

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 14, 2014 LSRC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting was held at the Lafayette Park United Methodist Church with approximately 25 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 December meeting minutes.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- **Lisa Otke from Soulard Frenchtown Dog Park** – Residents from Lafayette Square and nearby neighborhoods are welcome to join. The park is $\frac{3}{4}$ acre with two fenced areas. Membership is \$60 for 1 dog and \$20 for each additional dog. There is a coded lock. They require information on dog's shots, etc. They will host their annual Pooches Unleashed Barkus Parade & Party on Sunday, February 23 from 11:30 AM -4:30 PM. The event will include food, drinks, and a king and queen contest. The event raised \$2,300 for rescue groups last year. For more information, visit www.frenchtowndogpark.com.

ALDERMAN REPORTS

- **Phyllis Young – 7th Ward:** Alderwoman Young reported that the Dental School and Clinic (to be located at the SE corner of Park and Truman Parkway) wants to start construction in spring. The remainder of the undeveloped Georgian complex will be completed soon and turned into apartments.
- **Christine Ingrassia – 6th Ward:** Alderwoman Ingrassia reported that she told Marchem building developers that we would not support demolition. She will be receiving more notice on events (such as 5ks) that include road closures. A resident suggested that a lane always be kept open like during the Tour de Lafayette. Regarding the Chouteau rezoning, the new owners of the trucking company have finally been reached and they are looking over the proposal. Alderwoman Ingrassia is working with Washington University and Harris-Stowe College on the Lafayette corridor redevelopment project, located on Chouteau between Jefferson and Grand. Lastly, she reported that the blighting on Dolman and Hickory refers to tax abatement changing from 10 years to 5 years, as Lafayette Square is no longer at a point where 10 year abatements are necessary.

SAFETY REPORTS

- **4th District Police Report** – Captain Kegel reported that he has enjoyed coming to our meetings and working with our neighborhood. He will stay in 4th District, but Lafayette Square will soon be under the 3rd district. Officer Min will continue to be our Liaison Officer. Captain Gwen Spicer was introduced as our new Captain. More officers will be in our district as of January 27 when switch takes place. Community Outreach Officer Joe Calabro was introduced. He has been on the force for 17 years, with 8 years in a community outreach capacity. He suggested we visit www.slpd3d.org for more information about the 3rd District.
- **Officer Brian Min** – Officer Min reported down that we're down 66% in crime to date.
- **Safety** – Safety Chairman Mike Petetit reported that we had an increase of 5 incidents in 2013, but 3 less person on person crimes. We continue to be the 5th safest neighborhood in relation to others our size. The substation will continue to be located on Park Avenue near the current substation. The Park House was considered as an option, but there were several factors that made it not easily viable.

- **Problem Properties** – Don Owens reported that there is no movement on the house that burned down on Dolman.
- **Block Captains** – Glenn Eckert had no report.

HOLIDAY TOUR REPORT

- Jennifer Weston reported that the tour came in \$500 under budget with income \$5,000 over projections. The post-tour meeting will be held on February 4, at 6:30 pm in the Park House. All are invited to attend.
- President Houston Smith reported that the Board will again be responsible for overseeing the next tour. Pat Barber and Kathy Marks-Petetit will have prominent roles. At least 6 homes are confirmed. There will be a big tie-in with STL 250. We are getting a 250th cake, and we will need to decide where it will be located.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Development** – VP Keith Houghton reported on the mop factory: the staff at the state level did not recommend the low-income tax credits. It remains to be seen whether the project is still viable.
- **Community Affairs** – VP Eric Lemmo reported that he has reached out to the organizers of the Hot Chocolate Run as well as a group that organizes local many races. He expressed our frustration with the lack of communication, but is hopeful that future events will have better communication with both the City and our neighborhood.
- **Finance** - Assistant-Treasurer Kate Francis reported on the balance sheet. We incurred a loss of just over \$15,000 for 2013, versus \$6,000 we expected. The cost of maintenance is raising our expenses (the TIF only covers new capital improvements, not maintenance). The Board is discussing alternative revenue streams and is looking for ideas. The large technology expense in 2013 was for our new website. The website should generate money for the LSRC in the near future.
- **Membership** – Membership Secretary Jennifer Weston apologized for not passing around a current membership list. She encouraged attendees to go to the website.
- **Capital Improvements** – Mary Visintainer reported that the MSD grant was submitted and questions have gone back and forth between engineers and designers. We will hopefully hear back in March. Mary asked if anyone knew who created the newer fence at Park and Jefferson. The new Plaza Brick Program will help generate funds to cover maintenance.
- **Beautification**– Linda Weiner reported that major projects for spring will include: replanting along Park Avenue, particularly the diseased rose bushes; making the northwest quadrant more attractive; and a new entrance for the North Community Garden. Contact Linda with suggestions.
- **LSRC Board**—We are projecting a shortfall this year, due in large part to rising maintenance costs. We have two successful fundraisers per year (house tours), but a third event is being considered. Snow

removal was an issue recently and that may be something that residents would like the LSRC to cover in the future.

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION REPORTS

- **Arts Council of Lafayette Square** – President John Weston reported that a new logo is being designed. There will be 8 concerts and 3 or 4 movies this summer. The Council would like to see more people get involved, and for the book club to expand.
- **Lafayette Park Conservancy** – President Ward Buckner reported on the boat house renovation. He showed diagrams and floor plans. Doors will be added to the restrooms allowing usage from outside and inside depending on the type of event. The occupancy permit rating will be for 80 people. A caterer's kitchen will be added. The furnaces will be lifted off the floor to give more storage room. A patio will be added at floor level towards lake. Windows and doors will be replaced with insulated and tempered glass. The City will own the boathouse which means that they will open and close it, decide who can use it, and decide on the fees. The LPC Trivia Night will be held on March 15 at St. Vincent de Paul Church Hall.
- **Lafayette Square Business Association** – Jennifer Weston reported that Souper Sunday will be held on Sunday, February 9 from 4-6 pm in Sqwires Annex. Proceeds will benefit the substation. Jennifer also reported that Andrea Heugatter of Looking Glass Designs donated \$600 (\$50 per month) in support of the substation. Andrea hopes others will be encourage to do the same.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

- **Barr Branch Library** – No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ward Buckner asked for other residents who have mistakenly received traffic violation tickets from the City to contact him.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

AFTER-THE-MEETING SOCIAL

The social was held at the home of Scott & Suzi Jones. Thank you to our hosts!

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Weston –Membership Secretary

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