**Benton Park West Neighborhood Association**

Five Star Senior Center, 2832 Arsenal Street

Thursday, May 15, 2014

Attendance: 27

Board Members

* President: Linda Hennigh, Present
* Vice President: Carrie Sleep, Present
* Secretary: Scott McIntosh, Present
* Treasurer: Suzanne (Suzy) Hennigh, Absent
* Member At-Large: Becky Martinez, Present
* Member At-Large: Whitney Mathison, Absent

1. **Call to Order:** 7:06 pm
   1. Review and approval of April meeting minutes – Jerry Monti moves, Chris Schmidt seconds, passes
   2. Review May Board meeting minutes
   3. Review and approval of April’s Treasurer’s Report
      1. Corrections:
         1. Trunk or Treat should read Easter Eggstravaganza
      2. Wait to approve at June meeting after corrections are made
2. **New Member and Visitors**
   1. Rev. Paula Cooper, Curby Memorial Pres. Church
   2. Matt Bush
   3. Allison Patrick?
   4. Gary Whikert? Police Officer
   5. Maddie, Iowa, first time
3. **Guest Speaker: Matt Bush, Better Together STL**
   1. Matt Bush, Research Fellow
   2. Research organization that studies the fragmented government of the STL metro area
   3. Studying impact of fragmentation and determining positives and negatives to help local leaders determine best steps/actions; specifically should STL City County and STL County merge
   4. Performed economic development study; municipalities fighting for businesses and retail against one another instead of working together to bring people to the area in general
   5. Not advocating for any decision, just data collecting so leaders may make informed decisions
   6. Will canvas businesses door-to-door and attend large community meetings
   7. No political action to take, just wanting individuals to start talking about the issues
   8. 6 studies total will be done, public health is the next study
   9. Goal – data collected will result in a new campaign and possibly a vote on something
4. **Barr Library, Tonnya Joy**
   1. June 7 from 2-3 pm, LGBT Issues Project will present on famous LGBT authors from St. Louis – this is an STL250 event
   2. June – LGBT films at the Central Library for Pride Month
5. **Events**
   1. Easter Eggstravaganza
      1. Beautiful day, more people than ever attended (maybe 200)
   2. Community Garden Installation
      1. Arsenal and Jefferson location now has 15 raised beds
      2. About 5 beds are not assigned
      3. If you’d like a bed, email Jake Roeckle, [jroeckle@gmail.com](mailto:jroeckle@gmail.com)
      4. No charge for beds this year, but may charge if a wait list develops
   3. IndiHop
      1. This Saturday on Cherokee and in The Grove
      2. 15 volunteers secured
   4. Dog Park update
      1. Still taking applications, $35 fee, $15 for each additional dog
      2. Spread the word that the park is open
   5. The Luminary
      1. 2701 Cherokee – nonprofit art incubator
      2. Grand opening on Cherokee this Saturday, 8pm-11 pm
   6. Volunteer Form
6. **9th Ward Alderman, Ken Ortmann**
   1. Funding round deadline for development is Friday/tomorrow
   2. Several developers have applied for projects in BPW (Arsenal, Iowa, and Texas)
   3. Researching possibility of adding a police substation in Benton Park (in the park)
      1. Need a secure DSL line
      2. Need a place to take reports and have a restroom
      3. Possibly in the ‘craftroom’ (Cherokee Rec Plex)
7. **Neighborhood Stabilization Officer, Barb Potts**
   1. Out on family leave, possibly out for a month
8. **District 3 Community Outreach Officer, Joe Calabro**
   1. Officer Gary filled in for Joe Calabro
   2. Burglaries and robberies are down
   3. Car break-ins are up (especially in Benton Park)
   4. Redistricting response times should be better
9. **Cherokee Street Liaison, Anne McCullough**
   1. Absent
10. **Prizes**
    1. Attendance – BPW tote bag items donated by BPWNA
    2. 50/50 - $12.50 for the winner
11. **Adjournment** – Diane Hurwitz moves, Jerry Monti seconds, passes at 8:26 pm