

Brentwood Neighborhood Association General Meeting
2/22/2021

Mert Seaton, President of the Board opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves. Board Member introductions as follows: Mert Seaton, President; Cindy Cook, Vice President; Pam Buhr, Treasurer; Jane Augustine, Secretary; Brent Rinker, Member at Large; Lisa Meeks, Member at large; Dave Buhr, Member at Large and Brent Rinker, Member at Large.

Others attending introducing were Jay Lisenby, Captain of Fire Station 10 Springfield Fire Dept; Officer Boomgaardener, PAR Officer, Springfield Police Dept.; Mike Gordon, Brentwood resident; Jeff Smith, Sr Park Planner, Springfield Parks Board; Bill Spence, Battalion Chief, Bureau of Fire Prevention Springfield Fire Dept and Elizabeth Seation, Member of Brentwood Neighborhood Assn.

Officer Boomgaardener gave a report about developments in his area. He will bring yearly stats regarding crime to the next meeting. He shared that there were no longer any crime prevention so his focus at this time was mainly vehicle break ins primarily in Delaware and Rountree Neighborhoods. There were some in Brentwood but not as many. He and another officer are going undercover to investigate these. Mert asked about rules regarding parking on the street and that the main concern was issues on Luster. Officer Boomgaardener said that it is usually legal even if cars are parked on both sides of the road but depends on the design of the road. There aren't any no parking signs on Luster so cars parked on the street are legal. There is an online crime map the public can access, mycommunity.com. It shows only those with police reports filed. Officer Boomgaardener shared his phone number 417-864-1321.

Bill Spence, Battalion Chief from the Bureau of Fire Prevention shared that The Brentwood call volume was down over three years. 2018 - 625, 2019 - 606, 2020- 397. This is a 34% decrease. 50% are medical calls. Capt Lisenbery is in charge of our area. The fire dept offers many services to the community. Mert asked about smoke detectors being available from the fire dept. Bill said that residents can call and ask for a smoke detector and a crew will bring a battery operated smoke detector and install it. Pam asked if the fire station on Galloway was for our area. Bill said yes. Cindy asked what kind of fires are usually seen. There is a low number of set fires. Bill said that in winter alternative heating fires and chimney fires were. In summer overloaded outlet fires are more prevalent. He said that our neighborhood has a low number of fires. Dave asked about burning leaves. Bill said it is illegal in the city limits. If there is a complaint, Capt. Linsenby will go out and give information. If the issue continues the fire martial may go out and issue a citation. Cindy asked about fireworks calls. He said that there were some in the summer. The police are in charge of enforcement. The fire martial at times issues a citation.

Mert explained that we would be hearing from some of the candidates for city council but while waiting for them we would continue with normal business.

Mert shared the minutes of January's meeting for review. There were some spelling corrections and a typo correction then Cindy motioned to accept, Pam 2nd and it was passed by a voice vote.

The treasurer's report was shared by Pam. She stated that we received \$1000 for our participation in a cheering table for the Bass Pro Marathon. Some funds were spent for the monthly zoom meetings. The balance is \$2,469.43. Cindy motioned to accept, Brent 2nd and it was passed with a voice vote.

Jane gave a brief report on the NAC meeting of 2/20/21. Neighborhood Works was discussed. The NAC has 2 proposals to submit. 1 - Request for 5 speed boards to be shared by the neighborhoods. Each neighborhood would have one for 2-3 months. These boards show how fast a car is going . 2- Request 1 street light for each neighborhood. The neighborhood could decide the location. A Neighbor-Woods representative talked about trees in the right of way. The city will plant 6-12 ft trees in the right of way of a residential lot. A resident can contact the city and request but the city will decide the location.

Cindy will be submitting content for the Neighborhood News including our Halloween reverse trick or treat, Bass Pro Cheering, the zoom Holiday Concert and announcing that we will have some city council candidates presenting at our next general meeting.

Brent updated us on the neighborhood cleanup . We will need to send the application on June 1st. We can pick our top 3 dates. Some neighborhoods have dates in the fall already. A weather policy is being discussed. It is recommended that we keep mattresses off to the side until there is an empty dumpster to put them in. In the past the dumpsters were 40 yards and are now going down to 30 yards. TVs and other electronics aren't accepted but we can partner up with an electronic recycling place and send people to them.

Lisa gave a report on the nuisance property committee. The next meeting will have some speakers from the St Louis area to talk about how they have handled nuisance properties. On the city website there is now an area where you can put in an address of a property and it will show if it has been reported and any action taken.

Mert introduced Alex Aton who is a candidate for General Seat A on the City Council. He told us that he became interested in running because he was concerned about inconsistencies regarding local businesses being forced to close due to the pandemic while Walmart and other big box stores who were selling the same products were allowed to stay open. He feels like people want to see more local shopping areas rather than more big box stores. He mentioned the Cherry and Pickwick area for example. He wants Springfield to continue to be unique. He wants the police department to offer better compensation so that they can hire and retain more officers. He wants feedback from neighborhoods and community members about what is important for our city.

