

Benton Park West Neighborhood Association Membership Meeting

March 16, 2017
Five Star Senior Center, 2832 Arsenal
Called to order by Scott McIntosh at 7:02 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) **Beautification** – Stephanie McKinney: Present
 - l) **Cherokee Street Liaison** - Anne McCullough/Jason Deem: Present

- 2) **Review of February 2017 membership meeting minutes:** Stephanie McKinney moves to accept, Libby Martin seconds. Passes

- 3) **Review of February Treasurer’s report and 2017 budget:** Eddie Schmid moves to accept, Jeni Poole seconds. Passes

- 4) **Office of the Mayor – Propositions 1 and 2**
 - a) **Proposition 1** would increase the St. Louis sales tax by ½ cent. Half of the new revenue would go toward a MetroLink expansion, which would run north-south from St. Louis Place to Cherokee. The other half would fund other city services, such as public safety
 - b) **Proposition 2** would direct funds from a use tax to build a soccer stadium. MLS franchise owners would have a 30 year lease. Proposition 2 requires a “yes” vote on Proposition 1
 - c) Concerns raised over lack regional cooperation on large investments and lack of MetroLink funding

- 5) **School Board Candidates – Dorothy Collins and Susan Jones**
 - a) Dorothy spoke about her teaching experience and commitment to St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS parent)
 - b) Susan focused on the transparency of the board and recent reaccreditation. With two master’s degrees, Susan said she is a product of SLPS and what students can become

- 6) **Operation Brightside – Jessica Frieberger**
 - a) St. Louis recycling rate is only 10%. Mayor Slay would like to double this rate
 - b) Recycling saves the city money that goes back into the general fund

- c) Operation Brightside offers urban gardening classes. The next class will be on June 3 from 9:00 – noon
- d) Several Refuse Department policy issues were discussed. Residents need to contact the city if recycling is mixed with trash

7) Mayoral Candidate Kacey Cordes

- a) Self-described “progressive independent” from Lafayette Square with experience in private sector community development
- b) As mayor, Kacey would employ an “investment style” approach to city planning and crime

8) Upcoming Events and Committee Reports

- a) Mardi Gras fundraiser was very successful. Will announce revenue in April
- b) The board is still seeking a treasurer and membership chair
- c) Volunteers are needed for Cherokee-Lemp History Walk on April 23
- d) Operation Brightside donated bags for the first litter cleanup and social hour
- e) In response to February’s notecard activity on crime, Alison Hillman will organize a neighborhood safety project called “Lights Camera Action”
- f) \$500,000 will go towards cameras in the 9th Ward

9) Community Outreach Officer Pat Clancy (314-444-2564 pmclancy@slmpd.org)

- a) Cameras will only be used for major incidents and will not compromise the privacy of residents
- b) Pat will comprise a list of the best home camera systems
- c) Discussed recent assault at Tower Taco. The victim may have been targeted
- d) Many concerns were raised about gun activity. People drive around the neighborhood and fire into the air. Residents should provide a description of these vehicles to police

10) Neighborhood Stabilization Officer Barb Potts: pottsb@stlouis-mo.gov

- a) Share video involving “Montana” on Facebook

11) **Adjournment:** Frank Becker moves to adjourn, Liz Gerard seconds. Meeting adjourns at 8:44 pm