

Benton Park West Neighborhood Association – Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Call to order – 6:48 pm

1. Roll Call
 - a. President, Scott McIntosh, **Present**
 - b. Vice Present, Alison Hillman, **Present**
 - c. Secretary, Ashtyn Baldas, Absent
 - d. Treasurer, John Simons, **Present**
 - e. Member At-Large, Jason Hillman, Absent
 - f. Member At-Large, Tim Thomas, Absent
 - g. Block Link, Chris Schmidt, **Present**
 - h. Communications, Scott McIntosh
 - i. Membership – Charlene Young, Absent
 - j. Beautification, Stephanie McKinney, Absent
 - k. Community Garden, Linda Hennigh, **Present**
 - l. Dog Park, Jeni Poole, **Present**
 - m. Facilities, Bill Byrd, Absent
 - n. Fundraising, Vacant
 - o. Housing Committee, Scott McIntosh
 - p. Quality of Life and Safety, Vacant
 - q. Youth Outreach, Darren Young, **Present**
2. Penny Saver is not going to open
3. Anti-Displacement Working Group is started and moving ahead. Scott attended a meeting. Goal: avoid displacement of communities that have been in a neighborhood for a long time. We want everyone to feel that ours is a welcome and inclusive neighborhood. This will be a city wide plan, so that if a developer comes to the city they will have a policy response. No further meetings have yet been determined, but they are expected.
4. Review and acceptance of September Board Meeting Minutes
 - a. Linda Hennigh moves, Alison Hillman seconds, passes
5. Review August's Treasurer's Report and 2018 Budget
 - a. Web host for life... do we have a statement of the contract somewhere?
 - i. \$179.40 is due on 10/22/18. Not sure how it was paid last year (Bill's personal pay pal?) It could be paid via BPW Pay Pal account this year. We agreed that it's a little late to look for something else and we will pay it. We have \$300 in the budget for website maintenance. Right now BPWNA.org is owned but not used by us. We could use it as a redirect to our current website.
 - ii. Linda moved that we pay the \$179.40 for Web host for life. Alison seconded. Passed.
 - b. Back in January we had a mis-payment of \$100 for Barb's phone bill that resulted in difficulty getting a refund from Verizon. We considered asking an attorney to write a letter or write it off. For 2018 we will give Barb the check rather than give it to her phone company. John made a motion to do that. Jeni seconded. Passed.
 - c. John, Scott and Alison have BPW credit cards now.
 - i. They will need to be updated every year with new board members.
 - ii. We now need to maintain \$20,000 total in our bank accounts to maintain the line of credit.

- d. The Attorney General sent a reminder to renew our registration with the state. Scott will take care of that.
 - e. No word on money from Fair St Louis. Scott will send an e-mail asking about it.
6. Standing Committees
- a. Block Link
 - b. Membership report
 - c. Communications
 - i. Scott is starting to do a blogspot about the history of the neighborhood. He has several already written and ready to go out in 2 week intervals.
7. Special Committees
- a. Beautification
 - i. The next litter cleanup is October 20 from 9 – 10 at One-Nite Stand
 - ii. Stephanie will talk with Dan about street trees.
 - b. Community Garden
 - i. Linda has a group coming this Saturday from 9-12 to volunteer in the garden.
 - c. Dog Park
 - i. Time to aerate again (\$145). We will likely need to do it once again after this time and then just re-seed each season. We don't have much money left in the Dog Park budget for maintenance. Discussion ensued. Alison moved to use general funds money for aerating. Chris seconds. Passed.
 - ii. Regarding the name: The members chose Cherokee Dog Park as the top choice. Perro Park came in second. Pocket Dog Park came in third. Cherokee Dog Park will be the new name of the dog park. The Vines Brothers will do the design for free. Linda moved that the official name of the dog park be The Cherokee Dog Park. John seconded. Passed.
 - iii. Howl-O-Ween is set to go at the Dog Park.
 - d. Facilities
 - e. Fundraising
 - f. Housing
 - g. Quality of Life and Safety
 - h. Youth Outreach
 - i. Trunk of Treat October 28 at 4pm. No end time. Darren will be talking to the folks from the Salvation Army in the next week or so about this event. He changed the password for the Sign Up Genius because it was required; he will be sharing it with the board shortly. He will send an e-mail blast out to the volunteers to encourage them to sign up. He's met with the staff of the Urban Mission Center who have been helpful in the past but are not available this year. Because of that he isn't sure what the carnival will look like. Jeni offered the dog park photo back drop for use at the carnival. The event will still be in two different locations. We have \$300 budgeted for 2018 Trunk of Treat. Linda still has 2 giant wooden pumpkin signs to advertise it in her garage. Put flyers at the dog park. Darren will ask Bill to print them for distribution this week-end (hopefully). He would love to have a co-chairman! We suggested Shannon Headly. Alison will connect Darren with Shannon. I'll send information for Gen from Shock City School of Music.
8. Discussion Items
- a. St Wenceslaus book, ½ page ad for \$60. Booklet distributed to their members and anyone else who attends their events. We have historically made this donation. It was

in the budget last year under advertising and publicity. Chris motioned that we spend this money for this purpose. Alison seconded. Passed.

- b. SLACO Board CHDO Authorizations: "Community Housing Development Organization" Forms need to be filled out but we couldn't figure out who needs to do so or why. Linda will double check.
 - c. SLACO NU4U changes: Do we want to participate as sisterhood neighborhoods to share ideas and support each other. It sounds pretty big. John and Linda are both interested in doing this. Scott will send out the forms again if anyone else wants to join them.
 - d. Board Elections: Scott is willing to run for President. Nobody is running for VP. Linda will run for treasurer. John is willing to run for secretary. Tim and Alison are running for member at large. Membership and Fundraising still need chairs.
9. Review October Neighborhood Association Meeting Agenda
10. Open Forum
- a. Erin Goodwin joined us as a visitor. She is an Urban Planner who came to talk to us about parcels that are currently empty, like the wedge gardens along Gravois and bus stops... She is suggesting that we plant small fruit trees near bus stops for riders to grab a snack to go. She hopes this would be supported by Gateway Greening or some other grant she'd pursue. We agreed to support this idea and recommended that she work with Stephanie.
 - b. She also wants to encourage people to water and care for baby street trees. Erin will be talking to the Commissioner of Forestry about this topic. We expressed that we are receptive to this idea, but don't want to be identified by name as a supporter to the city.
 - c. She also spoke to Tom Kutis recently about the need for rainscaping when they re-pave their parking lot. There is a grant available from MSD for this specific purpose. Tom needs to talk to his sisters but it looks like a go at this point. We asked her to encourage them to at least consider trees or something along the perimeter.
 - d. Darren talked about diversity and involvement. A couple of ideas: what should our community look like and what are we missing out on from missing voices in the room? The makeup of the room needs to change in terms of perspective. This includes people of color, but also youth. Sitting at a different table and intentionally getting to know someone else who is different from you would be a start. We can do better. Comments at meetings are often not even subtle and often hurtful. This has to be an ongoing effort. Scott expressed frustration because he has been trying for years to get a more diverse population to participate in the neighborhood association. Alison suggested that we sit down in January to hash out a 1 year, 3 year and 5 year plan for the neighborhood. We need to continue this discussion at coming meetings, or possible at the December meeting when the old and new boards are together.
11. Adjournment - Alison Hillman motions, Linda Hennigh seconds, adjourns at 9:15 pm