Pam expressed concern about the number of huge apartment complexes close to streets. Alex says he doesn't feel that they belong in neighborhoods. He is also concerned about the quality.

Brent mentioned that some of the older apartments look like slums and a focus should be on improving those. Elizabeth asked about Alex's background. Alex explained that his family has been in Springfield for over 100 years . He was born in Springfield and lives here. He is an English as a second language teacher at MSU.He lived in Russia for 2 years.

Lisa asked if he would be listening to the people as she has observed that the city council doesn't currently, citing the issue about Galloway. She asked for his contact information.

Alex replied that he indeed will listen to the people. His website AlexanderAton.com.

Mert went back to old business while waiting for the next candidate. He mentioned that we are recording our meetings and want to be able to put that on our website. Cindy said that we need to develop the proper verbage so that no one can grab, move or change the content.

Mert introduced Heather Hardinger who is a candidate for General Seat A of the City Council. Heather gave some background information. She has lived in Springfield for 15 years. She graduated from Evangel University. She joined Americare then returned to Springfield and worked at the Missouri Job Center then in several private businesses. She is a workforce and economic development specialist. She has spent the last 5 years in Branson working in that field.She also volunteers in the community. She has been on the mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations for 4 year, 2 years as chairwoman. She is running because she loves Springfield and wants to contribute to its success and growth. She serves on the national board of Bread for the World as vice chair, advocating solving hunger issues. Brent asked if Gen Seat A was an open seat. Heather replied yes there is no incumbent. Dave asked how to contact her. Her web site is Heather for council.com and her email is Heather@Heatherforcouncil.com. She wants to hear about ideas and what is important for the community.

Lisa asked what Heather's opinion was about the city council not listening most notably about Galloway and does she want to listen. Heather replied that she wants new development and new companies in the city but wants to hear what neighbors have to say and will always respond. She feels that it is important to empower neighborhoods to invest in their neighborhoods and give back.

Mert introduced J. Michael Hasty who is running food General Seat B on the City Council. Michael says that he is a native Missourian and grew up in foster care. He moved to Springfield in 2013. He is a veteran. He volunteers with the Boys and Girls Club. He has always kept well informed and has noticed an increase in crime and feels like it is out of control. He feels the city council has grown deaf. He lives in Oak Grove but that neighborhood association is inactive. He does think that neighborhood associations can do a lot. He feels like his life experiences can help him connect with people. He was a CNA for 8 ½ years. He feels like he can impact children's lives.

Mert asked him what some of his ideas are about solving the crime problem. He thinks that people policing their own areas and being aware and connecting with their neighbors would help. He feels like his experience in Iraq with the rebuilding effort called hearts and minds will be useful. He wants the police to get to know and connect with the people and people connect with each other.

Lisa asked how to contact him. His website is Hastyforspringfield.com and email is [Hasty for springfield@gmail.com](mailto:Hastyforspringfield@gmail.com).

Our Neighborhood works committee, Dave, Pam, Mert and Cindy, gave a report about our proposal to place new playground equipment at Kirkwood Park. They met at the park and agreed on a site in the Northeast part of the park. Jeff Smith showed an overview of the park with aerial views. The committee also found out that the city is planning to build a sidewalk from Sunset to Seminole which will make the park more accessible. They are just about ready to finish up and submit the plan.

Jeff Smith, Sr. Park Planner has worked for the city for 2 yrs. He is a licensed landscape architect and has worked in various positions for 15 years. He is a liaison for Ozark Greenways and is a technical advisor for the Grant Ave project. He shared the screen of the aerial view of Kirkwood Park and pointed out the areas that are in a floodplain. He says that the northeast section is the best option for a playground as it is not part of the floodplain. He showed a picture of the playground equipment that was installed at Lafayette Park.

Cindy asked if there was a possibility of having a pavilion or something like that and where would he see a place for that kind of expansion. Jeff suggested the south side of the playground. Brent asked if we have to wait on another grant or could the Boy Scouts help with construction. Jeff replied that since it is city property, all work must be done by licensed contractors. They could help with fundraising. Pam mentioned that there is no sign for the park. Jeff said that a fundraiser could help pay for that.

Mert discussed old business.

We need a person on the NAC Neighborhood Works proposal committee. Mert agreed to be on the committee Brent motioned to accept and Cindy 2nd. It was passed with a voice vote.

There are several NAC committees that need members, the safety and the friendly committees. They are looking for volunteers. Most are on zoom. We need to think about this. Jane explained that the safety committee partners with the police department regarding crime and the friendly committee deals with engagement with PIO and others.

A reminder that the next meeting is March 29th and 4 more candidates will attend. Craig Hosmer has invited some of us to meet at his office. He is a General Seat B candidate and does represent us. Cindy asked about him recorking a video. Mert will ask him. Brent asked if we could put his video on the cloud recording. Mert says yes. Plan to ask him to video. Cindy motioned to ask him and Pam 2nd. It was passed by a voice vote.

Mert asked to adjourn. Pam motioned to adjourn and Cindy 2nd. It was passed with a voice vote.

