

BPWNA Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2007

Call To Order – Welcome from President Eric Winters. 31 people present

Review of Minutes – Phil Jarvis moved to approve minutes, Chad Johnson seconded.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Byrd moved to approve minutes, Phil Jarvis seconded.

3rd District Police Officer Check-In – Not Present. Police statistics are in the newsletter

Alderman and NSO Check-In's – Alderman Ken Ortmann said that as the weather gets warmer we usually have more vandalizing. Reminders to call Aldermen and get address of nuisance properties so they can take care of it. He would like to meet with the board and Alderman Craig Schmid about a map of properties to look at uses for our neighborhood. Craig Schmid talked about letting Aldermen and City View office at City Hall about limbs that are still around from the storms and about raised sidewalks. Keep calling on nuisance properties. We have a new President on the Board of Aldermen. Reminder to vote in April and to get involved in school district even if you don't have a child in school it may affect your property value. If anyone has mortgage issues call help line 888-995-HOPE. Big Big House Tour is on March 25th. Bike St. Louis to do some bike paths on Cherokee. Operation Brightside is April 28th. We are no longer listed as the top 10 crime neighborhoods in St. Louis.

Ken Ortmann also explained the Neighborhood Order of Protection mentioned and that the City Jail is expanding another floor. NSO not present.

Committees and Activities –

Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, March 31st. A flyer is in the newsletter. See Linda if you still would like to volunteer.

Garden Committee – Sign for Ohio & Crittenden. Looking for a name for the garden. More info to come. First work day is April 21st 9am-12pm and there are ongoing work days after that on the second Saturday and last Thursday of each month.

Membership Committee – October 20th this year. We hope Ken Ortmann can make it this year. Please let Chad know if you would like to join the committee.

Main Presentations –

Ed Bushmeyer – from the City Assessor's Office
He explained the process of property reassessment going on this year. Neighbors should receive an assessment in the mail in April. He had a chart/map reflecting sales within this neighborhood and passed out flyers. Property tax will increase this year to bridge the gap to greater reflect the property city wide. There are options to appeal and programs for financial support such as the circuit breaker program and the homestead program.

Maggie Lampe – from MAP Program.
Article in March newsletter. They work with rental properties with problem tenants. Gives landlords tools to improve properties and find good tenants. Offer tenant screening for free and will even manage property for free for two years if they come their through the nuisance property process.

Announcements –

-SLACO conference was last Saturday. Pam Weber enjoyed it and shared her experience.
-SSDN, there is a party on March 21st 12p-2p at Belas Artes on Russell to honor Marlene Levine in her retirement.

-Clean Up for Big Big House Tour. Will Leiberman said that from 10am-2pm on March 24th everyone is encouraged to clean up around their neighborhood and some developers are offering a bar-b-que for residents that are cleaning.

-Cinco de Mayo celebration has been approved and vendor or sponsor applications will be available on the websites cincodemayostl.com or cherokeestation.com.

-Operation Brightside is April 28th. Call 314-772-4646 if interested in applying. More to come next month about it.

- Eric has been meeting with other neighborhood associations. The Guilded Age is doing Walgreens plaza off of hwy 55 and Lafayette. They agreed to a brick façade to match the architecture. He spoke also of the Foodland on Jefferson and Union Square. Eric also met with the Benton Park NA and learned about their plans to improve the park. Eric also mentioned ideas for the National Night Out with a possible outdoor movie night within the neighborhood. Reminder to do the email survey that was sent to residents on the email listserve. Eric invited all members to come to the BPW neighborhood board meetings.

- Bill Byrd announced Weed and Seed meetings are every second Thursday at Five Star. The Fish Fry's at Five Star will be every Friday evening through April 6th.

-Next NA meeting is April 19th. Someone from the Cherokee Recreation Center will speak.

Neighbors suggested that we have a speaker to answer questions about homeowners insurance. Some suggestions were made.

Adjournment – cookies and refreshments were available at the meeting.