

## MINUTES FOR January 13, 2015 LSRC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting was held at the Lafayette Park United Methodist Church with approximately 90 residents in attendance. President Matt Negri 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 December meeting minutes.

### **ALDERMAN REPORTS**

**7<sup>th</sup> Ward – Candidates: Chelsea Merta, Jack Coatar and Samuel L. Cummings** – Chelsea, Jack and Samuel introduced themselves to the membership. Each actively running for the Alderman opening in the 7<sup>th</sup> ward.

**Christine Ingrassia – 6<sup>th</sup> Ward** – Alderwoman Ingrassia was present, but had nothing to discuss.

### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

**Captain Mary Warnecke (3<sup>rd</sup> District Police)** – Captain Warnecke discussed 2014 crime statistics. Some points of advice; do not warm up your car unattended, use a car club on the steering wheel to deter thieves, be vigilant and watch out for your neighbors and their property, as you would your own. Capt. Warnecke answered questions from residents concerned about safety in the neighborhood: Currently there are officers on duty during peak hours There are also overlay officers to cover during shift changes. What to look for in the neighborhood? If you see people walking or driving slowly, and it appears that they are casing cars, then please call the Police. A resident also showed concern about the speed of buses driving through the neighborhood, Capt. Warnecke said that she would look into this.

**Jared Boyd Representative for Tishaura Jones, St. Louis City Treasurer (Parking Meter Plans)** – Unfortunately, the Treasurer was unable to attend tonight's meeting, however, she will come before our residents at some point in the future. Mr. Boyd explained that the City has rolled out new parking meter options, including a "pay by phone" app. The plan is to go from approximately 94 meters to about 77 meters throughout downtown and the Central West End. Mr. Boyd explained that the Treasures office is very interested in hearing from the residents on the topic of adding new parking meters. The study, which was completed by a consultant to find the best options to modify, replace, remove and add new meters, has not yet been proposed. Thus far, the consultant has just suggested areas that meters should be added to, however, this is an ongoing conversation. The proposal has not yet been made. Mr. Boyd took questions from residents. One question was asked if the study is available to residents and Mr. Boyd answered, absolutely, the link to this will be e-mailed to Members by the LSRC. A question was raised as to what the actual quantitative analysis was, specific to Lafayette Square; this information does not seem to be readily available. It was asked that this be made available. The price of the study was approximately \$50,000, which is required by City code to be completed periodically, to assess parking situations. The timeframe in which action will take place will be rolled out in four phases: 1<sup>st</sup> Phase will consist of replacing and adding new meters downtown; 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase will consist of replacing and adding meters in the CWE; 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase will consist of removal of other meters; and the 4<sup>th</sup> Phase will consist of implementing new meters throughout the City. The 4<sup>th</sup> Phase is closer to a year out, which will allow for plenty of discussion time. A resident made a motion that the LSRC send a formal letter to the Treasurer, explaining that our residents and business owners are opposed to the potential parking meters. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

**Mike and Lisa LaRose, Stone House Restoration Project (1111 Missouri)** – Mrs. LaRose introduced herself and explained that her husband and herself would like to acquire the Stone House and restore it to its original state, with period specific limestone and lumber. They would like to create a space that will house a museum showcasing the history, as well as, providing space for students to learn. The museum would be a not-for-profit that is self-sustaining. Mr. and Mrs. LaRose will fund the archeological dig, themselves, and work with local Universities to uncover the history. They have already put an offer on the property, and estimate that it would take three years to have the building completed. After completion, they would then focus on the museum. To contact Mrs. LaRose please e-mail her at:

[tomato5821@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tomato5821@sbcglobal.net)

## **NEW AND ONGOING BUSINESS**

### **Lafayette Square Special Business Tax Initiative (SBD):**

President Negri explained that a hearing was held on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015, which was open to all residents and those who own property in the district. The vote was passed unanimously by the committee members. The second reading will be held Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> after which, it will go to the April ballot.

**Holiday Tour Update:** Mr. Negri explained that the house tour was a huge success. Online ticket sales doubled the last couple weeks leading up to tour. The Square was filled with people exploring our amazing neighborhood and homes.

## **SAFETY REPORTS**

**Safety** - Tony Krawat discussed being vigilant in the neighborhood, and pleaded for residents to use a car club. If you would like a car club (\$13), contact Tony at: [safety@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:safety@lafayettesquare.org) Additionally, there will be a meeting at Sqwires Annex on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Officer's Justin Johnson and Brian Min will discuss Neighborhood Watch. A question was also raised about cameras in the Square. There are plans in the works to partner with the City, and see if something can be put together, to get more cameras out and running.

**Officer Brian Min** – Officer Min reported that there were four cars broken into and one car stolen in December, while three cars were stolen in January. Safety tips: DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR RUNNING. if you are a victim of burglary, you may call local pawn shops to see if anything has been brought in as many things are stolen for this purpose. There was a hold-up at the Family Dollar. Officer Min also suggested that residents send a detailed email to him with concerns on traffic situations in the neighborhood and he would relay to the Captain. [bemin@slmpd.org](mailto:bemin@slmpd.org)

**Problem Properties** – Don Owens was not in attendance.

**Block Captains** – Glenn Eckert did not have anything to report.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Development** - Keith Houghton discussed that 2353 Park Ave. will be acquired by a development company based in the Central West End. The property will be converted into 12 apartment units. There are also a few new residential home projects that are in the works throughout the Square.

**Community Affairs** – Jennifer Weston reported that there is a proposal for the Country Western Run to go through the Square. The run will circle the park and continue down Jefferson towards Downtown. This will take place between 4:00-6:00pm on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Also, our neighborhood has been invited to join the Recycle Initiative program, which will be a contest against other neighborhoods; evaluated on the amount of recycling completed. Finally, Lafayette Preparatory Academy is looking to move into the neighborhood. Please contact Jennifer for more information: [weston1998@hotmail.com](mailto:weston1998@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer**- Justin McNeely reported that the Holiday Tour brought in over \$50,000, largely raised in the two weeks leading up to the tour. The yearend Net Revenue of the LSRC was \$53,262.

**Membership** – Brad McLaury reported that we are currently at 325 members. Please be sure to check your membership renewal dates and ask new neighbors to join the LSRC, it is vital to the organization for members to stay current and active.

**Capital Improvements** – Linda Pallmann reported that there is an opportunity to set up bike parking corrals in the square. The Brick and Bench program is moving along well with the purchase of 35 bricks and 2 benches.

**Beautification** – Linda Weiner reported that there are eight weeks until the daffodils bloom, be happy!

## **NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

**Arts Council** – Nothing new to report

**Lafayette Park Conservancy (LPC)** – Ward Buckner reported that the annual Wreath-Laying Ceremony will be held on Presidents Day (February 16<sup>th</sup>) from 9:30-11:00am, under the President Washington statue.

**Lafayette Square Business Association (LSBA)** – Lynn Larkin invited the residents to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Souper Sunday to be held on February 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:00pm at SqWires Annex.

**Community Reports** – Barr Branch: Tonnya Joy reported that the library just debuted Hoopla Digital which provides users the opportunity to download and stream videos, audio books and more for a few weeks at a time. Also, on February 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-8:00pm, there will be a star party held at the library using the new telescopes.

**Meeting Adjourned!** (9:20pm)

**AFTER-THE-MEETING SOCIAL**

*Note: There was NO after meeting social held in January. We are still needing members to sign up for the months of May, July, September, October and November. Please contact Matt Negri for signing up or details on hosting an after meeting social.*

Respectfully submitted, Brad McLaury – Membership Secretary

\* Minutes will be voted on at the February 10<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting.