carrie seconded. Minutes approved.
- Chad motioned to approve treasurer's report with a balance on 12/31/07 of 3,708.26 in the checking account. \$ 3147.39 in Savings, and \$ 5,079.94 in with a total accounting of \$ 10,932.59. Carrie seconded. Treasurer's report approved.

Committee Reports

- Beautification – Bill has meet with Brad and Blake Roell to be Committee Chairs. No written report.
- Block Link – Bill has meet with Mike Benson and Mellisa Winneshiek about helping pass out newsletters to the Block Links. Bill asked Linda to send via email the current list of Block Links. No written report
- Garden – Bill has meet with David Lang as a possible chair of this committee in 2008. Linda brought up that BPW owes Gateway Greening 30 hours of volunteer; as BPW has been awarded funds from them. She will forward, to Bill, the e-mail that she and Eric received from Gateway Greening.
- Dog Park – Melissa was not able to attend the meeting, but submitted her report. Alderman Craig Schmid has committed \$ 33,000.00 in helping BPW start the dog park.
- Facilities – See new business
- Membership – Chad submitted his report. Membership has sent applications for membership to over 100 people as well as renewal notices to the 2007 members. The membership committee will be having a meeting on Wednesday, January 9, at Chad's House. All encouraged to attend.
- PR/Marketing – Please see Anne for Yard Signs for the neighborhood meeting. Bill announced that Mark Halloran, a resident on Cherokee., will help with the Website as the webmaster. Bill submitted a written report,
- Publications – Bill was met with several different people regarding the newsletter. Jay Swoboda has stepped up to help with the layout and design of "The Porch Review". Sean Zalmanoff owner of Monster Mortgage & former resident of BPW will be writing a column once a month for the newsletter.

- Quality of Life – Bill has meet with two different people who have expressed interest in helping with the Quality of Life committee. George Poulmba has expressed interest in helping with this committee. Laura Snell will head the Recycling effort.
- Youth – Bill is meeting with several different people who have expressed that they would like to help with this committee.

Support Organizations

- Sustainable Neighborhoods – Bill announced that he was the 2008 Vice President. He is still looking for people to serve with him on this board.
- Weed & Seed – Next meeting January 10, 2008 Five Star Senior Center. The next steering committee is March 6, 2008. If anyone would like to be the representative from BPW, please see Bill.

Old Business

- Copier Maintenance – A representative from Da-Com inspected the copier and it was found that the copier needs scheduled maintenance and perishable parts replaced. Bill brought a proposal in front of the board asking for \$ 1,041,46 to have the copier fixed after the service call. Chad motioned to grant this expense from the checking account. Carrie 2nd the motion. Motion passed

New Business

- Bill has written a letter to Alderperson Florida concerning the check cashing business at 3350 Gravois.
- Bill presented that we were almost out of paper. Melba brought why do we have to do business with one paper supply company. Pam brought up that Pedros Planet is a supply company that her company uses, she to send the information to Bill. Chad motioned to purchase enough paper for January, February, and March Block Link pages. Carrie 2nd. Motion passed.
- Discussion about the committee chair board positions per the new bylaws. Bill has had a verbal commitment form Chad to serve at Membership chair, Melissa to serve at Dog Park, and Brad to serve as Beautification Chair. Carrie made a motion to approve this committee chairs, Pam second the motion, motion carried.
- 2008 Budget - Bill asked Rhonda, Linda and Chad to serve on the budget development committee for 2008. Bill and Rhonda to set up meeting to discuss the budget.
- Board Planning Session - Bill advised board to bring your calendars and be ready to discuss a date at the February board meeting.
- Faith Beyond Walls – Bill had been talking to Faith Beyond Walls, about helping at some of our events in 2008
- Linda Hennigh - Chad brought up that Linda has rolled off the board after 3 years. Chad made a motion that the board approves \$ 100.00 to be spent on a gift for Linda for her service to the residents of BPW. Carrie second, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32pm.

Submitted by:

Chad Johnson