**Benton Park West Neighborhood Association Membership Meeting**

Five Star Senior Center, 2832 Arsenal

Thursday, June 19, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Attendance: 35

Board Members

1. President – Linda Hennigh, Present
2. Vice President – Carrie Sleep, Present
3. Secretary – Scott McIntosh, Absent
4. Treasurer – Suzanne (Suzy) Hennigh, Present
5. Member At-Large – Whitney Mathison, Absent
6. Member At-Large – Becky Martinez, Present
7. **Call to Order** – 7:03 pm
   1. General Announcements – Board introductions, Events, etc.
   2. Review and Approval of May Meeting Minutes – Gerry Monti moves, Cindi Monti seconds, passes
   3. Review of June Board meeting minutes
      1. Noted the vote to support the 3rd District Substation located in Fox Park.
      2. Linda shared about the new “Volunteer” buttons; this shows our volunteers are appreciated.
   4. Review June Treasurer’s Report and Review 2014 budget – Pam Welsh moves, Carrie Sleep seconds, passes
   5. Linda spoke about the quarterly Weed&Seed/3rd District community meeting.
8. **Visitor/new member introductions**
   1. Jennifer Kubiszewski, TGE Communication chair
   2. Pastor Paula Cooper, Curby church
   3. Margie Thompson, Curby church
   4. Dan Gunther, Benton Park
   5. James McKee, Marine Ville President
   6. Adam Pearson, New Peter and Paul Save Haven Director
   7. Three students from Wash U
   8. Mavis Thompson, License Collector for City of STL
   9. Alnita Hopkins, Administrative Assistant, License Collector office
   10. Paul Jolly, St. Wenceslaus
   11. John Coby, resident of Booth Manor
   12. Shirley Wallace, Gravois Park
   13. Paul Woodruff, STL Community CU
   14. Kirk Mills, STL Community CU
9. **Dan Gunther – Benton Park Resident**
   1. Fall gardening event; partnership between BP and BPW. Anheuser Busch
   2. August 9th – Operation Brightside and Anheuser Busch another collaborative event.
   3. Registration – 9-9:30a
   4. Project Day – 9:30-12:30
   5. Party 12:30-2p With lunch and possible trolley to new AB Bier Garden
   6. Bud Light to bring 100 volunteers; BP and BPW need volunteers
   7. Possible plans
      1. White barricades would have “art” painted.
      2. Large Monarch Butterfly garden at Southeast corner of Benton Park; Arsenal and Jefferson
10. **Ms. Mavis Thompson – Business Licenses**
    1. Scope of the office
       1. Covers businesses licenses for large all the way to the smallest of business.
       2. Based upon size, businesses are taxed either by number of employees, appraised value of equipment, food sales, and number of hotel rooms.
       3. Also shared was the purpose of the tax and how are we benefited. Fees collected are disbursed to agencies and non-profit organizations.
       4. Goals of office
          1. Keep businesses in the city
          2. Attract new businesses
          3. Improve communications between office holders who are associated with permitting; food, occupancy, etc.
          4. Ensure rogue businesses operating without paying fees are kept in check.
             1. Graduated notices with harsher penalties when non-licensed business not comply.
          5. Ensure diversity for all businesses in the city.
             1. Publications are printed in multiple languages and Braille
             2. Affordable care act briefing
             3. How to do taxes – small businesses
             4. Bonding – how to get bonded
             5. Senior education to help keep older residents remain safe from rogue businesses
       5. Compliance officers visit to check on business licenses and operating correctly. This is not just M-F, but also includes nights and weekends.
       6. Question around needing a Business license to gain a permit. Unfortunately, permits can be granted before a business license is granted. Miss-connection with city offices; goal is to automate to close loop holes.
11. **St. Louis Community Credit Union – Paul Woodruff**
    1. Shared scope of the Credit Union –
       1. Traditional banking services
       2. Employment connections, non-profit support, education classes, community services, etc. targeting underserved population.
       3. Money Center – Serve those who may not be eligible for traditional banking services, education services, etc.
