

Benton Park West Board Meeting
July 12, 2021

Board members present:

Erin Godwin, President
ChrisSchmidt, Secretary
Sarah Pearl, Dog Park Chair

Linda Hennigh, Treasurer
Scott MacIntosh, Past President

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

Tom Pickle and Becky Reinhardt from DeSales joined us for the meeting. They talked about the (hopeful) housing development at the corner of Arsenal and Jefferson, named Benton Park Place Apartments. It will be 3 floors, 49 units in all for senior housing. It is identical to the proposal from last year, which did not get funding. The drawing included a 1,000 SF retail space on the corner, parking, access and the small garden for BPW. They have added 8 units for low-income families. They hope to use the State and Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit. Our garden will be able to finish this season and will likely be able to plant early producing plants like lettuce next summer. We agreed to send a letter of neighborhood approval for their application.

Meeting Minutes The May board meeting minutes were motioned for approval by ChrisSchmidt motioned to approve, Gwynn seconded. Passed. Approval of June board meeting minutes were motioned for approval by Linda, Gwynn seconded. Passed. The Association meeting minutes were reviewed and deemed ready to present to the general meeting.

Treasurer's Report There was some question whether we owed \$50 or \$100 to Gateway Greening for insurance. Linda will make sure that Gateway Greening is aware that MTUG has taken over ownership of one of the gardens. Linda will check into the insurance details tomorrow, hopefully. The Treasurer's report presented was for last year. Erin will get the correct one before the meeting on Thursday. Gwynne noticed that the June report needs to reflect that both the Holloways joined last month. Otherwise it looked ready to present to the general membership.

Membership Current membership has gone down to 18 people. One person is expected to renew in July. Otherwise, people are not responding to reminder emails. Our meetings will have more of the pre-pandemic attractions starting this

month. ChrisSchmidt will pick up some soda and snacks for general membership meetings to come. Door Prizes will start this Thursday as well. We debated starting 50/50 raffles and decided to do so. The Square credit card reader has been misplaced since going virtual. Erin and Linda will look for it but a new one is not too expensive if it isn't found quickly.

We discussed if we are ready to make both meetings 100% in person. (It would be easier to encourage membership in person.) Scott pointed out that some people are still uncomfortable in person and that we should have hybrid meetings for the time being. Board meetings can be in person only, though. They can be hybrid upon request to accommodate specific members.

Gwynn asked if there was a general place to share documents. We had it on Drop Box But we switched to Google groups. Erin has been having serious issues figuring it out with the security blockades. Bottom line, it's an evolving topic.

Community Garden There is a group coming to help tidy up the vegetable garden soon. We have very few gardeners right now. The new development may be the issue or people have just lost interest during the pandemic. The sign was damaged in a car accident and needs repair that will involve a truck a lot of muscle. Erin will organize this task. The garden on Minnesota between Utah and Wyoming that was privately maintained by Pam will soon be available for us since Pam is moving out of the neighborhood.

Dog Park The Dog Park has a new chair in Sarah Pearl and she is very excited to get things going. She wants to work on the website, get word out on the street and plan some events soon to encourage interest. Signage also needs to be updated and cleaned up. She has figured out how to change the combination on the lock. Erin suggested getting an arborist to come and manage some of the trees.

Historic Preservation Policy Rick Shane, Michael Sullivan and Erin reached out to DSCC who will help us with outreach and a plan worked out for the development process for the Historic District. They were lovely and will collect some resources for us to get us started.

MTUG Garden at Wyoming and California is officially theirs now! They have a workday scheduled this Saturday.

Neighbors Naturescaping Erin has a proposal that might be submitted to Brightside by August 6. She'll talk about it more at the general meeting on Thursday. This is also a tiny parcel near the corner of Cherokee and Gravois that Erin is suggesting that we take care of by planting some native plants. Linda was approached by someone who has a pot bound tree that needs a place that might fit well there. Currently it's an eyesore that collects trash. The board agreed that Erin should move forward with this project.

Drive In Movie Night Signs need to go out for the event on Saturday night (correction: July 24). Last month's Movie Night was rained out.

ChrisSchmidt made a motion to adjourn. Gwynn seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23.