

Benton Park West Neighborhood Meeting

August 15, 2019

Starting time: 7:05

Introductions of the board members present

Review and accept July meeting minutes: Motion to accept by Tim Thomas; Seconded by Stephanie McKinney; Passed

Review and accept July Treasurer's minutes: Motion to accept by Pam Welch; Seconded by Tim Thomas; Passed

New member and visitor introductions:

New members: Corey Lewis and Michael Johnagan; Al on Wyoming

Visitors: Michael Shriner; Ryan Chamberlin; Ray and Sally looking to relocate

Guest Speaker: Becky from DeSales Community Development spoke about upcoming development considered in BPW at the corner of Jefferson and Arsenal. They are considering a multi-family housing (senior apartment complex) with some retail space on the first floor if they can get federal funding. About 40 units. ALSO registration is open for the \$10 Soccer League for pre-teens. Register at the City Rec Desk.

Erin Godwin spoke about a new volunteer group called STL Tree LC to fill the gap between the planting of baby trees in tree yards and getting them watered and to full growth since the city can't take care of every tree with issues. August 27, 6:30-8:30, Tree Care Happy Hour, starting and ending at Earthbound to do information sharing and inventory of current trees. Website: stltreelc.org or on facebook at stltreelc.

Recap of Last Days Apostolic Church Back to School Event with Rosie Jackson who said thank you to all of the helpers! They handed out a total of 571 backpacks. 220 families. There will be a wrap up meeting this Saturday.

Recap of Fanning Middle School Welcome Back Event

Roosevelt HS Football Breakfast.... First date is Sat. Sept 14 8:30-10:30 Compton Ave side door

Board Elections 2020: President and one Member-at-large will not be running again. Consider running now because nominations are due next month for all positions. The BPW website describes all of the positions.

78th District State Rep special election in November. Formerly occupied by Bruce Franks. 9th Ward Democratic Committee met on Tuesday to decide who will get our vote and we chose Rasheen Aldridge.

Litter Clean Up and Social Hour this Saturday at Love Bank Park (Cherokee and Nebraska) at 9am. Many hands make light work!

Neighborhood Camera list was passed around.

9th Ward Alderman Dan Guenther was stuck in a committee meeting and couldn't make it. Call or e-mail him if you need him. (Phone is better!)

Maker's Market at Earthbound Beer this Sunday from 12-4pm.

District 3 Community Outreach Officer Jack Khoudian spoke about crime in the neighborhood compared to last year. Crime is better than this time last year! He reviewed what crimes occurred and when. Lots of thefts from vehicles. Lock your car and lock your garage. It happens in every neighborhood in the greater St Louis area. Do not meet people on social media to exchange things!!! Use the police station lobby. Package thefts were discussed and he reviewed where you can have packages dropped (Walgreens, FedEx, Kinkos will all accept packages) Credit management meeting at 5 Star 7pm September 12. 'PO Liaison' facebook page for more information.

Neighborhood Stabilization Officer Barb Potts spoke. *Congratulations to Jack Khoudian who is now on the St Louis PRIDE board. * She mentioned the importance of watching out for each other's homes when neighbors are absent. Contact the owner if you have a concern to see if something is valid or expected. *Construction Training Fair Aug 27 4-7pm at St Stanislaus Community Center for Apprenticeships for helping to build the NGA site. They're looking for a lot of people! *Also, the city really needs employees, especially drivers for the heavy equipment (trash and forestry). Salary \$30,000-\$47,000 and great benefits. *October 1 will be National Night Out in the city of St Louis. They're taking applications for street closures now.

John VanderPlume and Joe Rasheed want to develop the vacant lot at Gravois and Iowa as a gated used car lot. It's the only vacant lot on Gravois in BPW. There will be a silent vote at the end of the meeting.

Door Prizes:

Cabernet Sauvignon Wine winner Will and Amy Albers.

Wine Rack won by Amy Shriner (new neighbor).

StL Tree LC hat won by Pam Welch.

Autographed Post Dispatch book about playoff games by the Blues won by Arthur Johnson Jr.

50/50 won by Linda Hennigh (\$40 total)

Other announcements:

Spirit One Motors is hiring mechanically inclined folks from the neighborhood.

Michael a school administrator with SLPS. Thank you for school supplies. If you see confused kids in the neighborhood in the morning or afternoon ask them if they need help! They may have been let off at the wrong bus stop or missed their morning bus.

Motion to adjourn by Tim Thomas; Second by Pam Thomas. Passed.