

## **Benton Park West Board Meeting**

**August 9, 2021**

Members present:

Erin Godwin, President

Linda Hennigh, Treasurer

ChrisSchmidt, Secretary

Sarah Pearl , Dog Park Chair

We reviewed the Association Meeting minutes. Board meeting minutes were missing.

**Treasurer's Report** was reviewed. There have been a lot of new dog park members! We also have regular membership renewals and money from Give STL Day.

**Neighborhood Signage** Michael Powers is working on getting consistent signage for neighborhoods throughout the southside. They will be attached to the back of stop signs, probably down Jefferson. He's done this with 2 neighborhoods already and knows how to navigate the system. At this point we aren't sure about the design or cost. Unfortunately, he was unable to join us for this meeting.

The **SLACO** conference is coming up on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. Linda isn't sure if we've paid for an ad in the program, which costs \$150. That decision needs to be made by 8/15/21, so a vote will be held via email. We might want to share the flyer with the neighborhood. It costs \$25 per person to go. The neighborhood can cover the entrance fee for anyone who is interested in attending. Sarah and Erin are interested in going.

There is also the **Neighborhood Leadership Academy** run by UMSL. We've been invited to send a representative on Mondays from 6-9pm from September 13-November 15. We can pay the fee for any interested neighborhood member who wants to attend this as well. Early bird registration (by August 15) is \$290, regular registration is \$325 by August 30. Sarah is interested in attending this and will decide by August 15. We will vote by email for this as well.

**New Google Account** We discussed confusion with the new Google accounts and decided to do an in-person demo and troubleshooting session.

**Historic Building Standards** Erin emailed DSCC about the Historic Building Standards. They're still interested in meeting with Michael, Rick and Erin. That meeting needs to be scheduled at this time.

**Problem Property** Regarding the problem property on Michigan, they have taken out trees and allowed the corner of the building to collapse. The former owner has transferred the property to a new holding company to delay any more action. Peter from Legal Services is looking into this for us. The thought is that the new owner is hoping that the building will collapse, and the city will demolish it. Since we are in a National Historic District there is a yet untested city ordinance regarding demolition by neglect in the hopes of keeping the building intact. There is a possibility that the owners may try to sell, which would delay it further. Michael is contacting developers in the hopes that if they do that there will be a buyer in place for it.

**Movie Night** The next Salvation Army movie night is August 28. We will be showing Remember the Titans. At the July movie night we had 19 participants! Chris will set up a spreadsheet for who is putting signs where.

**Neighbors Naturescaping** Erin submitted the application for \$500 for the Neighbors Naturescaping project. She met with the forestry commissioner for approval. She'll need help with removing the asphalt, specifically, before planting. Erin expects to find out if she got the grant in late September.

Regarding **Halloween**, we decided to wait another year before resuming Trunk-Or-Treat because of the Covid Delta variant. A house decorating contest was discussed. Erin will see if she can figure out how to publicize it better this year.

**Dog Park** Sarah has developed a spreadsheet to keep track of the details of member's dogs. The information she has is old and she needs to figure out who needs to renew. She will reach out to members before changing the gate code. She is considering changing the renewal rate, so that it's a little less expensive to renew to maintain interest. She hopes to have an event before the end of the September to attract interest. She also wants to do a dog Halloween event.

**Adjournment** Sarah motioned to adjourn the meeting. Linda seconded. Passed.