

# Benton Park West Neighborhood Association Neighborhood Meeting

August 17, 2017

Five Star Senior Center, 2832 Arsenal

Called to order by Scott McIntosh at 7:08 pm

Attendance: 47

## 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: Absent

2) **Review and accept July neighborhood meeting minutes and review July board meeting minutes.**  
Eddie Schmid moves to accept, Alison Hillman seconds. Passes

3) **Review and accept July Treasurer's report and 2017 budget:** Liz Gerard moves to accept, Stephanie McKinney seconds. Passes

- a) Totals do not reflect Fair St. Louis revenue and Dog Park faucet expense

## 4) **Monthly Discussion Topic: How can we encourage a diverse representation at our meetings?**

- a) "We're not talking about diversity for the sake of quota. We're talking about relationships."
- b) Try to engage renters. Meetings are not just for homeowners
- c) Post flyers in Spanish on Cherokee Street
- d) Share meeting topics with friends and family
- e) Adhere to the time limit
- f) Low participation among young families may be explained by lack of childcare options
- g) Host an offsite meeting at a visible location, such as Love Bank Park. Make it known that decisions aren't made behind closed doors
- h) Host an offsite social hour after meetings. Encourage friendship building
- i) CSBA is scheduled the same time. Consider other times and locations

## 5) **Upcoming Events and Committee Reports**

- a) Board nominations are next month (September)
- b) Elections are held in October. Positions begin January 1, 2018
- c) Fall Alley Cleanup is November 11. Landmarks Association of St. Louis plans to volunteer
- d) Creating a database of street-facing cameras

**6) Dog Park Update**

- a) As previously discussed, the Dog Park faucet was repaired for \$2,000
- b) The board voted to spend an additional \$100 - \$150 to install rocks or concrete below the faucet

**7) 9<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Dan Guenther (314) 304-6797 [guentherd@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:guentherd@stlouis-mo.gov)**

- a) Praise in the Park was a success
- b) Lots of interest in development, especially on the corner of Jefferson and Arsenal (Community Garden site). Vacancy is a continual problem on side streets
- c) Trailnet has been working with the City of St. Louis to transform Louisiana into a safer, more bikeable and walkable street. Improvements would cost an estimated \$1 million. Learn more about the Louisiana Calm Street Project at [https://trailnet.org/files/2016/11/Louisiana\\_CalmStreets\\_FullSize\\_Flyer\\_11.01.16-1.pdf](https://trailnet.org/files/2016/11/Louisiana_CalmStreets_FullSize_Flyer_11.01.16-1.pdf)
- d) Gravois-Jefferson Historic Neighborhoods Project is in motion. Using a racial equity lense

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

- a) 8 assaults occurred in July (compared to 5 last year). Several were domestic disputes
- b) 9 stolen vehicles, 6 burglaries and 2 robberies were reported in July
- c) Imo's delivery driver was robbed. The suspect was unable to drive the manual transmission

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

- a) Nathan Cooper owns one problem property in Benton Park West. Recent article about Nathan Cooper: <https://www.riverfronttimes.com/stlouis/nathan-cooper-has-been-gobbling-up-st-louis-homes-and-raking-in-federal-money/Content?oid=6707136>
- b) Looking for a large dumpster for neighborhood clean-up

**10) Adjournment:** Stephanie McKinney moves to adjourn, Alison Hillman seconds. Meeting adjourns at 8:11 pm