**Benton Park West Neighborhood Association**

Five Star Senior Center, 2832 Arsenal

Thursday, April 17, 2014

Attendance: 37

Board Members

* President: Linda Hennigh, Present
* Vice President: Carrie Sleep, Present
* Secretary: Scott McIntosh, Present
* Treasurer: Suzanne (Suzy) Hennigh, Present
* Member At-Large: Becky Martinez, Absent
* Member At-Large: Whitney Mathison - Absent

1. **Call to Order:** 7:03 pm
   1. Review and approval of March meeting minutes – Chris Schmidt moves, Pam Welsh seconds, passes
   2. Review March Board meeting minutes
   3. Review and approval of March Treasurer’s Report - moves, seconds, passes
2. **New Members and Visitors**
   1. Lisa Otke, Commercial District Manager
      1. Replacing Harry Bennett
      2. Small Business Week is May 1-10 with lots of activities, visit [www.sbwem.org](http://www.sbwem.org) for details and to register
   2. Roz Ball, Chunky Bar and Grill.
      1. Have a full menu. February had a domestic between a husband and wife. Husband was asked to leave and he then pulled a gun from his car and fired shots in the air. No one was hit/hurt. Police were called. Open from 5pm-1:30 pm. Mother’s Day are doing a BBQ give away.
   3. Rebecca Bolte, Button Makers owner
      1. On the board for Workers Education Society
      2. In the process of purchasing 2929 S. Jefferson and seeking letter of support. Community outreach, labor rights, apprenticeships, helping workers get into unions.
   4. Tonnya Joy, Barr Library manager
      1. Missouri is no longer using GED to get high school diploma; using High Set
      2. “Famous Firsts of St. Louis” author is holding a signing on Sat, April 26 from 2-3 pm
      3. Summer Reading Club (kids) and Page Turners (adults) starts May 5. Can register online.
   5. David Langley – painter, lives on Wyoming
   6. Kristen Gassel, CSB Board Member and owner of St. Louis Curio
   7. Alan Yee, 25 year resident of Benton Park. Now developing properties
3. **Guest Speaker:** Citizens’ Service Bureau, Dottie Pennington, Customer Service Manager
   1. Often the first point of contact for quality of life issues
   2. Can Tweet, email, submit online, or call requests in
   3. Most common issues
      1. Abandoned, derelict cars
      2. Illegal signs in public right of way
      3. Stray or aggressive dogs
      4. Illegal dumping
      5. Dead trees in public right of way
      6. Graffiti
      7. Street lights out
      8. Street signs faded
      9. High weeds and grass
      10. Rodents
   4. Supply the address of the problem or closest landmark
   5. Service requests generate a number which is your way to follow up to see the status of your request
   6. Call center receives about 9,000 calls per month
   7. Online and email requests are higher than calls
   8. Dottie’s direct line: 622-4668
4. **Events**
   1. Dogs ‘n Donuts
      1. Last Saturday had the opening of the dog park
      2. About 25 people attended and 4 new members have joined so far
      3. Membership is required – you’ll receive a code to access the park
      4. $35 annual fee; must provide proof of vaccinations
      5. Help spread the word about the park and get more members
   2. Easter Eggstravaganza
      1. Sat, April 19 from 10-12 pm
      2. Gravois Park (Compton and Potomac)
      3. Kids must be accompanied by adults
      4. Pictures with the Easter Bunny
      5. Egg hunt
      6. Sack races
   3. Community Garden Installation
      1. Sat, April 26 at 9 am
      2. Corner of Jefferson and Arsenal
      3. Help put the beds together – lumber and dirt
   4. Cinco de Mayo
      1. Come walk in the People’s Joy Parade – wear your BPW t-shirts!
   5. Indy Hop on Cherokee
      1. Need volunteers
5. **9th Ward Alderman, Ken Ortmann**
   1. Fish Fry at Five Star Senior Center 11am-7 pm tomorrow (4/18)
   2. May 20 is the 9th Ward Democratic Association Wing Fling at the Five Star Senior Center
   3. If you’re doing the 50/50 sidewalk program, you must sign and return the letter/contract or you will be skipped
   4. Street Trees
      1. Can get everyone a tree
      2. If there’s not space for a tree, can cut a tree box, but is a longer processes
      3. Won’t plant trees next to street lights
6. **Neighborhood Stabilization Officer (NSO), Barb Potts**
   1. Focusing on turning in sidewalks uprooted by trees for free replacement; many turned in
   2. Try to keep alleys clean or turn into Linda Hennigh to get volunteers to help clean
   3. Turn in tall grass and weeds (7 inches) on vacant lots and private property – owners will be notified before forestry department comes to mow
7. **District 3 Community Outreach Officer, Joe Calabro**
   1. Eric Pearson, Admin Assistant and Mark Sirullco, Detective Bureau Sargent presented
   2. YTD: Every category is down (burglary, rape, person-to-person, etc)
   3. Total Crime is down 25% from last year
   4. Hot Spots have been happening in BPW and around the city
   5. 3rd District Station is at Jefferson and Natural Bridge
   6. May 10 from 10-12 noon is the Pale Softball and T-Ball Tournament in Fox Park
   7. If using window AC unit, use sash lock to keep criminals from pushing in the AC and breaking into your place
   8. If on vacation, please let the police know so they can keep an eye on your property
8. **Cherokee Street Liaison, Anne McCullough**
   1. Indy Hop
      1. Independent breweries and business on Cherokee Street and The Grove/Manchester
      2. Buy a ticket to try beers in multiple locations
      3. Asked BPW to provide 15 volunteers on May 17 for 3 hour shifts (12-3 pm or 3-6 pm)
      4. Will donate $250 to BPWNA
   2. Community Improvement District (CID)
      1. Cherokee Street is moving forward with one
      2. Will assess commercial properties and residential on Cherokee Street
      3. Extending boundaries from Nebraska to Gravois
      4. 1% sales tax from all the business – $$ go to safety, security, events, street/sidewalk improvements
   3. Cinco de Mayo
      1. Sat, May 3 on Cherokee Street
      2. Peoples Joy Parade at 1:11 pm
      3. New this year
         1. A 3rd stage with live music
         2. Mechanical bull is back
         3. Wrestling
9. **Prizes**
   1. Attendance – Items donated by BPWNA
   2. 50/50 - $40 for winner
10. **Adjournment** – Pam Welsh moves, Connie Petty seconds, passes at 8:27 pm