

## **Benton Park West Neighborhood Association**

### **Board Meeting March 4, 2008**

Present: Chad Johnson, Bill Byrd, Anne Childers, Melissa Winneshiek, Carrie Sleep, Rhonda Shaw, Pam Welsh, Linda Hennigh, and Brett Roell. Three Guest Speakers: Cipriano Medina – President of Benton Park, Will Lieberman – Owner of Cherokee Business Incubator, and Lillian Coger with Something Special by Lillian -3265 Jefferson.

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

#### **Guest Speakers**

3265 Jefferson discussion of restaurant proposal - The Cogars were unable to make the meeting due to the weather so they spoke to the board via speaker phone. They bought the building 8yrs ago to open a clothing store. They opted to open the clothing store in the CWE where it is currently located. They had a couple of false starts with said building a couple of years ago, but now feel like the neighborhood is ready to sustain a family restaurant. They submitted a business plan to the board as well as floor plans. The Cogars answered questions and then the conversation ended.

Will Lieberman spoke of his plan to purchase 2612 Wyoming (formerly Garfield School) He is seeking the board's support in this decision. It is about 42,000 sq ft. He is looking to make artist studios out of it for a while until the market changes and then he will look at creating loft condos out of it with a similar plan as they have for the Lemp – 5yr w/tax credits. He spoke of projects he has done in the past years including pictures of some addresses. He hopes the NA will support him in this endeavor.

Cipriano Medina with Benton Park showed old drawn plans for Benton Park from the 70's. He is focusing this year on the old community building and the round pond near it. He told us about all the grant proposals for flower beds, lights at tennis courts, fencing, playground, etc. He wants to get the NA focused on what is needed and what can get accomplished. He is interested in getting involvement of the surrounding neighborhoods. Board discussed adding a paper survey (similar to the survey that BPNA will be receiving at their meeting) to our BPW membership mailer that will go to every household. BPNA will be voting on what they wish the focus to be on. Cipriano may come and speak at BPWNA meeting this month. Guests were then excused.

Bill referred to email request of support from Luvy Duvy's on obtaining a liquor license. They received the required signatures and told their intentions. Board discussed their intentions and reputation as an established business. Chad motioned to write a letter of support for Luvy Duvy's liquor license, Rhonda seconded. The motion passed.

Board discussed Will Lieberman's proposal. Melissa motioned to support Will Lieberman's purchase of 2612 Wyoming to include maintenance of building repairs, exterior, trash, and requests a periodic update on his plans for the building to the BPWNA board, Anne seconded. Motion passed.

Board discussed 3265 Jefferson as a proposed restaurant. Chad motioned for letter of support to be issued, Melissa seconded. The motion passed.

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

Chad motioned to approve minutes with name corrections, Pam seconded. Minutes approved. Carrie motioned to approve treasurer's report, Blake seconded. Report approved.

#### **Committee Reports**

- Beautification – Brad looking into light post flag signs – recommendations to contact Fox Park for pole sign process. Planters to be ready for first planting in April before distribution. He took measurements at Arsenal/Jefferson and contacting landscaping companies for estimates. Discussion about getting seeds from Gateway Greening, getting volunteers from Faith Beyond Walls. Linda offered up broken tiles to put at bottom of small planters to use less dirt and for drainage. Once a month driving the neighborhood and reporting on beautification issues to the city websites.
- Block Link – in new business
- Community Garden – Easter event in new business
- Dog Park – blues festival in old business
- Facilities – Shred day is being discussed as a spring cleaning event. Paper was purchased. Copier in old business.
- Membership – membership is growing; numbers reported with a total of 94 as of 3/5/08. The goal is 200 for 2008 Hosted a happy hour that was well attended on Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>. A 50/50 fundraiser raffle raised \$125 for BPW. Membership committee is recruiting new committee members. Membership mailer in new business.

- PR/Marketing – use for barriers in new business. Looking for a PR and Marketing Committee Chairs. Some updates to website have been made.
- Publications – With continued issued with the copier, the March newsletter will be very much what was to be in the February newsletter. The newsletter is to be kept at 16 pages and looking for an editorial leader. Continued work on brochure design and solicitation for advertisers.
- President's Report – Action Items: continue recruitment of committee chairs, respond to all resident calls or concerns in a 24hr period.
- Quality of Life – There are four 2 member teams driving BPW. Reporting will be to Bill who will funnel information to CSB or NSO.
- Youth – Easter Event in new business.

