

MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 9, 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 7:00 p.m. and welcomed new residents and guests. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the August meeting minutes.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Rachel Seward – St. Louis Public Schools—She gave an update on the state of the school system. Highlights included: a new, comprehensive lunch program which provides free lunch to all students, eliminating stigma; state test scores have increased, but more progress needed; 39 schools met or exceeded the state's requirements; detailed information about each school can be found at slps.org.

Joe Wilson – Better Together STL—Better Together STL is a grassroots project sponsored by the Missouri Council of a Better Economy (MCBE). Better Together is driving an inclusive, transparent process of developing and assembling valuable information other organizations can use to develop their own plans for what the future of the region should look like. Better Together will not advocate for any particular proposal or initiative. Visit bettertogetherstl.com for more info.

Jennifer Florida – Recorder of Deeds—Jennifer Florida was appointed by Mayor Slay after serving 13 years as the Alderman of the 15th Ward. Highlights included: under her leadership the office is now in compliance; she has restored the Recorder's fund to the Treasurer's office; she has requested an audit; the Recorder's website has been merged with the City's website; her office is inventorying records and partnering with the MO State Archives to properly preserve documents. She will be running on the November ballot as an Independent.

URBAN PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

2 meetings will be held—Saturday, September 20, 9:30 am – 12:00, at the Barr Branch Library and Wednesday, October 22, 7 – 9 pm, Sqwires Annex.

HOUSE TOUR REPORT

A tour chairperson is still needed. Design of the promotional materials are in progress. 10 houses are still needed.

ELECTIONS

Elections will be held at the October General Meeting. Open positions include: President-Elect, VP of Development, VP of Development Elect, VP of Community Affairs, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, 3 Members at Large, and Members at Large on the Development Committee. Contact Houston if interested.

A motion was made to change the by-laws, replacing one of the LSRC Board Members at Large positions with a newly created VP of Safety position. Discussion followed. The motion will be voted on at the October General Meeting.

ALDERMAN REPORTS

Christine Ingrassia – 6th Ward – Alderwoman Ingrassia thanked residents for their support. Highlights included: the building behind the Gast Haus Restaurant is condemned; Felicia Henderson is no longer the Neighborhood Stabilization Officer for the 6th Ward so 7th Ward NSO Sandy Colvin will be handling the 6th Ward as well; the Compton bridge over HWY 44 will be closed for resurfacing through June 2015.

SAFETY REPORTS

Joe Calabro – SLMPD Community Outreach Officer – Officer Calabro reported that there have been some burglaries and larcenies. He reminded residents to put items that are stored in vehicles out of view, and to encourage your guests to do so as well. Popular items that are stolen include: navigation systems, smart phones, laptops, and cameras. Thieves are often looking for weapons.

Safety – Eric Lemmo had no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Development – Keith Houghton reported that there is another development proposal for the mop factory (located at Dolman & Park & Truman). The proposal will include market rate, low-income and commercial units. They intend to have 42 units with 1.2 parking spots per unit. A hearing will be held at the end of October. The developers are not asking for neighborhood support.

Community Affairs – Eric Lemmo reported that he'll be communicating with the Tour de Lafayette organizers. Lynn Larkin asked for volunteers for to help with the kids' area, which will be on Kennett this year.

Finance – Kate Francis reported that we have already met our budgeted revenue for the year, and we are at 54% of our operating expenses.

Membership – Jennifer Weston passed around a membership list and encouraged residents to join the LSRC if they haven't already. Must be a member to vote in the elections next month.

Capital Improvements – Mary Visintainer gave an update on the various improvements that in the works. Laclede Gas is doing their work on Park Avenue sooner rather than later so the road does not have to be opened up again. Mary thanked Linda Pallmann for going to meetings with her.

Linda Pallman – Linda spoke about the Plaza Park. She would like to see a plinth installed that could feature temporary art installations. She has been working with John Paul Sinisterra and Bruce Calvin on note cards that could be given to individuals who donate to the Plaza project.

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Arts Council of Lafayette Square – Jennifer Weston thanked everyone for their support over the past season.

Lafayette Park Conservancy – Ward Buckner reported that some of the sidewalks surrounding the park are being replaced using park bonds.

Lafayette Square Business Association – Jennifer Weston reported that Tricks & Treats on Park will be held on Saturday, October 25, from 11 am – 1 pm in the Plaza (or mini-park if construction has begun).

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Barr Branch Library – Manager Tonnya Joy reported that the library will offer over 60 languages for free through Mango languages. These will be accessible through the Online Learning link on slpls.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Genevieve Barlow and Jennifer Weston are coordinating the 2nd Annual Fair in the Square event on Saturday, October 11 from 9-11 am. The event showcases the many organizations and groups our neighborhood has to offer. Free coffee and donuts will be served.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

AFTER-THE-MEETING SOCIAL

Many thanks to Matt Negri and Creighton Brinson for hosting the after-meeting social.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Weston –Membership Secretary

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