

Benton Park West Neighborhood Association Membership Meeting

Five Star Senior Center, 2832 Arsenal

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Attendance: 39

Board

- President – Linda Hennigh, Present
- Vice President – Becky Martinez, Present
- Secretary – Scott McIntosh, Absent
- Treasurer – Frank Becker, Present
- Member At-Large – Dan Geary, Present
- Member At-Large – Roz Ball, Absent

1. Call to order – 7:05 pm
2. Presentation of new signage for Garfield Commons
 - a. Pictures of the signs were handed out for review.
 - b. At the end of the meeting a consensus was taken 18 ppl yes, no nahs.
3. The July and August minutes were reviewed. Libby Martin moved to accept, Chris Schmid seconded. Passed.
4. Notice of the Board meeting minutes was noted in the packet.
5. The July and August Treasurer's Reports were reviewed. Dan Geary moved to accept, Libby Martin seconded. Passed.
6. Visitors
 - a. Gail Aho – 2708 Arsenal – TSA
 - b. Camarna Gage – 2700 block of Arsenal
 - c. Capt Becky Simmons – TSA
 - d. Kerry Soraci – Ice Cream Cakes
 - e. Jennifer Jordan – Michael Butlers office
 - f. Dana Shavon - 2813 Arsenal
7. Guest Speaker: Joddi Pate – Silver Spurs
 - i. 1975 building was purchased as a family business; third generation is now involved.
 - ii. Licensed to take care of mentally ill clients
 - iii. Residents are generally calm and
 - iv. If any issues are noted, feel free to call and share
 - v. 3409 Missouri at Cherokee, in Marine Villa, is another facility recently purchased
 - vi. Invited to visit for tour and questions
 - vii. Back deck is aging out and will need to be replaced in the next year or so
 - viii. Exterior repairs have been taken care over the past year
 - ix. Licensed for 34 beds. A mix of private, semi-private and 3-room in a group home setting.
 - x. Full care dealing with meds, meals, etc.
 - xi. Various residents gave kudos for keeping the area clean and helping to keep the area in good shape as an anchor business in the neighborhood.
8. Officer Clancy – 3rd District
 - a. Neighborhood map with August crimes was distributed

- b. Homicide on Texas; One suspect being held, another suspect still being sought.
 - c. Major of crimes are Larcenies
 - i. Four Auto Thefts
 - 1. Many are not scrapped, but for a “ride”. Many stolen cars are being returned to the owner.
 - 2. If a car is parked on the street for more than a short period and not familiar, call the police.
 - ii. Seven Burglaries – Look out for each other; anything suspicious, please call police.
 - iii. Tire thefts picking up; multiple neighborhoods are affected
 - 1. Locking nuts are highly recommended for prevention
 - iv. Questions about gun shots – Pin-pointer is normally good. Hard to get down the specific address, etc. Still Call.
 - v. If shell casings are found, call to report. Possibly could be evidence.
9. Neighborhood Stabilization Officer – Barb Potts
- a. Crimes going off the chain in the area are preventable.
 - i. IMPORTANT to get the word out.
 - ii. Property left in vacant locations; garages, etc. including cars is just an invitation for theft. Do NOT leave anything in your car to entice an individual. Think Prevention!
 - iii. CCW folks, do NOT leave weapon in the car. If you can’t take into a destination, why leave in the car to be stolen.
 - iv. Band instruments – do not leave in vehicles/cars/vans, even for dinner.
 - v. Burglaries –
 - 1. Make sure windows are secure
 - 2. Do not have shrubs hiding your house
 - 3. Mail/Yellow Pages/newspapers are all signs of a vacant building
 - 4. Lock ladders
 - 5. Keep trash picked up
 - 6. Chain/lockup lawn mowers, etc.
 - vi. Car thefts – Prevention – do not give your car to a thief.
 - 1. Do not leave car running when fueling
 - 2. Do not leave car unlocked, even if you’re standing next to your car.
 - 3. Do not let your car run unattended when it’s cold.
 - b. Many Crimes we do not have control over. **Most crimes we do have control and prevent.**
10. 9th Ward Alderman – Ken Ortmann
- a. Thanked Joddi and noted he has worked with Joddi numerous times throughout the years. Ken noted he’s never heard of an issue with her properties.
 - b. Car Theft – Suggestion to have a Car Alarm with motion detector
 - c. Housing Development –
 - i. 3000, 3002, 3004 Texas – Developer won the project
 - 1. Permits came across the city’s radar scope and things are moving forward.
 - ii. New projects are coming up for proposal and developers are interested.
 - iii. Federal dollars are involved.
 - iv. Watch for dumpsters – Good sign.
 - d. Potomac –

- i. Several streets were converted to one-way years ago.
 - ii. There is interest in returning to two way traffic.
- e. Questions:
 - i. Resident had an issue at last meeting. Dena addressed and the shrubs were taken care of in less than two weeks.
 - ii. Resident asked about a sidewalk on Arsenal which is bad shape. Unable to contact property owner.
 - iii. Overgrown grass and trees/shrubs.
 - 1. Take care of grass first; crews are done, if you see have an issue contact NOW.
 - 2. After grass issues are done, then trees/shrubs are addressed.
 - a. This includes stop signs with overgrowth.
 - iv. Three year resident – Trimming on tree lawn trees. Residents must get permit.
 - 1. Substation in Benton Park – Status - In place and being used.

11. Cherokee Street – Jason Deem

- a. Security camera program for business in the district.
 - i. District will support up to \$500 per request
 - ii. Business owners will have latitude in what equipment to purchase; they are required to cover front
 - iii. No requirements, but so far all owners have purchased digital equipment.
- b. Graffiti has been a problem – Please report when you see any issues.
 - i. Taggers have been identified.
- c. Four properties are owned, plans are to sell three properties.
 - i. Starting price is 10K
 - ii. Evaluation process based upon plans for the property
 - iii. Nebraska/Cherokee – Monies would be used to create a pavilion
 - iv. New businesses –
 - 1. Byrd and Barrel
 - 2. Art Store
 - 3. Ramon Noodle restaurant
 - 4. Art Farm moved to the district from Benton Park

12. Upcoming Events

- a. Oktoberfest – October 9th, 10th and 11th Great event – sign up to volunteer
- b. Newsletter – Announcement of transition from Bill Byrd to Sara Johnson
- c. Trunk or Treat – Sunday, September 25.
- d. Dog Park – New Chair, Chris Schmid Corner of Nebraska and Utah
 - i. Work day last week. Park is looking great
 - ii. Doggie Trick or Treat – Oct 31 in the AM
- e. Beautification – 20 street trees
- f. Garden – Plants are coming, check with Linda for planting dates/times
- g. Cherokee Neighborhoods Happy Hour - Watch for info on social media, maybe Trumans
- h. New/re-newed Members
 - i. Michel Walden
 - ii. Libby Martin
 - iii. Dan Geary
- i. Nominations tonight, elections next month
 - i. President – Linda Hennigh
 - ii. Vice-President – Scott McIntosh

- iii. Secretary – Libby Martin
- iv. Treasurer – Frank Becker
- v. Member-at-Large – Dan Geary, Marlo Dugger, David Love
- j. Door Prizes
 - i. Gail Aho – Car club
 - ii. Chris Schmid – Bottle of wine
 - iii. Karen Becker - Bird House
- k. 50/50 – Winner gets \$ 23 – Ken Ortman

13. Adjournment – Dan Geary moved, Chris Schmid seconds, passed at 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Bill Byrd