

MINUTES FOR JUNE 10, 2014 LSRC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting was held at the Lafayette Park United Methodist Church with approximately 40 residents in attendance. President Houston Smith called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed new residents and guests. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the May meeting minutes.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mike Weiss – Gateway Cup – Tour de Lafayette will be held Friday, August 29, from early afternoon through 10:00 pm. The races are higher caliber this year, with 2 pro teams already signed up to race. There will be children's and amateur races. Volunteer help will be appreciated. Visit GatewayCup.com for more information.

HOUSE TOUR REPORT

The tour was a huge success with around \$63,000 in revenue!

ALDERMAN REPORTS

Phyllis Young – 7th Ward – Alderwoman Young reported that Webster University will be the key anchor tenant in the restored and remodeled Arcade Building downtown. The project is scheduled for completion in 2016.

Christine Ingrassia – 6th Ward – No report.

SAFETY REPORTS

Officer Brian Min – Officer Min reported on the recent rash of car break-ins on Albion and Whittemore. 12 cars were broken into, but nothing was stolen. These crimes are hard to combat. Officer Min suggested that we ask the CAO to have an attorney assigned to Lafayette Square like we had in the past. The substation is being used, but more snacks are needed.

Safety – Houston announced that Michael Petetit recently resigned as Chairman of Safety, and Eric Lemmo was asked to step into the role, which he accepted. Total property crime is down 3%, but total crime in general is up 5%. The SLMPD is doing patrols regularly all over our neighborhood.

Problem Properties – Ron Taylor reported that Don is working on three properties. 1108 Dolman was destroyed by fire, but there is still a mound of debris. 1819 Lafayette is vacant and weedy, with cars removed from the backyard. It is on the vacant building mow list. 1610-1612 S. Jefferson has bricks falling, with a structural condemnation on May 16. It changed hands on May 15. Not able to issue a bench warrant because owned by a LLC. Its taxes have been paid.

Block Captains – Houston reported that National Night Out is scheduled to be held in August again.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Development – Keith Houghton reported that he is following 22 properties right now. Every vacant building has some level of developer interest at this time. The Development Committee will not endorse demolition permits unless there is a redevelopment plan in place that they are confident will happen. 1725 Lafayette—8 years in arrears in property taxes. Everything that has delayed the process has been legal. But it will supposedly be up for sale again this summer. 1917 Rutger appears to have an all-residential development plan. The new zoning along Chouteau passed the Board and just needs to be signed by the Mayor. The trucking company at Jefferson and Chouteau will remain industrial, but the rest of Chouteau east to Mississippi is being rezoned mixed use business/residential. The Marchem building on Hickory is still zoned industrial.

Community Affairs – No report.

Finance - Treasurer Kacey Cordes Mahrt reported our budgeted income for the Spring Tour was \$30,000 and we are coming in about \$63,000. The LSRC currently has assets of \$111,940.

Membership – Membership Secretary Jennifer Weston passed around a membership list and encouraged residents to join the LSRC if they haven't already.

Capital Improvements – Mary Visintainer reported that the Brick Program is up and running; engraved bricks can be ordered via lafayettesquare.org. Engineers for the Plaza redevelopment are tweaking the plans for City agencies. Engineers are working with Laclede Gas regarding Vail bump-outs. Houston reported that benches in the Plaza need to be repaired. Ipe wood is preferred for its longevity, but it is the most expensive. We may do a bench plaque program in addition to the brick program. Stay tuned.

Beautification – Mary Visintainer reported that Carmax volunteers recently helped beautify the medians.

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Arts Council of Lafayette Square – Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Lafayette Park Conservancy – Susan Pinker-Dodd reported that the Boathouse is nearly complete. The Parks Department is still working out rental information; hopefully the bathrooms will be open soon. The pathways and Victorian-style railing on the grotto bridge are the next projects to undertaken. Volunteers are needed to help water in the Park, particularly by the Park House and black urn where there is no irrigation system. The LPC Board meetings are open and held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in Park House. There are many Committees to pick from.

Lafayette Square Business Association – Cocktails on the Plaza was a big success!

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Barr Branch Library – Manager Tonnya Joy reported that you can register for the summer reading club online. Online Gale courses are available for free to patrons, with certificates received at completion. There is a wide variety of programs are offered. To register, visit slpl.org and click “Downloadables”. The library also has many e-books and audio books available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

State Representative Michael Butler reported that a large income tax cut was recently passed. The Education bill gave unaccredited school districts money for early childhood education. There will be two ballot measures in August—1) Transportation Tax—sales tax for transportation infrastructure, and 2) Early Voting Second (actually two different proposals). Rep. Butler also reported that he has kids who would like something productive to do this summer and will work for tips. The Youth Work Corp consists of kids recommended by their principals. Contact him for details.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

AFTER-THE-MEETING SOCIAL

Many thanks to Linda and Ron Pallmann for hosting the after-meeting social.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Weston –Membership Secretary

* Minutes will be voted on at the July General Meeting.