

Benton Park West Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Erin Godwin.

Members present included:

Erin Godwin, President

Linda Hennigh, Treasurer, Garden Chair

Chris Schmidt, Secretary

Gwynn Jackson, Membership Chair

Scott McIntosh, Past President, Communications Chair, Our Neighborhood Garden Chair

Spring Neighborhood and Garden Cleanup Scott reported that there were 2 workdays that have been productive. The first was neighborhood members and the second was 8 high school students and 2 teachers. There was a lot cleared out, but a LOT still left to do. MTUG is hoping to own the garden soon, but they won't start working on it until they own it. Scott would like to leave it in good condition for them. We should schedule workdays at least through June, in the hopes that they will be able to buy it by July. Erin and Linda may be able to help fill in if there is a group from Gateway Greening available to work when Scott is not available. Workdays for this garden include April 24 and May 8, from 10-12.

There is a neighborhood cleanup scheduled on April 15 from 10-2pm starting at Our Neighborhood Garden. About 6 people have indicated they would come via Facebook. Danielle is working on this with Erin. She is interested in doing regular clean ups in the future.

El Torito Taqueria Conditional Use License for packaged liquor sales. They are wanting to add packaged liquor to their existing site. No single cans or easily walkable liquor. They don't officially need a letter of support from us, but Erin wanted to let the neighborhood know what's going on.

Listserv and other Communication issues Facebook doesn't get to everyone. Erin will arrange for a Google listserv because of difficulty with BPW Talk. Gwynn doesn't currently add people to the List Serve, but she does have a list of people she could add as they join once it's set up. Regarding Facebook, there is a question of who the administrator is. Who responds to complaints and allows people to join? Scott replied that he currently fills this gap, but all of us are considered administrators and can (and should) take care of this business. The guidelines he uses is to be sure that the person requesting is an actual human rather than a bot (they have a fully developed page). There are folks who are college students, but their information indicates that they still live in their hometown, or a neighboring area.

Neighborhood Street Trash Cans The cans along Wyoming have been removed. To get another, someone would need to commit to emptying them. If we were to make that commitment it would be long term and need frequent attention. We are not ready to make that commitment currently. Another alternative would be to put up a "do not litter" sign from Brightside. Erin will pick up a few of those and see if they

make a difference. It would be good to encourage a 10 Minute Litter Cleanup every day on social media. Posting this on Facebook, Nextdoor and the Google Talk sites are necessary.

Salvation Army Office Cleanup Erin has done some of this, but there's still some furniture and copy paper left. It was offered to the Salvation Army, but much of it is odd colors and sizes that may not be useful to them. Erin will follow up again. Linda will help Erin finish this task and has shelves in her garage for storage if necessary. Erin has the bunny costume, but it is in poor condition. Gravois Park has a newer nicer one, so we won't need this one. We may need to consider what the future of this costume is.

Problem Property Progress Michael Sullivan is willing to be the liaison between us and the city regarding the Michigan properties. The bylaws need to be updated to make this lawsuit work.

Hybrid Meeting Format Timing is still unsure. We can meet at the Rita Ford Center if we want to try it out before deciding to do what we need to do at Five Star Senior Center. Erin will email Mike Howard to see when Five Star anticipates reopening to the public, and we'll make plans from there. She'll also check to see if they will require vaccinations before admission. Neighbors are anxious to start meeting together again.

Easter Extravaganza It was much slower than anyone expected. We started with about 200 baskets and actually gave away about 120 which meant Kirsten Petty needed to find another home for the rest. Kirsten had a backdrop behind the Easter Bunny and a wicker bench for kids to sit on in front of the bunny.

Bootleg BBQ Fundraiser This only raised about \$20, so we probably won't do that again. Scott pointed out that we've done this in the past, and it has never been very productive because there are so many requirements to use it.

Pride Car-A-Van Erin can't find any information about it. We know it's scheduled for June 6, but that's all.

Neighborhood Meeting Agenda was reviewed. The budget needs to be updated because of the SLACO dues.

Board Meeting Minutes from March were approved. Scott motioned to approve it. Gwynn seconded.

Neighborhood Meeting Minutes from March were reviewed.

February and March Treasurer's Reports Linda was able to update the February report line for storage. We discussed the donation to Gateway to Hope in memory of Becky Martinez in the February YTD of the Treasurer's Report. The line for Contingencies was removed last month because nobody knows how that category has been used in the past and the suspicion is that this is the place where this donation was filed. We agreed not to remove any categories in the future to avoid this kind of confusion. She said we also can't get a reduced price for insurance.

The March Treasurer's Report needs to be regenerated to include the Contingency category once again. SLACO dues need to be included as a line item under Community Partnerships. Chris motioned that we approve the SLACO dues check for \$100. Scott seconded. It was approved.

Chris motioned to adjourn. Scott seconded. Approved.