**Benton Park West Neighborhood Association Membership Meeting**

Five Star Senior Center, 2832 Arsenal

Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 7:00 pm

Attendance: 35

Board Members

1. President – Linda Hennigh, Present
2. Vice President – Michael Sullivan, Present
3. Secretary – Scott McIntosh, Present
4. Treasurer – Suzanne (Suzy) Hennigh, Absent
5. Member At-Large – Christina Sullivan, Absent
6. Member At-Large – Becky Martinez, Present
7. **Call to Order** – 7:06 pm
   1. Review and Approval of September meeting minutes; Connie Petty moved, Frank seconded, passed
   2. Review of October Board meeting minutes
   3. September Treasurer’s Report and Review 2013 budget; (correction, Five Star Cool Down Event, not Salvation Army) Chris Schmidt moved, Jerry Monty Welsh seconded, passed
8. **New Members and Visitor**
   1. Betty Hollaron, Benton Park, Volunteer Coordinator
   2. Jane, Minnesota
   3. Jessica Taggart, Realtor, Coldwell Banker Gundaker
   4. Gabrielle Shields, Licenses Collectors Office
   5. Chelsey Oliver, Nextdoor.com Field Organizer
9. **Events**
   1. Elections:
      1. No one is running opposed, may still write in a candidate
      2. President, Linda Hennigh, would be 5th term
      3. Vice President, Carrie Sleep, 10 year resident, been active on the Board and committees
      4. Secretary, Scott McIntosh, 3 year resident, current Housing Committee Chair and Communications Committee Co-Chair
      5. Member At-Large, 2 positions, Rebecca (Becky) Martinez, retired and Whitney Mathison, works in mental health field
   2. Taste of St. Louis
      1. Sold more beer, soda, and water at BPW booth than the other 7 booths collectively; kept lines no longer than 3 people due to the hustle of the volunteers
      2. Made great tips and expecting a great commission check
      3. Thanks to all the volunteers for their help
   3. Trunk or Treat
      1. Easy volunteer event, bring your car, open it up to give away candy.
      2. Have received $350 in donations
      3. Call Pam Welsh if you want your car included
      4. Have extra fliers if you want to distribute to your friends and neighbors
   4. November Meeting
      1. Will be a pot luck; NA will supply chicken from Hodak’s and beverages, you bring a dish
      2. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm and a short meeting at 7 pm
      3. Have a little extra in the budget, so think about what you’d like to see the NA do next year that we’re not already doing
   5. Guest Speaker: Chelsey Oliver, Nextdoor
      1. Provides security that Facebook doesn’t; you must be a resident within the neighborhood boundaries to join group.
      2. No one can search the web to find your posts
      3. Have a phone app for both iPhone and Androids
      4. Can get a text alert from Nextdoor if you have the phone app
      5. Can have private groups within your neighborhood,
         1. Ex: Dog Walkers/Park
         2. Groups can have conversations without needing to meet in person; have online discussions that are private.
      6. Use as crime prevention; post a suspicious car driving around. Everyone then can be alert to suspicious car.
      7. Focus is the community and residents, not the property owner. Landlords can register at the address, but only if the tenants haven’t already registered with Nextdoor.
   6. Gravois Planing Mill Tour
      1. Rehabbers Club Tour on Saturday, October 26 @ 9:30 AM
      2. Corner of Juniata and Minnesota (Gravois)
      3. Coffee and donuts provided
      4. Free tour open to anyone
      5. Learn about the 100+ year old mill and the services available to rehabbers or home improvement
   7. Cherokee Street Trick or Treat
      1. Held on Halloween
      2. Businesses open late and giving out candy
   8. AB Work Day
      1. Planted verbinum bushes and moved perennials from Ohio/Crittenden garden to new garden on Arsenal
      2. Changing vacant lot/sore eye into new garden and beautification of the neighborhood
      3. Hoping to change perceptions
      4. AB provided t-shirts, lunch and beer to the volunteers
      5. Bushes supplied by Operation Brightside
      6. Serve St. Louis also picked up litter along Jefferson Ave.
   9. Heather Sullivan, Financial Information 6th Ward
      1. Educate people on personal finances
      2. Most people live pay check to pay check
      3. Will do an analysis and create a financial road map
      4. Look at ways to build up your financial ‘home’
      5. Life insurance is a foundation or base
      6. Work to provide annuities, long term care insurance, save on auto and home insurance by shopping around for you on best pricing
10. **District 3 Community Outreach Officer,** **Joe Calabro**
    1. Robberies are down 75% (last year to this year)
    2. Burglaries down 85%
    3. Watch your windows; close them before you leave
    4. Watch out during Halloween for kids or suspicious looking people
11. **9th Ward Alderman, Ken Ortmann**
    1. Unable to attend this evening
12. **Neighborhood Stabilization Officer (NSO), Barb Potts**
    1. Robbery season is now through Christmas; only 2 months away. Be mindful of people and not keeping items in your car
13. **Election Results**
    1. President, Linda Hennigh
    2. Vice President, Carrie Sleep
    3. Secretary, Scott McIntosh
    4. Member At-Large, 2 positions, Rebecca (Becky) Martinez and Whitney Mathison
14. **Prizes**
    1. Attendance Prizes, Budweiser t-shirt by AB, BPW t-shirts donated by BPWNA, and candle holder by Connie Petty
    2. 50/50 - $21.00 for winner
15. **Adjournment**, Diane Hurwitz moves, Pam Welsh seconds, passes 8:17 pm