

BPWNA Meeting
June 16, 2005 @ 7:10
45 residents in attendance

Introductions and welcomes were made. Vice President Bill Byrd presiding, as Chad Johnson was attending DEFY camp.

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

Aldermen Check-In

Both Ken Ortmann and Craig Schmid were present at the meeting. Craig encouraged everyone to get involved in National Night Out, set for Tuesday, Aug. 2. Blocks can sign up online. Ken asked for feedback on the barricades and one-way street changes that occurred early in June. He stressed that they will be temporary and feedback is needed as they continue to evaluate the program. If anyone has a problem with people setting off fireworks, they should contact Ken and the police captain, as fireworks are illegal in the city. A letter is sent out to the home of the violators warning them that if they are caught, they can be summoned to court. Further explanation of National Night Out by Ken and Craig explained that blocks can block off the street, have potlucks, have contests and get to know their neighbors.

State Representative Jeanette Mott-Oxford was in attendance and expressed her pleasure to be at the meeting. She submitted something to the newsletter updating people on recent legislation in the state capitol. She requested info on anyone being cutoff of Medicaid due to recent cuts. She's also looking for ideas for next year's legislation. Contact info in the newsletter.

Presentation from Jill Hamilton, St. Louis Recycling Program Manager

Jill spoke on the importance of Reduce (cut back on what we use), Reuse (use items again in new and creative ways), and Recycle (melt down and make something new from materials). The nearest recycling drop-off location is at the corner of Jefferson and Pestalozzi, next to the Fire Station. She explained a number of ways to reduce, reuse and recycle the items that many of us just throw away. A number of handouts were available. Jill also briefly explained the bulk trash requirements (have up to three items set out the 2nd Monday of the month, at least three feet from dumpster). In addition, city residents can take one truckload a month to the city dump for free. The Forestry Division makes mulch and compost available for free, nearest location at Carondelet Park. Jill was asked about curbside recycling programs, and she answered that a pilot program was being tested in a few city zip codes but not yet in our area. Jill encouraged people to contact the Citizens Service Bureau regarding all dumpster problems, such as cleaning and repair.

Committee Reports:

1. **Beautification** – Derrick Morris explained that he was working on securing waste cans in public areas, such as near bus stops and corners. He also said he would be working with the city if the barriers are permanent to improve their appearance.
2. **Block Link** –Chris Holmes and Tom Stehl explained that Bill Byrd will be helping facilitate the flow of info from the board to the block links. Bill Byrd praised Christine Sullivan for the work their doing on their block in organizing the neighbors.
3. **Communications** – Bryan Herring explained that he was looking into ways to promote

the neighborhood through window stickers, plaques, awards and other publicity. He invited everyone to the UMSL Art Show held at 2705 Juniata on June 24.

4. **Community Garden** – Eric Winters thanked everyone for a great attendance at the Garden Kickoff BBQ with more than 125 people! Next workday will be Saturday, July 9 due to the holiday weekend the weekend before.
5. **Facilities** – Bill Byrd thanks everyone who came to the Office Open House at the Cherokee Street Incubator. Plenty of new donations have made the office look great!
6. **Membership** – Thanks to all our members, including the many businesses! For membership info, see Eric or Linda!

Support Organizations' Reports

1. **Weed & Seed** – Bill Byrd explained that a committee of Weed & Seed is forming to work on the transition issues when a number of neighborhoods expire from the program

Old Business

New Business

1. **Response to Riverfront Times article** – Bruce Levine raised concerns about a recent article in the RFT that he believed presented the neighborhood as unfriendly to its Hispanic community. Bruce requested the board consider writing a response to the RFT affirming the board's support for a diverse neighborhood. While the specific situation involved in the article had many other issues surrounding it, Bruce encouraged the response from the board to simply express support for the diverse neighborhood. The membership approved the motion asking the board to consider a response.

Announcements & Concerns

- Melba Arnold expressed her concern for unknown cars parking near her house. She says she frequently sees people park and then walk away. She asked for advice. A number of residents suggested calling the police, but Melba wanted to do something less severe and more positive. One suggestion was to create parking tags to pass out to neighbors so at least those cars could be identified as residents. That suggestion did not mean a parking pass that would be legally binding, but rather just a way of denoting resident cars.
- A raffle of two tickets to a Cardinal Game raised \$37 for the association.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.