

Benton Park West Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting

September 13, 2021

Roll Call

- President – Erin Godwin present
- Vice President – Tim Thomas
- Secretary – Chris Schmidt present
- Treasurer – Linda Hennigh present
- Past President- Scott McIntosh
- Member At-Large – Kathryn Turban
- Member At-Large – Vacant
- Membership – Gwynn Jackson present
- Beautification – Vacant
- Block Link – Chris Schmidt present
- Communications – Scott McIntosh present
- Community Garden – Linda Hennigh present
- Dog Park – Sarah Pearl
- Facilities – Vacant
- Fundraising – Vacant
- Housing + Development – Michael Sullivan present
- SLACO Committee – Linda Hennigh present
- Quality of Life and Safety – Vacant
- Youth Outreach – Vacant

7:15 meeting called to order

1. *Matt Ellmore*, the new Director of 5 Star, came by to introduce himself.
2. *Iman Young*, *Proposal for Black Monday Coworking/Meeting Space, 2701 S Jefferson*. Iman came (virtually) to tell us about Black Monday. There is a residential space upstairs and commercial space downstairs. She has experience doing logistics for meetings and retreats, knows there is a need for that, and believes this space makes sense for that use. There will be a membership for co-worker. She has an office space permit from the city and has a Conditional Use Hearing on October 21 for a social space. She's hoping to get a letter of support for that hearing. Doors would open in the spring of 2022 to members working remotely from 10-4pm and social events and workshops from 5-10pm. She's had the fire inspector come, and he says they have space for 45 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. She may get a food truck for an event and is aware of the need for additional permits. There will be no food cooked there-only catered foods. She's considering asking for an alcohol license for wine and champagne cocktails. She hasn't done much research on that yet and isn't sure that will happen. There are no assigned spaces for parking so it would need to use street parking. If there were a group from out-of-town, they would likely take Uber but members will be parking on the street. Her first plans would be to establish coworking space and meetings for those members. Iman will flesh out her plan and return to this meeting next month.

3. *Eric Ellington and Lynn Peemoeller, Proposal for adventure playground, 3000, 3006, 3008 Iowa Ave-* They were unable to join us because of an illness in the family. They hope to attend next month.
4. *David Rothchild, Proposal for office/event space and café, 2929 S Jefferson* He did not come, and we aren't sure why. Erin will reach out to him about next month's meeting.
5. *Michael Powers, South Jefferson Neighborhood Signage* He had difficulty joining us virtually. She has the proposal he made and will forward that by email to the board.
6. *Google Workspace* has a lot of resources for us. Google Drive will replace Dropbox, there are calendar apps to use etc. Erin set it up with our official neighborhood email addresses (for example, secretary@bentonparkwest.org) Once we figure it out, it can be very, very useful.
7. *50/50 Raffle in September* We are hoping to find someone (possibly Kathryn?) to organize this.
8. *SLACO 25th Annual Regional Neighborhoods Conference, September 18* Sarah and Kathryn are planning to attend this event.
9. *Possible meeting schedule adjustment* With no objection Board meetings will change to Tuesdays at 7pm instead of Mondays because of conflicts with the Neighborhood Leadership Academy, which runs through November. We'll reassess after that.
10. *Dog Park events and management* The first Yappy Hour is this Sunday, the 19th, from 6-9pm. Sarah is hoping to have a Halloween event, but she'll make that decision after this event. Erin got 2 quotes for tree trimming. Both are about \$1700 to trim the two big Locusts with the heavy limbs that are dropping as well as the big Mulberry and possibly removing the smaller one under it. It does NOT include trimming the bushes outside of the fence. The trees are in rough shape and need attention. Dan confirmed that this is our responsibility, not the city's. There is nothing in the budget for this. Erin feels that there is no real rush for this.
11. *BPW T Shirts* STyLe House is willing to print more shirts for us if we'd like. The question is do we want to make this investment? We own the image, so we aren't obligated to return there. It might be worth it to ask STyLe House to keep them in stock.
12. *Online account access and management* We need to schedule a work session. We can do it in the computer lab at 5 Star. We tentatively scheduled it for Friday September 24 at 6pm. Erin will send out an invitation to all board members.
13. *Salvation Army Movie Nights* The next movie night is Saturday September 25. This will be the last movie for the year, and we will be showing Coco.
14. *Updates on Historic Building Standards and Problem Property* are moving very slowly.
15. *Neighbors Naturescaping.* Has been approved and we got information about how we can get outside volunteers to help us on particular dates. We will ask for help in September because there is so much work to be done before actual planting can happen, hopefully in October.
16. *Minnesota Neighborhood Garden* Linda suggested locking it and looking to see if there is another group who is willing to take it over. It's a lovely garden, but Pam has been taking care of it and she is moving away. She also paid for the insurance. Technically this is a *neighborhood* garden, but it has not been open for use by the neighborhood for many years.

17. *Board Meeting Minutes Review* We looked at the July and August minutes. Linda paid Gateway Greening for the insurance, and the check has not cleared. She'll check with them to see why. We still need insurance for the things that are stored in the basement of the Salvation Army. That, too, needs to be confirmed. No revisions are necessary. Gwynne motioned to approve the July and August minutes. Linda seconded. Approved.
18. *Neighborhood Meeting Minutes* Erin will correct the misspellings of Kathryn's name throughout.
19. *Treasurer's Reports* . Gwynn noticed that the name should be changed from John to GRANT and Jaclyn Holloway. Also Michael Jonagin paid for a Silver membership . Brittany Kinsey paid for a Bronze membership (of which Gwynn had not been notified).
20. *Review Neighborhood Meeting Agenda* Announce that there will be NO Trunk Or Treat this year, instead there will be a House decorating contest.
21. *Motion to Adjourn* Gwynne moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45. ChrisSchmidt seconded. Passed.