

BPWNA Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2007

Call To Order – Welcome from President Eric Winters. 35 people present. We went around and introduced ourselves and told our favorite Thanksgiving dish.

Review of Minutes – Rhonda Shaw moved to approve minutes, Jerry Pierce seconded. Attendees were also shown a treasurer's report.

Alderman and NSO Check-In's – Alderman Ken Ortmann gave updates on events in the neighborhood including: -Guns & Hoses fundraiser for firemen and police offers is next Wednesday. \$30 tickets can get them Ken. Bus is leaving from the Cat's Meow to this amateur boxing bout. -Chili fundraiser is November 30th. -Cookie Spree on Cherokee Antique Row is December 1st & 2nd. -Lemp Complex – Garrison now has three phases for the project and has increased to 430 residential units. Closing date is now pushed to July and zoning changes are underway. No update on the project at Jefferson and Arsenal. The project is now on hold. -Parks Update – Check out the Minniewood Park (Broadway & Meramec) new playground set and the landscape around pavilion that the neighbors put in and maintain. Benton Park has young mothers that want to see a new playground so the plan for that is underway. Both ponds have been fixed and are now holding water. He explained the financial process that the ponds underwent. The comfort station was supposed to be upgraded, but unfortunately they mistakenly did the Cherokee Park comfort station instead. This project still needs funds before it can be completed as well as electric is needed for the amphitheatre, pavilion, and under the bridge, and to replace the remainder of sidewalks in the park. If you have an event planned in Benton Park please call the parker to unlock and relock the bathrooms for you. Capital Money that the aldermen receive is to be used for all parks in their ward, trees, alley paving, sidewalks, and any other improvements for the ward. Please visit and enjoy the parks in your neighborhood. Alderman Craig Schmid – Senator Claire McCaskill is having a workshop on predatory lending at Harris Stowe University. Please encourage those that need mortgage help to call 1-888-995-HOPE. Gravois Park to have Christmas Caroling – date TBA. Next year's Aldermen meetings will focus on juvenile law changes, occupancy permits, nuisance properties, and trash. Block units are the key and lifeblood of the NA. Trash - Every resident is responsible for their property to midway into the street and midway into the alley to be cleaned every week. Businesses have the same boundaries and to clean every day. He still recommends that the NA send a note to the Metro Link planning as they have chosen Jefferson Ave. for the North South route. Bike St. Louis is adding share the road to South Broadway and Cherokee. Craig recommends that we get juveniles on offenses other than droopy drawers. There is a circuit breaker program to help those who need help with their Property Tax. EnergyCare is also a place to go for help right in our neighborhood 314-773-5900. Citizens Police Academy may be reinstated. He took questions from residents regarding the 50/50 sidewalk program (call 647-3111 to check if you are still on the list and confirm your address and keep a copy of your service request). Questions about commercial façade program (call 832-2946 50/50 basis up to \$5,000). Resident interested in opening a custom furniture business. NSO Barb Potts – Updated NA on projects that she is working on including nuisance properties on 3200 Ohio, Penny Saver – they have identified all but two of the guys causing problems. She is looking into using the neighborhood order of protection against them to keep them out of BPW. Keep calling the police on these guys and their behavior. Barb suggests that the NA get

the Penny Saver owner to come to the NA meeting so that the NA association can help him out. He is working with the façade program to get the windows uncovered. Midas Muffler graffiti has been painted over and she did get the cherry picker recommended. One row house on Utah has been evicted. Please have street smarts as this is the season for robberies. Eric announced that a crime report was submitted and copies were out on the tables for residents to see.

Special Updates on Neighborhood Projects & Committees –

Colt Motors Update – Eric explained Eric Wolfman’s plans for 3210 Compton. The board does oppose the plan because we do not wish to have another car lot on Gravois and more importantly Eric Wolfman’s history as a property owner is unacceptable. Some of these properties are in our neighborhood. Linda Hennigh shared her experience as she owns the unit next to one of his dilapidated buildings. He has been able to move forward with the process of acquiring the building on Compton and Gravois even though the NA opposed it. A hearing has been set for Wednesday, November 28th at 1:30pm. We will be sending another letter of opposition as well as sending representatives from the NA to the hearing. Pam Welsh is starting a petition in the area and pictures of the properties suggested.

Dog Park – Both lots have been obtained for the dog park on Utah & Nebraska. Thank you to Alderman Craig Schmid and all that he has done to help make the dog park happen. If anyone would like to learn more and help with this committee please call Melissa at 771-0050 and see her report in the packet given to those present. June 2008 is the projected opening. This is to be a secured/key padded/fenced in dog park. We are working on the first year sustainability as memberships will sustain the park in future years. A fundraiser is being planned between BP and BPW neighborhood associations.

Roosevelt Community Council – A group of residents around the school have created this council to promote and support the kids of Roosevelt and promote good behavior. Pam Welsh has been working with the council and helping at the football breakfasts. Some of the committees now underway are Parent/Student involvement, jobs for teens at businesses in the area, spirit/pride committee, and they have even repaired the front steps. BPW board approved \$200 for the food for breakfasts. Tower Grove East NA also donated money for new signage. The Roosevelt Community Council is now seeking donations and volunteers to get involved. Rebuild pride at Roosevelt and contact Bill, Pam, or Carrie Sleep if interested in helping.

Christmas Potluck on Thursday, December 13th – The Potluck Holiday Meeting is scheduled for the 2nd Thursday. The NA is providing fried chicken; Weed/Seed is collaborating for the potluck and will provide soda. Residents to bring a dish to make this year’s BPWNA Christmas Party Potluck a success!

Membership Renewals for 2008 – Chad announced that \$2800 was raised from the membership appreciation dinner. Thank you to all that attended! Chad also gave a brick award to Linda Hennigh for Most Improved Building by a resident for her property on _____ (next to Eric Wolfman’s problem property). She was unable to attend the dinner and receive her award. Chad described the incentives for membership renewal for 2008 and membership forms were in the packets given to attendees with a description of benefits on this report.

Block Link Update – Linda Hennigh presented a map of current and needed blocks. Her number is 771-2161. Please call her if you are interested in becoming a block link which involves delivering newsletters to everyone on your designated block.

**Adjournment – cookies and refreshments were available at the meeting.
See you next month for the potluck on Thursday, December 13th at 7pm**