**Benton Park West Neighborhood Association Membership Meeting**

Five Star Senior Center, 2832 Arsenal

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Attendance: 32

Board Members

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

1. Call to Order – 7:05 pm
   1. Review and approval of July meeting minutes – Frank Becker moves, Diane Hurwitz seconds, passes
   2. Review of August Board meeting minutes
   3. Review and approval of July Treasurer’s Report and 2014 Budget – Chris Schmidt moves, Connie Petty seconds, passes
2. Visitors/New Members (suggestions for the things the NA should do)
   1. Chris Schmidt – would like to see more social events for adults, get to know your neighbors
   2. A place for kids to play besides in the streets
   3. Pastor Paula Cooper – more get to know you events; defuse any tensions to avoid Ferguson type
   4. Angela Haas, WITS – more computer training for residents
   5. Tonnya Joy – more community visiting Barr Library
   6. Pamela Welsh – book mobiles that came to the neighborhood
   7. Barbara Nelson, City Kitties – needs volunteers to help get cats spade/neutered
   8. Steve Greer, Patrol Officer – Sept 6 doing alley clean up so send Linda your alley addresses
   9. Carrie Sleep – see more people using the dog park
   10. Barb Potts – residents to behave themselves
   11. Nancy Seymour
   12. Tony Elliot
   13. Frank Becker – see more rehabs in the neighborhood
   14. Sabrina Heinz
   15. Diane Hurwit – street party during cooler weather
   16. Shelley and her son Nick, just moved into the neighborhood
   17. Scott McIntosh – see more residents volunteer to support BPWNA activities and events
3. Guest Speaker: Angela Haas, WITS
   1. Hoping to move into BPW
   2. Negotiating to acquire property (3130 Gravois)
      1. Would like volunteers to help rehab/renovate property
   3. Computer training for kids, seniors, veterans, etc
   4. Free intro session on basics for computers on Sept 6 at Indian Trails Library
   5. “Free Computer” program – end of internship, if they can rebuild a computer, they can take it home with them
   6. Schlafly Library on Sept 20 is the full Free PC program where they donate computers to needed. It’s a discussion to collect nominations, not the actual give away. Families must meet IRS requirements
   7. www.WITSinc.org
4. Barr Library, Tonnya Joy
   1. Play-Aways – like an iPod that has an entire book on it
      1. Will be available in September
      2. Lots of titles, not just for kids
   2. Mango Languages
      1. Go at your own pace, learn a foreign languages (60 languages)
      2. Launches Sept 2
      3. App to use on any digital device
      4. Free for patrons, must have a library card
      5. Will sign up for an account through Mango
5. Events
   1. Community Garden – Bud Lite’s Do Good Have Fun
      1. Happened Sat, August 9
      2. Painted concrete barriers
      3. Mulch berm created along back/side with verbinum bushes
      4. Hoping to add a fence for next season
   2. Cherokee Neighborhoods Happy Hour
      1. Happened Wed, August 20 at Venice Café
      2. 3rd Wednesday of each month
      3. Get to know neighbors in surrounding community
      4. Marine Villa or BPW will be next location – will let you know!
   3. Dollar General
      1. Developer (Thompson Group) buying Hood’s building on Jefferson
      2. Conditional use hearing for Dollar General (tenant) on Sept 4 @ 8:30 am in room 208 City Hall
      3. CSBA & Benton Park have letters of opposition
      4. Marine Villa is also writing a letter of opposition
      5. BPWNA is also writing a letter of opposition
      6. Any resident can submit a letter supporting/opposing to the City or Alderman
      7. Pro: 2 vs Con: 18 vs Don’t Care: 1
   4. Cher on Cher-O-Kee
      1. Event happening on Sept 6 at Cherokee and Iowa
      2. 300+ Cher impersonators
      3. Group photo at 7 pm to be submitted to Guinness Book of World Record for the most Cher impersonators
      4. Casa Loma will have a show of a Cher impersonator
   5. Peter & Paul
      1. Seeking donations for former Garfield School
      2. List of supplies provided in meeting agenda (ex: toothbrushes, toilet paper, etc)
   6. Trunk or Treat
      1. Sun, October 26 at Salvation Army parking lot on Arsenal
      2. Cars park and offer candy out of their trunks
      3. You can decorate your car and dress up while giving away candy
      4. Need more cars
      5. If you’d like to volunteer, contact Pam Welsh
   7. Block Links Needed
      1. 30 block links out of 60-70 blocks
      2. Go door to door to distribute the Porch Review newsletter
      3. Establish a phone tree
      4. See Bill to sign up
   8. BPWNA Elections
      1. Nominations are in September
      2. October is the ballot vote
      3. Need to be a member by September meeting
6. District 3 Community Outreach Officer, Joe Calabro
   1. Sept 11 – Community Outreach meeting at Five Star Senior Center @ 6:30 pm
      1. Will review nuisance property process
   2. Oct 20 –Golf tournament by Carson’s at Forest Park
   3. Nov 13 - *Hops for Cops* at Casa Loma Ballroom on Nov 13
   4. Mostly larcenies since last month’s meeting; crime in general is down
7. 9th Ward Alderman, Ken Ortmann
   1. St. Louis Community Credit Union
      1. Private property has a signed contract; current tenant has 60-90 days to vacate
      2. After SLCCU closes on private property, they can close on the LRA property
   2. Police Substation in Benton Park craft room
      1. Very slow process
      2. Will need new equipment which is expensive
   3. Sept 1 is the Benton Park Gateway Classic bike race
   4. Encourage residents to voice their opinions on Sept 4 about the Dollar General
      1. Will potentially take 4 hours for hearing
      2. Last on agenda of 9 items
8. Neighborhood Stabilization Officer (NSO), Barb Potts
   1. Blitz in Hot Spot areas has been put on hold; have turned in residents for alley violations
   2. State of Emergency requires all officers to work 12 on 12 off
      1. Care package for night officers to eat – not many places to eat during the middle of the night
      2. Take food to Central Patrol at MLK Blvd and N. Jefferson Ave
9. Prizes
   1. Attendance Prizes: Decorative wall hangers donated by Bill Byrd
   2. 50/50 - $23.50 for the winner (Ken Ortmann)
10. Adjournment: Diane Hurwitz moves, Chris Schmidt seconds, passes 9:04 pm