

BPWNA Meeting
April 21, 2005 @ 7:07
37 residents in attendance

Potluck preceded the meeting.

Introductions and welcomes were made.

Minutes from the previous board meeting were reviewed and approved, as was the treasurer's report.

Leo Hamon and Claudia Roe of the City Assessor's Office explained the re-assessment process, which occurs every two years. In the city, the average assessments went up 30%. Assessments are made based on market values of nearby properties of similar size. More home sales in the Benton Park West neighborhood have worked to increase property assessments. The city does not estimate individual properties but instead similar properties in a give area based on home sale prices. The city is required to do this every two years by state law. The staff members explained the processes available for appealing the assessments with deadlines of March 9 for the main method. Leo also explained other opportunities for seniors to have their property taxes locked in or credited to their taxes.

Tsgt. Curtis Hanock of the DEFY (Drug Education for Youth) program explained the camp that DEFY offers to youth ages 9-12 in Weed & Seed neighborhoods, including Benton Park West. The camp takes place from June 12 to 17. After that, the youth meet with mentors throughout the year. It is a free program. Applications are due ASAP.

Committee Reports:

1. **Beautification** – Derrick Morris inquired about possible interest in an "Adopt-a-Planter" program, where the association would purchase a large planter and place it on a corner in the neighborhood. A resident would then take care of it and help to beautify the neighborhood. Anyone interested in coordinating an Alley Cleanup should contact Derrick.
2. **Block Link** – Tom Stehl and Anna Hancock explained that the coordinating team was currently getting into place. They explained the general gist of the program again. More Block Links are still needed.
3. **Communication** – Bill Byrd explained the role of the communications committee and encouraged everyone interested to help get involved spreading the news of the neighborhood. Website work is currently underway. A logo contest is also going on to pick the new logo for the neighborhood. Votes were taken in the back of the room.
4. **Facilities** – Bill Byrd reported that the space in the Cherokee Incubator is quickly coming together with a number of donations. An open house will be held in May.
5. **Community Garden** – Eric Winters thanked all those who helped at the April workdays. The eleven beds are made and planted. A Kickoff BBQ will be held at noon on May 21. Free food and drink will be provided. Workdays are the first Saturday of each month.
6. **Membership** – A number of businesses have joined the association and are advertising in the newsletter, Chad Johnson reported.

Support Organizations' Reports

1. **Sustainable Neighborhoods** – Scholarships are still available for early childhood classes and college courses.
2. **Weed & Seed** – Bill Byrd explained that the neighborhood part of Weed & Seed was extended for another year. He encouraged anyone wanting to know more about Weed & Seed to attend the monthly meetings held at Five Star Senior Center on the 2nd Thursday

of the month, beginning at 6pm.

Old Business

- 1. Project for Public Spaces** – Jean Durel encouraged anyone interested in beautifying the neighborhood to attend a breakfast workshop on May 13 that seeks to improve public spaces. A number of sites in BPW will be included as a part of the weekend workshop.
- 2. Yard Sale** – Plans underway to host a neighborhood yard sale. Stay tuned for more info.

Announcements

- Bill Byrd announced information about a program to get cheaper prescription drugs.
- Laura Anderson encouraged anyone interested in affordable housing issues to attend a forum on Sunday, April 24 at 4pm at SSDN.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.