

Benton Park West Neighborhood Association Meeting
August 19, 2021

Board Members:

Erin Godwin, President **present**
Linda Hennigh, Treasurer **present**
Gwynne Jackson, Membership Chair **present**
Sarah Pearl, Dog Park Chair **present**
Kathryn Turban, Member At Large **present**

Erin called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

July Meeting Minutes Board and Neighborhood minutes were reviewed. Kathryn Turban motioned to accept the July Neighborhood meeting minutes. Seconded. Approved.

July Treasurer's Report Kathryn Turban motions to accept the July report. Seconded. Approved.

Membership Committee- No updates to report

Committee Openings- Information about open positions is available on the Committee tab of bentonparkwest.org.

Problem Properties, 3320-26 Michigan Ave - Legal Services of Eastern Missouri is reaching out to the owner's lawyer to discuss the possibility of them selling. The building is rapidly deteriorating and at increasing risk of collapse.

Neighbor's Naturescaping- Application for project at 3346 Gravois was submitted to Brightside on August 6th. Decision not announced until mid - late September. A project workday is planned for September 18th as major preparation work must be done before plants are available in October. If we aren't awarded the grant this year, we will cover the site with wildflower seeds and apply again next year.

Metro Trans Umbrella Group (MTUG) - Elaine Brune, MTUG's Board President, informed the meeting of a workday scheduled for August 21st at the Trans Memorial Garden.

Community Movie Night- Remember the Titans will be played at the Salvation Army parking lot at Arsenal and Iowa on August 28th. Meeting attendees were asked to take a yard sign to help spread the word about the event.

Dog Park Yappy Hour- Sarah Pearl, Dog Park Chair, is organizing the Dog Park's first event in two years on September 19th. No food or drinks will be allowed. There will be a photographer. More details to come. Reach out to Sarah Pearl (dogpark@bentonparkwest.org) to get involved; the more people helping with this and other events, the more can be done. She also announced that the dog park will host birthday parties for private groups as well.

Neighborhood Cameras- Please let Chris Schmidt (secretary@bentonparkwest.org) know if you'd be willing to provide to the police any footage from an external security camera on your property in case of a crime nearby. This list provides police a starting point when gathering evidence; they will reach out and ask that you share any footage you may have.

Alderman Dan Guenther -

BB2 was finally passed after months of bargaining. The mayor used her line-item veto to remove a section she believed would potentially violate the rules for allowed uses of Covid relief funds and require repayment to the federal government by the City. The bill will update election processes to allow voting at any polling location across the city.

Rental and Mortgage Assistance is available and help completing paperwork can be found at two locations in the city. Volunteers are needed, and no special skills are required; if you have a few hours available, you can help.

Dan met with DeSales about the affordable senior housing project. They are very optimistic about getting credits in this round of funding, having made 10% of units eligible to those making 30% AMI or less. SLDC is very excited about these units.

Emily Thenhaus, Cherokee Street CID -

There was no August meeting. There are open grant opportunities to install security cameras and public art in the CID. They are looking for local artists with a preference for those from the nearby neighborhoods.

Mid Century Modern on Jefferson is moving to Cherokee. Your Friends Apartment is opening a store as well.

There is a movie night planned for August 27th at Love Bank Park. New improvements at the park are in the works with community input. They hope to have chess tables, basketball hoops and more. There will be a fundraiser in October for the project.

Motion made to Adjourn. Motion Seconded. Adjourned at 7:45.