

## **BPWNA Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2007**

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

**Review of Minutes** – Jean Durell moved to approve minutes, Aaron \_\_\_\_\_(country guy)?? seconded.

**Alderman and NSO Check-In's** – Alderman Ken Ortmann said that he and Alderman Craig Schmid applied for a grant for the streets. This involves Federal money plus city taxes. It is to address the streetscape making it more attractive and safer. It will be about 1.4 million dollars for Cherokee Street from Jefferson to Nebraska, the business district. It is to start in 2009. Question asked of why not to extend further west through the last five blocks of Cherokee. Alderman Ken Ortmann said that the stipulation for the grant was that it had to be a commercial district. Craig Schmid suggests that the NA send a letter to show support for the Metro's North/South route to come down Jefferson. Cherokee Street on Halloween night will be blocked off for youth to go trick or treating. Michigan to Compton will be blocked from 5:30pm-8:00pm. We should see more biking opportunities in the future in our neighborhood. Barb Potts said keep calling on nuisance properties even though it can be frustrating. She knows that Wyoming and Nebraska is a problem corner and there were shootings at 3200 block of Ohio the other night. Some nuisance properties are a result of mortgage fraud. Please provide address of nuisance properties when calling. Barb described how to call for shots fired and loitering since loitering is not a crime. Curfew law changes are in legislation.

**By-Laws Vote** – Eric listed who was on the by-laws committee. Connie Petty moved to approve the new by-laws by vote, Jerry Pierce seconded. Vote was taken by a hand count. 22 approved, 0 seconded. The By-Laws were approved.

**Elections** – Connie Petty as elections chair came up and explained the process.

Eric announced that all nominees were to give a short speech highlighting who they were and what they would like to see in 2008.

Melba Arnold – Melba said she was invested in safety especially for youth involvement to keep them more productive and off the street. She mentioned the Ben Carson reading room on weekends.

Sherry Young – Not Present

Pam Welsh – Moved to neighborhood just over one year ago. She loves BPW and city living. Her block is cleaner and quieter since she has moved here and she is now working on a community garden getting the neighborhood kids out to garden. She would like to get more involved with Roosevelt High School.

Jerry Pierce – He has lived here for many years. His reason for running is to maintain and continue progress, promote business areas, and keep residential areas separate.

Anne Childers – She has lived here for three years. She loves the neighborhood and has enjoyed being secretary this year. Next year she would like to see herself more organized, and she would like to see BPW utilizing Benton Park more – more collaborations with Benton Park which she knows she will be a part of as she is opening her business in Benton Park.

Rhonda Shaw – Moved to 2808 Texas in 2004. She pays her bills on time (treasurer, ha ha)

She would like to see BPW have a house tour like Lafayette's. She would also like to see more neighbors joining the Neighborhood Association.

Carrie Sleep – She has lived here for three years. She has past experience serving on a board...Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary at Fox Park. In BPW she has served on many committees and help at many events. She would like to see the walking group start up again and continuing to get to know each other as neighbors.

Bill Byrd – Would like to look at what we can do as a neighborhood. He had a list that has been generated throughout the year. He would like to look at this list and focus on what our needs are as well as some of our wants. Three things that are of importance in 2008: nuisance properties, quality of life, closer collaboration with other NA like next door at Benton Park. He will do the best he can. Please wave if you see him riding around. He knows that he cannot do the whole list alone and that it takes each of us in the neighborhood. Other things he is looking at is adding a Sat. brunch for neighbors to get together, please visit Carmen's Café on Gravois – support our neighborhood businesses, and Cherokee Street revival into a shopping district of St. Louis.

Connie Petty explained the voting process and restrictions, and passed out voting cards. She then collected the cards and began counting them.

**For Sale House Tour Recap** – 31 properties were open. It was a successful event. We may do it next year because we received positive feedback about the event. Ad sales covered the cost of the event plus \$1003 profit. The board has decided to restrict the money as seed money for pole banners in the neighborhood. We had over 150 people come and look at houses. 50 of them signed up. We have possibly three contracts from the weekend. We more then reached our goals for the event.

**Membership Appreciation Dinner** – Need help setting up this Friday 6p-, and Sat 9a-3p. The event is at Cabrini Academy. Key Note Speaker Mr. Gilberto Pinela will be talking about diversity. We have about \$9000 in donations. We are expecting 100 people. Dinner is at 7pm.

**Christmas Potluck** – Scheduled for Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs). We will be partnering with weed-n-seed to have an even larger potluck Christmas celebration.

**Spaghetti Dinner** – Is November 9<sup>th</sup> at Five Star. The NA is hosting this event so we need volunteers. Please see Bill.

**November Meeting Topic** – Eric asked if we would rather have a speaker about streets and slowing traffic, etc. or a speaker on recycling and a possible pick up service. We showed a raise of hands to vote. Recycling slightly won out so we will have someone speak on recycling.

Eric then received the tallied votes from Connie Petty and announced:

Congratulations to BPWNA 2008 Board Members: President-Bill Byrd, Vice President-Carrie Sleep, Treasurer-Rhonda Shaw, Secretary-Anne Childers, Members at Large-Melba Arnold and Pam Welsh

#### **Announcements –**

-Barb Potts announced that the graffiti on Midas Muffler business needs to be taken off. She needs a cherry picker to reach it. We do not want to lose a business in the neighborhood because graffiti has been on the building for too long. Suggestion given-check with Carl Hoffman.

-Melba Arnold announced that our neighbor at Arsenal and Ohio, Claude has been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. This weekend is a benefit walk in Belleville. The fun run is 9am-10am and donations accepted. She is looking for a karaoke machine for a fun day at low income housing organization. Suggestion was given.

-Joe Frank announced that he works for small businesses by helping with financing, marketing, etc. He writes government contracts. He has business cards if anyone is interested.

-Aaron \_\_\_\_\_ asked how others deal with older kids who don't dress up on Halloween. Suggestions were given such as giving them a lot less or ending candy distribution early in the evening.

-Bill Byrd and Pam Welsh announced Roosevelt High School Homecoming is this Sat. Game is at 1pm and they are having a breakfast for the players that the NA has donated money for. Please come out and support.

-Jay Swoboda announced that he is featured in Bill McClullen's column tomorrow. It is about his green building in BPW. He is 9<sup>th</sup> in the country with this status of green building. Check out the column tomorrow.

-Chad at the front table has copies of two articles mentioning our neighborhood. Pick one up.

-Attendance Raffle prizes were given out.

**Adjournment – cookies and refreshments were available at the meeting.**