



City of Berkeley
Betterment Commission
November 6, 2024
4pm on Zoom

The Meeting was called to order at 4:12 pm on Wed, November 6, 2024.

Members Present: Tracy Cole, Jean Holmes, Brenda Williams, Meko Robinson, Donnette Watson

Old Business:

- Approval of minutes: Motioned by Jean Holms and seconded by Tracy Cole.
- **Committee Changes:**
 - William Bayless resigned from the committee on October 23, 2024, due to scheduling conflicts.
 - A Peace Lily plant will be sent to former member DeBorah White in appreciation of her 10+ years of service on the Betterment Committee and to the City of Berkeley. The committee sends our sincere condolences due to the sudden passing of her brother and mother, before her stepping down from the committee.

Event Updates

- **Trivia Night:** Canceled due to low ticket sales.
- **Berkeley Elementary School Event (November 6, 2024):**
 - The event featuring Zeus Rebel Waters was a success. It honored K-3 students with perfect attendance for the quarter. Activities included storytelling, a spelling bee (with prizes for winners), and donuts for children and staff.
 - Special thanks to committee member Ebonee Shaw for her contributions to making the event possible.
 - Special thanks to our very own Tracie Anthony for assisting in our arrival at the school, setting up, handing out donuts to the children, and escorting us out of the building.

New Business

- **Christmas Toy Giveaway:**
 - Scheduled for Saturday, December 21, 2024.
 - Toys for Tots has generously donated 250–300 toys for Berkeley residents.
 - Additional toys, including scooters, basketball hoops, and earbuds, will be purchased to complement the donation. Scooters for younger children are to be sourced for under \$20, with potential larger gifts like bikes or electronics if affordable. Meko Robinson suggested a store in Wentzville, MO, for these purchases.
 - Santa Claus will be present for photos with children.

- **Turkey Giveaway (November 16, 2024):**
 - The event will be held at Berkeley Civic Center. Members are required to provide names, phone numbers, and addresses of residents eligible for the giveaway.
 - Members are expected to assist with unloading 50 turkeys at 12 PM.
Councilwoman Brenda Williams has requested assistance from the Berkeley Fire Department for this task.
- **Resident Participation:**
 - Eugene Taylor attended the meeting and shared ideas and contact information for committee initiatives. Tracy Cole will follow up on potential partnerships with major companies discussed during the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49pm.