

Benton Park West Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting

October 12, 2020

Call to order at 6:35

- President – Scott McIntosh **Present**
- Vice President – Tim Thomas **Present**
- Secretary – Erin Godwin **Present**
- Treasurer – Linda Hennigh **Present**
- Member At-Large – Pam Welsh **Present**
- Member At-Large – Gwynn Jackson **Present**
- Membership – Rosie Jackson/Bill Byrd **Absent/ Present**
- Beautification – Stephanie McKinney **Absent**
- Block Link – Chris Schmidt **Present**
- Communications – Scott McIntosh
- Community Garden – Linda Hennigh
- Our Neighborhood Garden – Scott McIntosh
- Dog Park – Jeni Poole **Absent**
- Facilities – Bill Byrd
- Fundraising – Vacant
- Housing + Development
- SLACO Committee – Linda Hennigh
- Quality of Life and Safety – Vacant
- Youth Outreach – Darren Young **Absent**

Trans Memorial Garden

Erica Lainey, Board Chair of Metro Trans Umbrella Group (MTUG) and Saylor Johnson, Executive Director and Co-Founder of MTUG

MTUG, which is headquartered in Benton Park West, is losing their nationally recognized Trans Memorial Garden in The Grove, so they are hoping to create a new memorial garden at the BPW neighborhood garden at California and Wyoming. They have garden volunteers and a master gardener. They'd like a formal relationship to care for the garden, call it the Transgender Memorial Garden, and have one or two lowkey events a year at the space. It would be a sacred place honoring transgender people but open and welcome to all people.

MTUG could take over BPW's garden lease or buy the parcel straight from the city; the city owns the whole lot. Buying it would generate a water bill for the frost free hydrant. Gateway Greening currently provides \$100 per year garden insurance, volunteer groups, free plants, and free gardening classes.

There's no electricity, but there are two alley yard waste dumpsters and space at the end to have mulch delivered. The fence needs repair where a tree fell and bent it. The Salvation Army owns the house immediately west for their fellows; some have helped with the garden. The neighbor immediately south reports the garden to the city when it gets overgrown. BPWNA would still promote volunteering in the garden if the MTUG took it over.

The garden was founded in 2000 and is a partnership with Gateway Greening, so most of the plants are Missouri natives. MTUG is open to the new garden name including the old garden name. MTUG has at least a monthly event to clean and weed their memorial garden; they pay a mowing service to mow once a week. They want to ensure the community wants MTUG there; they don't want people vandalizing the garden.

Dwayne Tiggs

Mr. Tiggs is requesting a letter of support for his purchase of the parcel at 3172 California from the LRA. He currently lives above his shop at 3171 California and has been there about 16 years. Dwayne has spent a lot of time at 3172 working on permaculture and grows a good portion of his food there. He used his Master's in architecture over the last three years to design and develop a regenerative, sustainable housing model on the site for him to live in once he purchases the parcel from the city. He plans to include solar panels, greywater cycle systems, radiant heated floors, and upcycled materials. He received support from Dan Gunther earlier today and, with support from BPWNA, will take his plans to the city and start working with them. This project has been in the works for about 10 years and will be his primary residence. The materials will be contextual to the environment and the city's needs.

The home would have brick with a contemporary style adding basically a modified flounder style. The house would be on the north end to use the passive energies from the sun to heat and passively cool the house, so it's not advantageous to put a brick facade on the south face. The front facade will be contextual to the rest of the block, but the spirit of the house was inspired by Antonio Gaudi and the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona to retain and to preserve those pieces and archetypes in the city and put them together in a very articulated and ornate way. He projects he will complete the project in early spring; he has been saving materials for years and has a good portion of them. He wants a tiny house that meets his needs without incurring excess operating/utility costs.

Becky Martinez Memorial

The ideas of planting a memorial tree or placing a concrete bench and plaque for her at the circular garden she worked on so much at . Pam and Linda will try to create a subcommittee with the Sullivans to come up with memorial options to present at the next board meeting.

Board Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report

2020 Annual Budget

Membership Report

Community Garden

The garden sign was knocked over by a car and is currently being stored in Linda's garage. It is repairable, but the decision about how to proceed will wait until there is word on the De Sales project.

Halloween

BPWNA will support Cherokee Street's Halloween event and host our own house decorating contest with prizes for the top three.

2021 BPWNA Board Election

Voting for 2021 board will take place at the neighborhood association meeting on Thursday. Scott will make up the ballots. Paid members will vote using a Google form; membership status and votes will be confirmed after the meeting.

Bill moved to adjourn at 8:24. Chris Schmidt seconds. Adjourned.