

# Benton Park West Neighborhood Association Membership Meeting

October 19, 2017

Five Star Senior Center, 2832 Arsenal  
Called to order by Scott McIntosh at 7:06 pm

## 1) Board Members

- a) **President** – Scott McIntosh: Present
- b) **Vice President** - Alison Hillman: Present
- c) **Secretary** – Liz Gerard: Present
- d) **Treasurer** – John Simons: Present
  
- e) **Member at-Large** – Jason Hillman: Present
- f) **Member at-Large** – Eddie Schmid: Present
  
- g) **Community Garden** – Linda Hennigh: Present
- h) **Facilities** – Bill Byrd: Present
- i) **Membership** – Charlene Young: Present
- j) **Communications** – Scott McIntosh: Present
- k) **Dog Park** – Jeni Poole: Present
- l) **Beautification** – Stephanie McKinney: Present
- m) **Youth Outreach** – Darren Young: Present
- n) **Cherokee Street Liaison** – Anne McCullough/Jason Deem: Present

## 2) Review and accept September neighborhood meeting minutes and review September board meeting minutes. Chris Schmidt moves to accept, Jason Hillman seconds. Passes

## 3) Review September Treasurer's report and 2017 budget: Liz Gerard moves to accept, Bill Byrd seconds. Passes

## 4) Crime Report – Captain Shawn Dace

- a) Residents are concerned about the amount of gunfire in the neighborhood
- b) Year to date, there has been one homicide in Benton Park West. There were three during the same time period in 2016
- c) Total person crime in Benton Park West is up 2.3% from 2016
- d) Vehicle theft in Benton Park West is up 12% from 2016
- e) Despite a citywide officer shortage, Third District crime is down 1% overall
- f) There has been no self-initiated police activity in District 3 since protests began. Officers do not have time to enforce traffic
- g) "Shots fired" calls are not prioritized in the Third District. Captain Dace still recommends reporting gunfire in order to address nuisance properties
- h) If Proposition P (sales tax increase for police salaries) does not pass, the City may lose more officers to other municipalities

## 5) Crime Report – Detective William Gillen

- a) Detective Gillen is investigating the recent shooting of Tim Galos on Cherokee and Oregon
- b) The City recently reinstated its narcotics unit, but protests have delayed progress
- c) Alley and porch lights are major crime deterrents

**6) Guest Speaker – Adam Kustra: Vote No on Proposition P**

- a) Per capita, St. Louis spends more on policing than all but 3 cities nationwide, but continues to rank 1-3 in violent crime
- b) St. Louis already has one of the highest sales tax rates in the nation. If Proposition P passes, several districts in St. Louis will have a sales tax rate approaching 12%
- c) Mr. Kustra argues that sales taxes are regressive and disproportionately affect the poorest residents. Poverty and crime have a strong positive correlation
- d) Spending on administrative staff and overtime must be addressed before police spending is increased

**7) Upcoming Events and Committee Reports**

- a) Fall Alley Cleanup with the Landmarks Association Urbanites is Saturday, November 11 at 10:00 am
- b) Love Fest will take place at Love Bank Park after the alley cleanup
- c) Alison Hillman is making progress on Lights, Camera, Action (safety initiative)

**8) Discussion Topic – 2017 Recap**

- a) A summary of discussion topics and community input can be found on pages 23 – 24 of the meeting packet. 2017 topics included:
  - Community survey
  - What can be done to make Benton Park West a safer neighborhood?
  - What does neighborhood safety mean to you?
  - How should BPWNA improve neighborhood meetings?
  - How can we encourage a diverse representation at our meetings?

**9) 9<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Dan Guenther: (314) 304-6797 [guentherd@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:guentherd@stlouis-mo.gov)**

- a) 3200 – 3300 blocks have new street lights. Contact the Citizens' Service Bureau (CSB) to report lighting issues: (314) 622-4800
- b) Alley lights are owned by Ameren. Provide Ameren with the light's ID number or location to have it repaired: (800) 552-7583
- c) Board Bill 132 will establish the Office of Community Mediation. This will help address neighborhood disputes: <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/city-laws/board-bills/boardbill.cfm?BBId=10897>
- d) The City is working on a sustainability plan that will convert all government buildings to clean energy by 2035

**10) Neighborhood Stabilization Officer Barb Potts: [pottsb@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:pottsb@stlouis-mo.gov)**

- a) During the end of October, neighborhood stabilization officers will inspect alleys for broken lights
- b) The Porch Light Project will supply and install lights for neighbors in need

**11) Community Outreach Officer Pat Clancy: (314) 444-2564 [pmclancy@slmpd.org](mailto:pmclancy@slmpd.org)**

- a) Absent

**12) Board Election Results**

- a) President – Scott McIntosh
- b) Vice President – Alison Hillman
- c) Treasurer – John Simons

- d) Secretary – Ashtyn Baldas
- e) Member at-Large – Timothy Thomas

13) **Adjournment:** Liz Gerard moves to adjourn, Jason Hillman seconds. Meeting adjourns at 8:42 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Gerard