### **Support Organizations**

- Sustainable Neighborhoods – Thank you to Linda for all the work she did in 2007. Meetings are every third Tuesday at 6pm for sustainable neighborhoods. They have done great things for the neighborhoods.
- Weed & Seed – Next meeting is March 6<sup>th</sup>

### **Old Business**

- Copier Maintenance – Two repairmen have been out about the power board issue and one is coming tomorrow. This is the holdup for the March newsletter.
- Board Planning Session – Bill will send out three dates in April or May for board members to choose from.
- Recycling Program – Proposal presented about recycling program. Laura Snell to update the NA at this month's meeting.
- Blues Festival in May – Proposal presented about a blues festival to take place in Benton Park in May 2008. The committee consists of 3 BP residents and 3 BPW residents. Jason Deam has been asked to donate stage equipment for the event as this would cut costs tremendously. Only one band will play and email will go out on list serve about what band to pick. Total cost for event will be split between BP and BPW. Cipriano Medina is discussing security deposit and rental park fee with Alderman Ken Ortmann. Ten volunteers are needed for the day of the event. It will be a 2.5 hr event. Board discussed food vendor's w/own picnic license, advertisement, same day as Cherokee History Fair, insurance, and alcohol brought by residents. Bill looking into how Lafayette Park handles their Saturday summer music festivities. Benton Park NA has voted to support this event. Chad motioned to approve \$1,000 for Blues Festival, Carrie seconded. Blues Festival is scheduled for Sat, May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Dog Park Update – Board discusses seating. The dog park construction has begun as they have started w/trees. Discussion of name for park (suggestion – Grand Paws). Board to put out to NA to find more name suggestions.
- Requests to Millennium for Jefferson/Arsenal Planters – They are very supportive of our proposal for planters.

### **New Business**

- Gift Card for Brad Roell's daughter – Chad motioned to approve \$25 for a gift card for new baby, Melissa seconded. Motion passed.
- Garden Chair – Chad motioned to support Jon Meintz as Garden Chair with him unable to attend meetings due to work schedule; he will send reports, Carrie seconded. Jon Meintz approved as Garden Chair.
- Block Link Chair – Linda Hennigh discussed benefits of block link to get newsletters out, new neighbor packets, and for meeting neighbors. Block links also support by passing out flyers for Easter event and National Night out, and home building repair information. Bill asking that the chair reports on number of newsletters distributed and informing the board on other issues neighbors may be discussing as another avenue to get info where it needs to be. Linda Hennigh spoke of the information given in the newsletters of where to go if issues arise for neighbors.
- Easter Event – Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11am-2pm. We have just over \$200 in donations and committee is working with Pizza Hut, Shop N Save, and Science Center. We have 4 baseball tickets as a family prize. We need volunteers for the event and to get kids to come. Request to add flyer to membership mailer. Chad motioned to support up to \$480 for Easter event, Anne seconded. The motion passed.
- Membership Dinner – Carrie motioned to approve the budget proposed for the membership dinner \$3,960.00, Pam seconded.

- IWF Funding – Bill gave history of funding from IWF to BPW. IWF is now looking to do more collaborative 50/50 efforts with BPW. Bill is working on grant reporting updates for 2008.
- Trivia Night – Chad proposing a trivia night fundraiser for June 14<sup>th</sup>. It will cost about \$1,000 with the potential to raise \$6,000 for the NA. Looking to host it at Five Star, 8 people per table. Anne motioned to support the trivia night and approve \$1060.00, Carrie seconded. The motion passed. Pam suggested adding sleeves to our existing signs to advertise other events like trivia night. She is to look into it.
- Membership Mailer – Board discussed breaking up the responsibilities to get it done by the end of the week.
- Concrete Barriers as Signage? – Board discussed what to do with the concrete barriers and that painting on them may make them look worse, plus they are owned by the streets division. Nothing planned for them.
- Move bus stop – The new property owners at 3125 Jefferson are putting in a request to move the bus stop from their front door to across in front of 3200 block of Jefferson. This would put it directly across the street from the BP bus stop on Jefferson. Board discussed reasons to support or not support this effort. More info to come.
- March NA meeting agenda will be the same as the February proposed agenda.

### **Additional Business**

Board discussed Pam Welsh's garden and its beginnings.

Board discussed long length of meetings and April 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting to be shorter as only one speaker present.

Anne cannot attend the March NA meeting as she has a work conflict. Chad to take the minutes.

Facilities – Board discussed rent increase to our office space. Carrie motioned to approve board office to stay in current office space for 2008 with slight rent increase, Rhonda seconded.

**The meeting adjourned at 9:33pm.**