

# Benton Park West Neighborhood Association – Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Call to order – 6:36 pm

1. Roll Call
  - a. President, Scott McIntosh, **Present**
  - b. Vice Present, Alison Hillman, **Present**
  - c. Secretary, Ashtyn Baldas, **Present**
  - d. Treasurer, John Simons, **Present**
  - e. Member At-Large, Jason Hillman, **Present**
  - 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, **Present**
  - k. Community Garden, Linda Hennigh, **Present**
  - l. Dog Park, Jeni Poole, **Present**
  - m. Facilities, Bill Byrd, **Present**
  - n. Fundraising, Vacant
  - o. Housing Committee, Scott McIntosh
  - p. Quality of Life and Safety, Dan Geary
  - q. Youth Outreach, Darren Young, **Present**
  - r. Cherokee Street Liaison, Anne McCullough, Absent
2. Review and acceptance of February Board Meeting Minutes as sent in the email with the modified changes of names and roll call –
  - a. Alison Hillman moves,
  - b. Timothy Thomas seconds,
  - c. passes
3. Review February Treasurer’s Report and 2018 Budget
  - a. Modify Barb Pott’s name to Potts instead of Webb.
  - b. Write Barb a check for phone bill.
  - c. Need to obtain the tax exempt letter and fill out the paper work to provide to Millie McCouthal at PNC so that we can get a credit card with a \$1,500 credit limit.
4. Standing Committees
  - a. Block Link
    - i. Packets of neighborhood newsletters were distributed to block links to both the neighborhood meeting and to the doors of those who did not attend the meeting in February.
    - ii. Waiting on advice regarding Porch Light Project.
  - b. Communications
    - i. Website: Added Kabob House, Golden Gems, STL Real Estate Society, and Taylor Motorsports
    - ii. Block links – Chris delegated and had over 1,000 newsletters passed out to members of the neighborhood.
    - iii. After April 23, we cannot edit the Give STL page. If there are any edits they need to happen before then.
  - c. Membership
    - i. Welcome packets made available at the membership table were beneficial.

- ii. People who sign up for our renewal membership online are not trackable by the membership committee chair.
      - I. Char will need to be sent a notification so that she can add them to the sign-up sheet/roster for the meetings.
    - iii. Easter Eggstravaganza flyers have been translated into Spanish. Char is currently working on getting a translator available for the event.
      - I. Char is going to look into if the translator being provided would be paid or volunteer.
    - iv. Linda Hennigh is going to fill in for Char during the BPWNA meeting Thursday, March 15, 2018.
- 5. Special Committees
  - a. Beautification
    - i. The trash pickup with the volunteers went really well.
    - ii. Another trash pickup is slated to happen 3/17/2018.
  - b. Community Garden
    - i. New gardner, James Ernest, plot paid for.
      - I. Now have one plot left open.
    - ii. Contacted Alderman on possible installation of a water spigot. He let us know the last one cost \$10,000.00. He will set aside funds next year if we are not available to purchase one this year.
      - I. If we get a spigot each of us would bring our own hoses to hook up to the water spigot. (Bring your own hose)
    - iii. John Simmons is willing to donate an IBC (300 gal) bucket with a valve to the garden for easier access to water.
  - c. Dog Park
    - i. March 24<sup>th</sup> clean up in prep for the Easter Egg hunt.
    - ii. Bill Byrd moves that we increase the amount to replace the concrete pad to \$150.
      - I. John Simmons seconds
      - II. Passes
    - iii. Bill Byrd moves that we reinstate the motion for aeration.
      - I. Alison Hillman seconds
    - iv. BPW dog park opening is being cancelled
  - d. Facilities
    - i. Awesome clean out in the office area. Help was provided from six volunteers from the Students Today, Leaders Tomorrow program
    - ii. Main computer is having problems, will source a replacement and move the current drive to replacement.
    - iii. Bill is to send out research results from Google Drive investigation.
      - I. Suggests us purchasing a single user account for approximately \$10/mo. To replace the Dropbox.
    - iv. Alison Hilman needs business cards
  - e. Fundraising
    - i. Panera Fundraiser March 22, 4-8 pm
      - I. Show a flyer help BPW
  - f. Housing
  - g. Quality of Life and Safety
  - h. Youth Outreach