    2. Question
       1. Building – Three bay store fronts; concern the typical strip mall buildings are ugly.
       2. Time-Line by end of 2014
       3. Current services and entrance/exits at current facilities are not pleasant and can be dangerous
          1. Build-outs in existing buildings are tough due to space/footprint and location.
12. **Tonnya Joy - St. Louis Public Library - Buder Branch**
    1. “Gale” Courses offered for free – Software Applications, PM, Certificates, etc. Limited to six courses per person in a limited time frame. Library card is required
    2. Digital library services – Patrons may not always know how to use devices; every month a session for Technical help at Regional library by Library technical team.
    3. More digital services continue to be offered.
    4. Reminder – PageTurners program is in motion, ending July 26th.
13. **Upcoming Events –**
    1. Fair STL –
       1. Need volunteers – get with Bill during 7th inning stretch or after the meeting
       2. Parking options were shared; check newsletter
    2. NNO – Chris Schmidt - August 5th Hoping to celebrate at Utah and Minnesota intersection
    3. Cherokee Social Hour – James McKee
       1. 3rd of each month. First is July 16th at 6p
14. **District 3 Community Outreach Officer,** **Joe Calabro**
    1. Sept 11th is next meeting – Rich Secore, problem properties, will be featured speaker
    2. Summer Safety Tips – review get out to the kids
    3. No Valuables in Vehicle window Clings – Import to post on car to reduce crime
       1. Also reminder to car owners to rethink if they’ve left any valuables
       2. Noted that many car break-ins are reporting no valuables lost, due to items being put in the trunk or just not left on seats or under seats.
    4. Fair STL – STLPD is fingerprinting kids. 12-8p Thurs and Friday.
       1. New system is digital, no more ink
       2. Loaded on CD for parents or guardians to take
       3. Includes voice prints
       4. Police will not keep information
    5. July 18th – Saturday – New Police headquarters at 915 Olive, Parade starting at Old Headquarters on Tucker/Clarke
    6. No distinct plans for old building.
    7. Issue on Wyoming today was a true domestic issue
15. **9th Ward Alderman, Ken Ortmann**
    1. BIG SECRET – St. Louis Community CU
       1. Lots have been an issue due to past businesses which contaminated the ground.
       2. Historic building is in bad shape and most likely would be taken down in a few years anyway.
       3. Credit Union building will be directed to be as nice as possible
    2. Former Hoods
       1. Dollar General has contract
       2. Benton Park is evaluating to support the new business
       3. $2 million investment.
       4. Half of building would be Dollar General; other half would be some sort of food.
    3. CDA call – Crittenden and Texas – 6 family; Developer has applied and this is a selected project.
       1. Will be brought to BPW Housing Corporation
       2. LRA properties in motion
          1. Residential properties; on Arsenal and on Ohio
          2. Business property – Possible Cuckoo Clock shop
    4. Possible Sub-station in Benton Park
       1. Infrastructure is available; Internet, etc.
       2. Need lock system, etc. to allow all officers access
       3. Have requirements for what is needed; will publish
       4. Targeting for a two year budget; would need fundraisers and support
       5. Keeps officers in our neighborhoods rather than being taken from the street to do reporting.
    5. 50/50 sidewalks – List is closed for 2014, get on list for 2015
    6. Street trees – Plantings will be scheduled for 2015
16. **Neighborhood Stabilization Officer (NSO), Barb Potts**
    1. NNO – August 5th
       1. Get out on blocks
    2. Meeting with resident groups on problem blocks
       1. Call police – make sure to give the nuisance property address; not your address.
    3. 2810 Iowa – Call 911, when you see groups of people
    4. Panhandler at Arsenal/Gravois – Vi or V, call. She is aggressive; call 911.
    5. Recommendation to not give to panhandlers
17. **Prizes**
    1. Attendance Prizes – Living Social coupon for STLStyle
    2. 50/50 - $31.50 for winner
18. **Adjournment** Chris Schmid moves, Connie Petty seconds, 8:43 pm