

Benton Park West Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16th, 2020

Submitted by: Erin Godwin

Call to order, Scott McIntosh - 7:06 pm

Attendance - **28 adults & 2 youth**

- 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**
- 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 - **Present**
- Fundraising - **Vacant**
- Housing Committee - Scott McIntosh
- SLACO Committee - Linda Hennigh
- Membership – Bill Byrd /Rosie Jackson - Absent
- Quality of Life and Safety - **Vacant**
- Youth Outreach - **Vacant**
- Cherokee Street Liaison - **Vacant**

November Meeting Minutes

Chris Schmidt moved to accept the November meeting minutes as presented. Pam Welsh seconded. The motion passed.

November and December Treasurer's Report

Tim Thomas moved to accept the November and December Treasurer's Report as presented. Pam Welsh seconded. The motion passed.

New Member and Visitor Introductions

Renewals - Eddie and Jackie Schmidt

Visitors

- Christa Hughes

- Kim Wollenhouse
- Fred French, future operator of Jefferson Photography and Consultants which will be in the RTS Photography & Design space at 2907 S. Jefferson

New Member - Nathan Fowle

Dan Guenther - 9th Ward Alderperson

The Lambert Airport privatization effort has officially ended.

Cara Spencer, Ward 20 Alderwoman, is running for Mayor.

Development at Jefferson and Arsenal- DeSales Community Development was unable to secure tax credits for proposed senior housing but plan to reapply. Interest has been expressed by other developers as well. All proposals require neighborhood approval.

Aldermanic Board Resolution 205 will direct the Board of E & A to not fund the workhouse, end federal contracts for housing federal inmates in order to provide sufficient space in the City Justice Center, and divert the \$16 million in savings to social services. Residents can reach out to Board President Reed and Mayor Krewson to express support for the resolution.

Board Bill 107 to expand 6 police precincts to 9 has been revised to 7 instead. The Police Chief and Director of Public Safety oppose the Bill. All police resources will be allocated based on calls for service. Please call all issues in; use the non-emergency line as appropriate.

Green Dogs trash pick-up event on Saturday, January 18th at 9am, meeting at Diane's Bakery, to clean up the western portion of Cherokee Street.

Brian Walsh - 9th Ward Democratic Committeeman

This is an election year, so check the election calendar and your voter registration. There will be a fundraiser for the 9th Ward Democrats at the Mad Art Gallery from 6-9pm on Thursday, February 27th.

Gagik (Jack) Khoudian - District 3 Community Outreach Officer

Triple homicide on New Years was an AirBnB. The Assessor intends to tax AirBnBs at a commercial rate; if you know of an AirBnB near you, you can send addresses to Jack. There will be a Quarterly Safety Briefing on February 26th. 3rd District Outreach will be hosting drop-off play events for potty trained kids up to age 12; events will be a couple hours on the 3rd Monday of each month.

Barb Potts - Neighborhood Stabilization Officer

There are 700 jobs available with the city. Departments like streets and refuse need CDL drivers even without air brake certification. Please report illegal dumping. Reports get a \$100 reward per conviction. Call in any blocked rain inlets to MSD. Call Ameren for alley lights and CSB for street lights needing repair.

Emily Thenhaus - Cherokee Street CID

Cherokee Street Thanksgiving served 400 meals with the help of the Salvation Army and community; Cherokee Street Print Bazaar in December also went well. The Jazz Crawl will be November 7th, not the 4th. Mexican Independence celebration will be held on September 12th. The CID has a new website at CherokeeStreet.com which includes a business directory, press stories,

CID info, committees, comprehensive events calendar, and a new blog to replace the defunct Cherokee Street News. Little Jamaica Bar and Lounge opened in December. STL Stylehouse will be celebrating their 10th Anniversary on March 28th with a block party from 12-5. Flowers and Weeds will be celebrating their 5th Anniversary. The CID plans to host Mardi Gras activities this year.

Attendance Prizes

Dove Shampoo and Lotion Set, Full Life Lager 6 Pack, BPW Tote Bag

50/50 - Bill Byrd

\$18 total, \$9 for the winner Sarah Johnson

Announcements

- Tree Pruning Training - Saturday, January 18th 10am at Benton Park with STL TreeLC
- Neighborhood cameras - Contact Chris Schmidt
- Thanks to the Last Days Apostolic Church, 250 turkey dinners were distributed last Thanksgiving and 300 families were able to participate in Toys for Tots.
- St. Wenceslaus will be hosting on February 8
- 5 Star Senior Center will also have a trivia event at St. Wenceslaus on February 29

Bill Byrd moved to adjourn. Pam Welsh seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:19PM.