

Benton Park West Neighborhood Association – Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Call to order: 6:37

1. Roll Call
 - a. President, Scott McIntosh, **present**
 - b. Vice President, 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, **present**
 - g. Block Link, Chris Schmidt, **present**
 - h. Communications, Scott McIntosh
 - i. Membership, Charlene Young, **present**
 - j. Beautification, Stephanie McKinney, absent
 - k. Community Garden, Linda Hennigh, **present**
 - l. Dog Park, Jeni Poole, absent
 - m. Facilities, Bill Byrd, **present**
 - n. Fundraising, VACANT
 - o. Housing Committee, Scott McIntosh
 - p. Quality of Life and Safety, VACANT
 - q. Youth Outreach, Darren Young, **present**
 - r. Cherokee Street Liaison, Anne McCullough, absent
2. Guests
 - a. There were no guests at this meeting.
3. Review and acceptance of April Board Meeting Minutes as sent in the e-mail-
 - a. Change to report that the Easter Extravaganza budget was exceeded by \$119.73, however Darren was reimbursed correctly.
 - b. Bill moved to accept the minutes with the correction
 - c. Allison seconded the motion
 - d. Passed
4. Review May treasurer's report
 - a. The budget was not sent or printed and thus was not reviewed at this meeting.
 - b. John will send it out for review before the neighborhood meeting so that we have a chance to comment on it and make any corrections before it is presented to the entire neighborhood.
5. Committees
 - a. Membership
 - i. While a report was submitted Charlene was not at the meeting to discuss it.
 - b. Communications
 - i. Scott is changing from Google to bit.ly
 - ii. He's had trouble sending emails to Gravois Park Neighborhood listserv
 - iii. Facebook isn't allowing him to preview links
 - iv. He believes that the above reasons are why click rates are a little down
 - v. Regarding the housing report, it's a seller's market in BPW. The housing inventory is down!
 - vi. Give STL brought in \$36. Not great, but it's the first year.

- vii. Fair St Louis Sign Up Genius will be publicized soon
 - viii. Bill reported that he hopes to have the Porch Review available for distribution at the neighborhood meeting next week.
 - ix. Scott will double check the Google calendar to assure that reminders for reports and meetings go out in a timely manner.
- c. Block Link
 - i. No report was submitted
- d. Beautification
 - i. No report was submitted
- e. Community Garden
 - i. All beds are sold with no waitlist.
 - ii. John got a big container for water, making watering gardens much easier. Thank you John!!
 - iii. The wheelbarrow is locked to the compost with a coded lock. All gardeners have the code.
 - iv. Linda mowed.
- f. Dog Park
 - i. Yappy Hours start next month with a member's only event.
 - ii. Aeration was done. Fertilizer specific to response to dog urine was recommended.
- g. Facilities
 - i. \$300 for the first 6 months of office rent needs to be paid to the Salvation Army.
 - 1. Alison moved to pay the office rent.
 - 2. John seconded
 - 3. Passed.
 - ii. John wants to scan past financial documents to make storage easier and more accessible.
 - iii. Insurance documents have been put into the safe.
- h. Fundraising
 - i. Scott will make the Sign-Up Genius for Fair St Louis available via social media and an e-mail blast soon.
- i. Housing/SLACO
 - i. Linda and Scott discussed a project called "The Finest 15" to feature 15 houses in each neighborhood and a program to help people navigate the LRA system.
 - ii. SLACO is proposing a program called "Vacancy Angels" who would be very longtime residents of each block who might know the history of ownership of vacant houses and help identify who currently owns them.
 - iii. They are also working on a project to help non-profits set up by-laws that might allow them to purchase LRA properties to revamp and sell to keep a neighborhood in better shape.
 - iv. Information about these programs are in handouts included with the SLACO report.
 - v. NU4Change. Scott reported about this. It's an exchange between a north city and south city neighborhood for ideas and a tour of each other's area. We have been partnered with Julia Allen (whose neighborhood we don't know), but she has not responded to Scott's attempts to connect. The exchange day is supposed to happen in June.
- j. Quality of Life and Safety

- i. Scott will help Alison access the QLS e-mail account. She can learn to log in to respond to e-mails.
 - ii. Because Dan Geary is moving out of the neighborhood he will no longer serve as the Court Watch person and will be removed from the e-mail account. Alison will do this task until someone else steps up to it.
 - iii. The Neighborhood Ownership Model seems to be a low priority for the new Circuit Attorney. Scott will check to see if it is still on the Circuit Attorney website.
 - iv. Alison is planning a Safety Fair, possibly in September or October.
 - 1. She has scheduled May 23 for an initial planning meeting on the Tower Taco patio.
 - 2. Sites being considered include The Salvation Army or St Wenceslaus. These are options because both have large parking lots as well as access to a building for indoor activities.
 - 3. Activities being considered include: Insurance and Security Companies (who would pay a fee to have a table present); A car parts store who might donate locking lug nuts and license plate covers; The Police who might do fingerprints for children (Sprint has a way to attach photos to the fingerprints); The Fire Department to distribute fire and CO2 alarms, someone to give away gun locks; Pet safety; The Coast Guard to talk about water safety; A Nurse to give presentations about heart health, smoking cessation...; Children's Hospital to help with car seat fitting and helmet distribution; A self-defense demonstration by Fysiq gym on Gravois; A Children's Area with Bus and Bike Safety among other things.
 - 4. Partners to consider include The Southside Safety Group, Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice (gun locks); Cherokee Street Reach; Revitalize St Louis; CSBA; Legal Services of Eastern Missouri; Churches, Schools; anyone who provides youth programming in the area; Bi-State Development, among others.
 - k. Youth outreach
 - i. Darren has a new member on his committee: Lindsey Forsythe!
 - ii. They are working on 2 new projects:
 - 1. Asset Map for Youth and Adults focusing on BPW (Alison will help with this)
 - 2. A Youth Committee made up *of* youth *for* youth events.
 - iii. June 23 is a tentative date to canvas the needs of youth in the neighborhood. He will invite Anne McCullough and Pacia to join them.
 - iv. This blitz will also spread information about Neighborhood Meetings, invitations to youth and invitations to volunteer at Fair St Louis for adults.
 - v. Darren is also planning the Back To School event at Fanning Middle School. He believes the first day of school will be August 15, but wasn't sure.
6. Review of upcoming Neighborhood Meeting agenda looked good.
7. Discussion Topics:
- a. No guest speaker for the May Neighborhood Association meeting.
 - b. Fair St Louis – Alison asked that there be an organization meeting for shift captains in the week or so before the event so that everyone will know who is responsible for what tasks. Scott will request additional square readers from the organizers, but that hasn't worked in the past.

- c. People who manually sign in at meetings need to be added to the BPW ListServe. This hasn't been done since Charlene took over membership and there is some doubt that she is aware that it needs to be done.
 - d. Tim will pick up some snacks for the meeting this month. John will bring some beer and Bill will bring some wine.
 - e. There was discussion about having a Neighborhood Meeting in the garden but it was decided that confusing people about location would be inadvisable. Instead maybe a Garden Party in late June?
8. Alison motioned that we adjourn. Bill seconded the motion. Passed. We adjourned at 8:13.