

Benton Park West Neighborhood Association Membership Meeting

February 16, 2017
Five Star Senior Center, 2832 Arsenal
Called to order by Scott McIntosh at 7:04 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) **Membership** - Karen Becker: Present
 - i) **Communications** - Scott McIntosh: Present
 - j) **Dog Park** – Jeni Poole: Present
 - k) **Cherokee Street Liaison** - Anne McCullough/Jason Deem: Present

- 2) **Review of January 19, 2017 membership meeting minutes:** Bill Byrd moves to accept, Linda Hennigh seconds. Passes

- 3) **Review of January Treasurer’s report:** Linda Hennigh moves to accept, Alison Hillman seconds. Passes

- 4) **Presentation by Republican mayoral candidate Andrew Jones**
 - a) Spoke about recent population decline and density issues
 - b) Campaign prioritizes crime and safety prevention, civic involvement and business development
 - c) Stressed need for more police and a narcotics department

- 5) **Upcoming events and committee reports**
 - a) Volunteers are still needed for Mardi Gras tent. Location TBD
 - b) Several plots are available in the community garden. Yearly membership is \$10. A copy of the application is provided
 - c) Cherokee neighborhood happy hours will be held quarterly in 2017. The first happy hour will be on March 30
 - d) Benton Park West clean-up and social hours begin March 18 at Love Bank Park

- 6) **Community Survey Results**
 - a) 30 unique responses
 - b) BPWNA will primarily focus on the top two priorities: (1) **crime and safety** and (2) **beautification**
 - c) Interest in new business development, education and job opportunities virtually tied
 - d) Community members commented on the need to:

- Maintain cultural and economic diversity
 - Encourage positivity and civic pride
 - Educate about home ownership
 - Engage residents who aren't active in the neighborhood association
 - Increase collaboration with CSBA
- e) In addition to existing activities, respondents expressed interest in:
- Social groups (coffee, movie, home improvement)
 - Community garden events
 - Job fairs
- 7) Note card activity – **What can be done to make Benton Park West a safer neighborhood?**
- a) Greater focus on job training and resume writing
 - b) Organize a resource fair. Distribute information about rent and utility assistance, employment opportunities, transportation and social services
 - c) More foot traffic
 - d) Community garden involvement
 - e) Witness and victim protection/advocacy
 - f) Distribute crime and camera maps
 - g) Porch light project
 - h) Planter adoption
 - i) Police joining dog walking groups
- 8) Note card activity – **How should BPWNA improve neighborhood meetings?**
- a) Change the narrative of meetings. Focus on positive things happening in the neighborhood, innovation and idea sharing
 - b) Structured discussion time
- 9) **Community Outreach Officer Pat Clancy (314-444-2564 pmclancy@slmpd.org)**
- a) YTD crime (through February 8) is down 31%
 - b) Homicides, robberies, pickpocketing, burglaries, vehicle thefts and thefts from vehicles are down
 - c) Assaults are up in 2017. One assault involved three victims. No progress has been made on identifying suspect
 - d) 3/8 burglaries have cleared
- 10) **Neighborhood Stabilization Officer Barb Potts: pottsb@stlouis-mo.gov**
- a) Witness shared video footage of the assault on Minnesota. Ongoing discussions with homeowner
 - b) Upcoming hearing for Penny Saver. The business is currently open
 - c) Upcoming nuisance hearing for 2747/2749 Utah
- 11) **Alderman Ken Ortmann**
- a) Street trees can be requested from the Citizen Service Bureau. List circulating
 - b) Recently sponsored a bill about witness tampering
 - c) Benton Park West has more developments/projects than any other 9th Ward neighborhood

- d) 2740 and 2746 Utah were submitted for demolition
- e) Real-time cameras should be completed in 40 days

12) Cherokee Station Business Association Liaison Anne McCullough

- a) CSBA is in the process of establishing CID (community improvement district)
- b) Teatopia and Palm Trees recently opened
- c) \$170,000 will be received from the sewer department for Love Bank Park
- d) IndiHop will be on May 20

13) **Adjournment:** Alison Hillman moves to adjourn, Jason Hillman seconds. Meeting adjourns at 8:12 pm