- i. Easter Eggstravanganza is set for Saturday, March 31, 2018 from 10 – 12 PM.
        - I. Seven volunteers have signed up for different activities on Sign Up genius, but we need more!
          - a. Use BPW sign up genius
        - II. The Police Explorers will be present at the event to help with any needs
        - III. Emailed the fire department but haven't heard back from them
        - IV. Gravois Park residents, Daniel & Kirsten Petty will run the photo booth
        - V. Still need someone to dress up as the Easter Bunny
          - a. Forrest Carithers has volunteered to do so
        - VI. Rachel Greathouse from Saint Louis Recycles will be present with free blue bins for the public
        - VII. Chess Club and Scholastic Center were reached out to in hopes they can bring some games. Haven't heard back from them.
        - VIII. Bill Byrd motions that we spend a \$300 check to Derek Young
          - a. Alison Hillman seconds
        - IX. March 28 is the Egg Stuffing Party at Derek and Charlene Young's house.
          - a. To send an E-vite to board members
        - X. Allison Hillman is going to share the event on
6. Discussion Items
  - a. Action Items
  - b. 2018 Budget
    - i. Discussion
  - c. Easter Eggstravanganza
    - i. See above
  - d. SLACO conference
    - i. \$150 for an Ad to be put into the program
      - I. When we buy the ad we get 6 tickets
    - ii. Ashtyn Baldas moves that we spend \$150 to purchase an ad in the SLACO conference pamphlet
      - I. Alison Hillman seconds
    - iii. Linda Hillman is going to discuss this event at the Thursday meeting. We'll do a sign up and do a raffle if there are more than six people who want to attend.
    - iv. April 14, 2018 is the event
7. Review (Current Month) Neighborhood Association Meeting Agenda
  - i. Scott is adding discussion of SLACO meeting to agenda
  - ii. Litter clean up being changed from 9 – 10 AM
  - iii. Change the date of the next neighborhood meeting from April 15 to April 19
8. Open Forum
  - a. NSO officer transfer
    - i. In an effort to retain Barb Potts the neighborhood rallied together to keep her. Over 300 phone calls were made to the Mayor's office in protest to keep Barb.
    - ii. Letters being sent to Dottie McDowel and Mayor regarding the abrupt change they were trying to make stating that they need to make the neighborhood aware before making these sorts of changes.
      - I. Cc: Dan Guenther and Barb Potts
  - b. English Community Garden in Benton Park needs to be saved
    - i. Lease has lapsed
    - ii. City did not notify neighborhood association or let them know the bill was up

- iii. Support their community garden to make sure that a resident doesn't build on that property
  - I. Call / email Mayor Lydia Kreusen to keep it from happening
- iv. Scott is to look into when BPW lease is up on our community garden and dog park

9. Adjournment – Alison Hillman moves, Stephanie McKinney seconds, passes at 8:36 pm

## **ACTION ITEMS**

1. All
  - a. Bring \$1 for 50/50 at Membership Meeting
2. Ashtyn
  - a. Monthly Board and NA meeting minutes
3. Bill
  - a. None at this time
4. Charlene
  - a. Work to increase membership
  - b. Post Spanish translated Easter Eggstravaganza fliers throughout BPW.
5. Chris
  - a. Get together with Bill Byrd to prepare final list of Block Link assignments and figure out which blocks still need links.
  - b. Attempt to deliver packets of newsletters to be delivered to Block Links at the neighborhood meeting.
  - c. Participate in distribution of newsletters with the volunteer group.
6. Dan
  - a. Continue to work on impact statements
7. Darren
  - a. Continue work with Easter Eggstravaganza.
8. Jeni
  - a. None at this time.
9. John
  - a. Board to check categories are correct on Treasurers Report.
  - b. Reimbursement for Barb Potts made to the wrong company. Waiting on details for new check. Attempting to recoup the funds from Verizon.
  - c. Survey secure investment options for free cash.
  - d. Create a Quicken account for PayPal.
  - e. Reconcile accounts for 2017.
  - f.
10. Linda
  - a. None at this time.
11. Scott
  - a. Send monthly reminder to Anne about membership meeting; if she can't make it to send report for me to share at meeting
  - b. Housing Committee
    - i. Post update BPW real estate listings on Fridays
    - ii. Schedule housing meetings; same day as Housing Corporation. If City wants a meeting or not, we'll meet.

- c. Website
    - i. Add monthly Board and Membership meeting minutes
    - ii. Update headshots
    - iii. Add 2018 events to website
    - iv. Shoot for bi-monthly or quarterly “In the News” posts
  - d. Follow up with STL Style House about t-shirt sales
  - e. Outreach to Loop for 'how to' and learning on Christmas decorating; include Anne McCullough
  - f. Setup a 2018 sustainability for Our Neighborhood Garden (weeding, planting, watering, etc.)
12. Stephanie
- a. Set Litter clean up dates.