

## Benton Park West Neighborhood Association Meeting

April 15, 2021

President Erin Godwin **present**

Vice President Tim Thomas

Secretary ChrisSchmidt **present**

Treasurer Linda Henneigh **present**

Membership Chair Gwynne Jackson **present**

Past President Scott McIntosh **present**

Member-At-Large Danielle Clemmons

Member-At-Large Jennie Alberts **present**

The meeting started with some technical difficulties which were settled by 7:13. 15 people were present.

- **Review and approve March meeting minutes** Linda motioned to approve. Gwynne seconded. It passed.

- **Review and approve February and March Treasurer's report** Linda reminded people that there are still garden plots available and you can still sign up for the dog park via the BPW website. Chris motioned to approve the March report. Scott seconded. It passed. The February report was misplaced on the computer.

-**Membership** Gwynne has been contacting people via nextdoor when they join to invite them to join BBPWNA. Membership has been increasing. You can email Gwynne to check your membership status at [renea461@yahoo.com](mailto:renea461@yahoo.com).

-**Open committee chair** positions include Fundraising, Beautification, Youth, Life and Safety. If you have any interest or willingness to do any of these activities please speak up. The board will do whatever we can to help you.

-**Pride Caravan** We still plan to participate, but we are unsure of the date.

-**Spring Garden Cleanup** was led by Scott with help from a school group of 8 students and 2 teachers.

-**Boot Leg Bar B Que fundraiser** raised 28 dollars. The food was tasty but it was not enough to make it worthwhile.

-**EggStravaganza** was held at the Rita Ford Center. There was a low turnout, but families came for a photo with the bunny and each child got a basket.

- **Neighborhood Cameras** Please let ChrisSchmidt know in the chat if you have an exterior camera.

-**Problem Properties** Legal Services of Eastern MO has been helping us follow up with problem properties in the neighborhood.

- **Ald. Dan Guenther** Dan thanked everyone who went out to vote last week. He was re-elected! --Covid: Please share with your neighbors and friends that there are 168,000 shots available. Sign up at [Covidvaccine.mo.gov/navigator](https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/navigator). There is help for small businesses, individuals, funeral expenses (from Covid) rental assistance... --Brightside has a Neighbors Nature-scaping grant offering money for supplies or equipment. The deadline is coming up soon. --This Monday is the last session of the Aldermen for the year. Tuesday new members of the Board of Aldermen as well as the mayor will be sworn in. Dan has risen in seniority and got a committee at #14 of the 28 aldermen. He is the chairman of the Convention, Tourism, Arts and Humanities committee, which will be important as we come out of Covid.

- **Officer Jazmon Garrett** was unable to join us this month. She sent crime stats to Erin, though. Crime is down almost 50% from last month and almost 30% in the last 14 days. Year to date we are down 20%. Larcenies of motor vehicle parts as well as from a building. There was an aggravated assault with a firearm at the corner of Gravois and Arsenal. Lots of calls for service this month, mostly minor things. Officer Garrett's phone number is 314-444-2565.

- **NSO Barb Potts** --Chris Murray is our quality-of-life officer. He has been able to get derelict cars off the street, ticketing them and talking with the owners before getting the cars towed. So far he has towed 93 cars. --The Refuse Department is working 7 days a week trying to get caught up with collections since Covid. They have more staff now and have resumed collecting yard waste as well as recycling. If you see someone putting bulk out when it's not bulk pickup please let them know when bulk pickup day is or call the CSB. --Also let Barb or Dan know if we see any vacant buildings to avoid vagrants from starting fires. --Nuisance properties: any property that hurts your quality of life. Drugs, noise, prostitution... must be called into the police and identified as a nuisance. There has to be at least 2 calls in a 6 month period. A Cease and Desist order lasts for a year. It will end if there are no further calls about that property. --All of the lights that she reported last month have been fixed except for 8 (they're in the process of fixing those.) Amren needs to be notified about alley lights that are off.

- **Cherokee Street CID, Emily Thenhaus** --There are a number of new businesses coming: a new apparel store next to Bespoke at Cherokee and Ohio, a new boutique next to Kuts by Kurtis, Kurtis is also opening a grill at the old Masterpiece Pizza place between Nebraska and Pennsylvania. --Trashy hour on Earth Day at 5pm. Meet at Earthbound Beer to pick up litter for an hour and return to Earthbound for a beer. --Love Bank Park Young Leaders program has 17 young people participating at this time. Watch this space! (Love Bank Park) --Cinco de Mayo will not take place this year. Masks will be available, though, and a cleaning crew will be working on May 6, Saturdays May 1 and 5 will find extra police patrols for people who come to the street hoping for a festival. Emily is working with the Health Department on publicity about how to celebrate Cinco safely. There WILL be a Taco Bracket during the whole month of May, with Mexican restaurants competing with their best taco for your vote. There will be some giveaways, particularly of margarita coupons. We will still celebrate but spread the crowd through the month. Find more information on the Cherokee Street Facebook page.

**-Neighborhood clean up** this Saturday, April 17, at Our Neighborhood Garden at California and Wyoming between 10-2pm. Tools and gloves will be provided as well as donuts and beverages. There will be a little prize for one participant. Unless you hear that it is cancelled for rain please come out! Spread the word.

**Discussion:**

It was noted that announcements of this meeting came late this month. It's frustrating and needs some work.

Erin announced that next month we hope to move to a hybrid meeting in person as well as at Five Star Senior Center. We may try a dry run with the Board Meeting. Any technical help would be appreciated!

Gwynne Jackson moved to adjourn the meeting. Scott Seconded. Passed. The meeting was ended at 8:07.