

## MINUTES FOR March 10, 2015 LSRC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting was held at the Lafayette Park United Methodist Church with approximately 50 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 January meeting minutes.

### **ALDERMAN REPORTS**

**7<sup>th</sup> Ward** – Jack Coatar was present to discuss the upcoming election. Mr. Coatar won the primary election in March and is running unopposed in the April General Election. To contact Jack: (314-374-0691) or [Jack@jackcoatar.com](mailto:Jack@jackcoatar.com).

**Christine Ingrassia – 6<sup>th</sup> Ward** – Alderwoman Ingrassia discussed a topic posed by a member about the plans for a gas station to be going in on the corner of Chouteau and Jefferson.

### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

**Joe Wilson, Better Together** – Joe is the Director of Research with Better Together a nonprofit that will develop, compile and publicize the data that St. Louis needs to evaluate whether political reconciliation between the City and County should occur and offer insights into what residents could expect. Six areas that they are looking in to: Public Finance, Economic Development, Public Health, Public Safety, Parks and Recreation, and General Administration. Visit [www.BetterTogetherSTL.com](http://www.BetterTogetherSTL.com) to learn more. To contact Joe: [Joe@bettertogetherstl.com](mailto:Joe@bettertogetherstl.com) (314-651-5295)

**Susan Marino & Hedda Hall, Lafayette Preparatory Academy** – Susan is the Head of School at Lafayette Preparatory. She explained the beginnings of the school, which was formed in 2013. Currently located downtown, the school plans to move to the school building located at 1900 Lafayette Ave. The school was started with a plan to be in a neighborhood, specifically Lafayette Square. Now that the amount of children attending Lafayette Preparatory has grown, the school has moved forward with plans to nail down a permanent location. The school is working with the developer UIC to renovate the property. This is being completed in conjunction with the redevelopment of the church, which was acquired by City Church. The Church also acquired the vacant lot across Mississippi to be used for parking. Currently, the school offers K-3<sup>rd</sup> grades with plans to grow to K-5<sup>th</sup> grades. The school has a goal to close in April and move forward with construction plans.

**B J Vogt, Rain Garden Design Challenge** – Mr. Vogt is with Critical Mass, a nonprofit self-formed visual arts collaborative dedicated to promoting, enhancing and initiating contemporary visual art in the St. Louis region. He explained that this year they are working on accepting submissions for a Rain Garden Design Challenge. The winning design will be installed in Lafayette Square. The fundraiser will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> from 8pm-11pm. For more information visit: [www.criticalmassart.org](http://www.criticalmassart.org)

### **NEW AND ONGOING BUSINESS**

**Spring House Tour (June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>):** We are actively searching for a House Tour Chair and homeowners that would like to volunteer to put their home on tour. Please contact Matt Negri if interested.

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

Houston Smith discussed the SBD initiative. Mr. Smith explained that there was a meeting held last Thursday to discuss the SBD, which was attended by approximately 200 people. The vote in April is related to the actual funding of the SBD, as the SBD is already in place.

### **SAFETY REPORTS**

**Safety** - Tony Krawat discussed that this Monday at 9am there will be a court hearing on a crime that occurred in the Neighborhood. If you are available to attend please contact Tony Krawat for more information. Overall, the past month has been fairly quiet as far as violent crime.

**3<sup>rd</sup> District, Officer Brian Min** – Officer Min welcomed two officers whom reported that there was one burglary at a home being rehabilitated. The 3<sup>rd</sup> district spends majority of time through Gravois area and heavy crime area, however, should you need anything do not hesitate to call 911 and report suspicious activity.

**Problem Properties** – Ron Taylor explained that there is a plan to develop the 4-family off of Jefferson into a single-family. The property has sat vacant for many years. The developer hopes to begin redevelopment by the end of the year.

**Block Captains** – Glenn Eckert was not in attendance.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Development** - Keith Houghton discussed preliminary plans related to two separate redevelopments, which includes the Mop Factory and Praxair. The Mop Factory proposal is commercial and residential mixed use and includes all market rate units, which means there are no low-income options. A multi-family developer may redevelop the Praxair site, however it is still very preliminary at this point.

**Community Affairs** – Jennifer Weston reported that the Country Western run is scheduled to go through the neighborhood on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

**Capital Improvements** – Linda Pallmann explained that plaza work will begin soon. Also, if you know of any grant opportunities that could go to assist the neighborhood, please contact Linda.

**Treasurer** - Kate Francis discussed the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss through the end of February. There were a couple of larger expenses that went through in the month of February related to the substation and down payment on the brick installation.

**Membership** – Brad McLaury reported that personalized renewal reminders are being e-mailed out each month for memberships that are expiring. Please keep an eye out, and renew. Also encourage neighbors to join the LSRC.

**Beautification** – Linda Weiner was not present.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

**Arts Council** – Jennifer Weston did not have anything to report.

**Lafayette Park Conservancy (LPC)** – Ward Buckner reported that the trivia night was a huge success.

**Lafayette Square Business Association (LSBA)** – Lynn Larkin discussed that the Cocktails on the Plaza event is in the works for May. Please encourage friends family and neighbors to get out and support our local businesses.

**Community Reports** – Barr Branch: Tonnya Joy was not present.

Matt Negri explained that there is currently an opening on the LSRC Board for a Member at Large position that was recently vacated.

**Meeting Adjourned!** (8:50pm)

### **AFTER-THE-MEETING SOCIAL**

Many thanks to Linda Weiner for hosting the after meeting social!

***Note: We are still needing members to sign up for the months of 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 April 14<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting.