

Better Bevo Now Neighborhood June 15, 2017 Meeting Notes

64 attendees

Dave Tallent has resigned. Gwen Murray will be acting Chairman. Donna Stueve will be acting secretary.

Gwen Murray, Acting Chairman - We need to make positive changes to abate or eliminate sources of fear. We have dedicated this meeting to the Neighborhood Ownership Model to encourage all to engage and work to make those positive changes. Connecting and getting involved can be something as small as attending the events. Your presence sends a message that we are united and we care about each other. It can be as small as helping a neighbor in need, perhaps helping to mow if a neighbor is too sick to mow.

Dee Brown, St. Louis Safety Group - Monday there is a panel on Gun Violence at St Louis Safety Group. Which is at Carondelet Rec. Center in the Respect and Responsibility rooms. Gun locks will be available.

Kristin Hoffmann, Court Advocacy - Kristin just attended the Court Advocacy training and set up letter templates. We use community letters to have our voices heard during the sentencing phase of trials.

Kristin Hoffman, Block Captains - get to know your neighbors and have parties. Block parties encourage block unity. Take the long way home. Drive the alleys to see the trash cans are not tagged and see if neighbors are having trouble keeping up their property. Next Tuesday at Das Bevo we will have a Block Captain Orientation meeting

Kay Miller, Victim Support - The purpose of this team is to support victims of crime and help them navigate the justice system. Kay is also planning to make a neighborhood resource guide. To help you must have training and a police check.

Neighborhood Watch training is on July 29 at 10am. Sergeant Justin Johnson will speak about the Citizens on Patrol/Neighborhood Watch Program. This program is a Community driven partnership with the Police Department, City Services and the Residents to improve safety and the overall quality of life in our neighborhood. The hour long presentation will discuss many different topics; these include what suspicious activity to look for, who to contact when a violation is observed and how to be a good witness. We will have more information on the July 20 meeting.

Capt. Mueller, SLPD - the family of the shooting victim from Kingshighway and outside protesters marched through the streets of Bevo. They were noisy and used inappropriate language. Our police team monitored the protesters and were able to assure that there was no violence or property destruction. He stated he would have liked to have arrested those making noise, but there was not the level of staffing to do this safely. "We cannot send a 2 man car to lock up 35 people."

Capt. Mueller gave an example of a NOM success in Chippewa Park. The Chippewa Park neighborhood group was aware for a violent felon who was up for bond reduction. Chippewa Park was able to get a letter with 20 signatures and the judge took into his thought process and ruling.

Officer Steve Wilson, SLPD - went over summary of crime data for Bevo Mill. Burglaries happen in homes during the daytime and businesses at night.

Steve said this about the NOM. When a case goes to court and people from the neighborhood attend it influences the case. Impact statements have an effect also. Neighborhood Watch if you are active in your neighborhood, walking the dog etc., that's Neighborhood Watch. If you see something that doesn't look right and report it, you are active in Neighborhood Watch.

Carol Howard, Alderwoman, 14th Ward - The BBN organization has been active since 2010 and continues to evolve. Carol had an interview with a Riverfront Times reporter who will hopefully produce a good report about Bevo. We have a good inexpensive housing stock. The Board of Alderman is working on presenting a 1/2 cent sales tax to fund public safety salaries (police and firefighters). Also looking to charge earnings tax to include not for profits that have more than 20 employees as a source of funding. We are looking at a \$3.00 per month increase in the costs for trash hauling to repair/replace trucks. There's a bill introduced to change National Night Out to the first Tuesday in October for 2018.

Beth Murphy, Alderwoman, 13th Ward - spoke of the NOM using the example of the homicide with a hammer that took place in our area. Both alderwomen spoke to the juvenile officers for about an hour. Discussed all the opportunities available for these boys in Bevo. They also went to court for trial to certify them as adults with Bevo residents. The judge knew residents were there. Beth went to court with a neighbor who was a victim of carjacking and was able to sit with the victim while she waited to testify. The car jacker was convicted and the boys were certified as adults.

Habitat for Humanity is building 2 houses at Delor and Ulena. There are many qualifications for people who get houses and the owners have to put in 350 hours during the building process.

Donna Baringer, 82nd District State Representative - House has already voted on all the legislation that they are being called back about. The senate did not take action on any of these bills, but the house is being called back as they will have vote again after these bills get through the senate. Did a survey the number 1 concern is crime. We need to let the out state representatives know that there are great neighborhoods in the city. Real ID passed.

Christy Boyd, NIS 14th Ward - Broken windows, over grown lawns and trash show that the neighbors don't care. Eliminating these things can cut down on crime. Please have a block party on your block on National Night Out, August 1st. If you register with the city for a block party on NNO you can have a free permit to close the street. Block Parties help you to know your neighbors and model good neighbor behavior for children.

Andrew Hernandez, NIS 13th Ward - you own from the middle of the street to the middle of the alley and it is your responsibility to keep that area mowed and clean.

The two managers of CoCo's lounge spoke to say that the charges against them are false. Carol Howard, Alderwoman 14th Ward and Capt. Mueller, SLPD made statements that the charges were warranted and the court case was settled. A neighbor from Wilcox stated that the noise and nuisance was bad for him and his neighbors. The Acting Chairman asked that all concerned continue the discussion after the meeting.

Regina Sanguinette brought sign-up sheets for recycling bins.

Christy Park Concerts June 27th Gateway Ramblers 6pm.

We are still flocking people. For \$10 we will land a mass of pink plastic flamingos in your yard to celebrate special occasions or just because.