

Benton Park West Neighborhood Association Membership Meeting

May 18, 2017
Five Star Senior Center, 2832 Arsenal
Called to order by Scott McIntosh at 7:07 pm

- 1) **Board Members**
 - a) **President** - Scott McIntosh: Present
 - b) **Vice President** - Alison Hillman: Present
 - c) **Secretary** - Liz Gerard: Present
 - d) **Treasurer** - Frank Becker: Present

 - e) **Member At-Large** - Jason Hillman: Present
 - f) **Member At-Large** - Eddie Schmid: Present

 - g) **Community Garden** - Linda Hennigh: Present
 - h) **Facilities** – Bill Byrd: Present
 - i) **Membership** - Karen Becker: Present
 - j) **Communications** - Scott McIntosh: Present
 - k) **Dog Park** – Jeni Poole: Present
 - l) **Beautification** – Stephanie McKinney: Present
 - m) **Cherokee Street Liaison** - Anne McCullough/Jason Deem: Absent

- 2) **Review and accept April 2017 membership meeting minutes and review April Board meeting minutes:** Dan Geary moves to accept, Jason Hillman seconds. Passes

- 3) **Review and accept April Treasurer's report and 2017 budget:** Jason Hillman moves to accept, Libby Martin seconds. Passes

- 4) **New members and guests**
 - a) Lonnie Craig

- 5) **Glen Burleigh – Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing and Opportunity Council**
 - a) <http://ehocstl.org/>
 - b) Nonprofit organization builds legal cases around the Fair Housing Act
 - c) Provides free legal assistance to tenants when dealing with problem landlords

- 6) **Torrey Park – Prosperity Connect/South City Wealth Accumulation Center**
 - a) <http://prosperityconnection.org/>
 - b) New facility on Gravois and Oregon provides financial education and affordable banking
 - c) Partnered with St. Louis Community Credit Union
 - d) An alternative to predatory payday lending (average APR on Missouri payday loans is 450%)

- 7) **Sara Johnson – Urban Mission Center**
 - a) Planning a weekly family game night in Benton Park

8) Ken Ortmann appreciation

- a) Ken Ortmann is presented with a gift and cake for his many years of service

9) Upcoming Events and Committee Reports

- a) Plenty of committee positions available. See a BPWNA board member for details
- b) KaBOOM! Build Day is June 1. Still seeking volunteers
- c) Volunteers needed for Fair St. Louis on Sunday, July 2

10) 9th Ward Alderman Dan Guenther (314) 304-6797 guentherd@stlouis-mo.gov

- a) City working to fill budget gaps (\$1 billion budget)
- b) Progress is being made on problem properties/landlords
- c) Call (314) 647-3111 if street lights are out
- d) Many concerns about property assessments after the first major increase in over 10 years. On average, there was a 12% increase in the 9th Ward
- e) The City Assessor's office has a phone bank. Call **(314) 589-6581** for residential properties. **(314) 589-6586** for commercial
- f) Only a fraction of property taxes go to the City of St. Louis

11) Officer Erin Hein (314) 444-2532 elhein@slmpd.org

- a) Lots of activity on the 3200 block of Oregon. As of May 15, the upper floor of 3221 Oregon has been vacated. The lower floor will soon be vacated
- b) In discussion with CSBA about recent violence at 2720

12) Neighborhood Stabilization Officer Barb Potts pottsb@stlouis-mo.gov

- a) Lots of improvements done at the old Jefferson bank building. Lights are working

13) Adjournment: Dan Guenther moves to adjourn, Jason Hillman seconds. Meeting adjourns at 8:29 pm