



**LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE**

**September 10, 2019 SqWires Annex**

**CALL TO ORDER 7:03pm**

**Emily O'Brien**

- **Welcome New Residents:** Gloria on Missouri Ave; Justine and Pete Sasso on Lafayette Ave; Brittany Beasley.
- Motion made and approval of August 2019 minutes

**ALDERMAN REPORTS**

**6<sup>th</sup> Ward**

**Christine Ingrassia**

- Not present.

**7<sup>th</sup> Ward**

**Jack Coatar**

- Not present.

**POLICE REPORT**

**3rd District**

**Officer Sherdon Douglas**

- For the month of August there were 16 crimes:
  - 1 burglary, 15 larcenies
  - Larcenies: 6 were stealing from vehicles with obvious valuables in plain view...not victim-blaming, but this attracts crime; 5 package thefts; A/C unit, trash can, yard statue, and flower pot; 3 attempted car thefts—nothing stolen but ransacked; 1 stolen plate; stolen bumper
  - Larceny at 1800 Lafayette with stolen A/C...Officer Douglas followed up and got video, got plate, found out suspect—now a warrant out!
  - Burglary at 2200 block of Park Ave @2am. Victim was asleep, and car keys were stolen and 2 cars stolen. SUSPECT WAS ARRESTED.
  - Question about meeting between Lyda Crewson and government leaders re: gun violence. Officer Douglas responded that she does not have any information about the discussion.
  - Question about car chases that went through the neighborhood. Officer Douglas responded that she does not know about the specific chases. If provided the time, date, and location, Officer Douglas can retrieve information.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Barr Branch Library**

- Not present.

**NEW AND ONGOING BUSINESS**

**Strategic Plan**

**Emily O'Brien for Linda Weiner**

- Find updates on [lafayettesquare.org](http://lafayettesquare.org) front page. Pop-ups, online survey, and contact information for the consultants are posted.

**Upcoming Elections**

**Houston Smith**

- Many positions are set, but there are several positions that are open.

- There are 4 at-large positions on the board. We attempt to stagger them so that each year there are only 2 that come up for re-election. However, we need to vote on all four this year—two 1-year terms and two 2-year terms so that we can get back on the bi-annual elections for at-large.

**Fence at Carroll/Truman**

**Houston Smith**

- We've been dealing with Empire Fence Company, who are very busy and having trouble getting the project finished but claim that they are working on it.
- In order to finish the project, we cast additional pieces that were missing—finals for around the park and double-axe for side fence gates.
- Asking for allocation of \$5,000 to use these castings to retrofit the Whittemore, Albion, and Hickory gates at Jefferson and entrance feature at Jefferson & Park.
- In budget, we have \$64K in the line item for Capital Improvements, and \$5K would come out of that.
- Motion made and approved.

**Weston Farewell**

**Suzanne Sessions**

- Weston/Skinner Appreciation Party on 9/29 3-6pm at Suzanne's home 1831 Kennett. Please RSVP to Suzanne. (Additional details posted on Nextdoor and LafSq Facebook page.)

**Former Stray Rescue Building**

**Emily O'Brien**

- Owner of the building met with the board last week.
- Looking to put restaurant/bar in there; seat 30 people and 8 at the bar, similar to Sasha's in DeMun. Seeking a parking lease at Wireworks. Does not have a liquor license yet. Seeking a tenant. Would not be open later than 1am.
- Contact at: greg@ryeo.com

**SAFETY REPORTS**

**Block Captains/Safety/Camera Program**

**Glenn Eckert**

- Directories are in process of being distributed. We don't have the most efficient system in place to update residents. Email Jeremy & Kyle for updates for next year.
- No updates on cameras....ongoing work.
- Question re: Ring cameras being tied into police. Answer: Steve Wilde reports that it is untenable to tie the cameras directly into police; technically the police would need logins, passwords, etc. Police said they'll take names of who has cameras, but to keep that list updates is challenging. Police will certainly request video footage if there is a crime on your street. The best thing to do is to be open when an officer knocks on your door and requests footage.

**Problem Properties**

**Kyle Keenan (not present, sent email)**

- Senate Bill 203 became law on 8/28. Reached out to Sandy Colvin (neighborhood improvement activist.) Law allows us to enter property to make assessments on condition without civil retribution when the property has been abandoned for 6+ months. Waiting for list of violations.
- Thank you to neighbors who have been contributing details, photographs, etc. to [lsrcproblemproperties@gmail.com](mailto:lsrcproblemproperties@gmail.com).

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Community Affairs

**Dixie Gillaspie**

- John Dedeke is taking over the editing of the Marquis and is talking to the relevant people. He will make his email address available soon for submissions to the Marquis.

### Capital Improvements

**Mary Visintainer**

- The damaged column has been repaired on Lafayette. Thanks to Matt Negri who has pursued repairs for 14 months!
- Rutger Project: Been looking at possibility of using a different company since they took so long. Have procured bids.
- Mini-Park has had improvements/plantings thanks to John and Nancy Lemmo.
- New street signs: Some have gone up. There was concern about one at Mississippi/Lafayette because it's crooked; the signs are attached correctly, but the pole is not straight!—not under neighborhood jurisdiction (city's).

### Membership

**Christina Ryan**

- Members should be receiving minutes and renewal reminders. If you are not, please email Christina [membership@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:membership@lafayettesquare.org)
- Seeking new and veteran residents/members to highlight for next Marquis.
- Halloween Party on 10/31: Scott and Suzi Jones have graciously funded and organized this event for many years. They will continue to fund the event, and Stephen and Christina Ryan have volunteered to organize it. Be on the lookout for more information in October to volunteer for decorating and bringing candy for the giant assembly line.

### Beautification

**Linda Weiner**

- Neighborhood is looking great!
- Plants/perennials are coming in a few weeks, and Linda will be seeking volunteers for planting as well as redesign of rain garden near the Plaza Fountain.
- Linda Pallman reports that there was a Chainsaw Party in the park, cutting down brush and limbs. Scheduling another "party" on 11/2 @10am.

### Treasurer

**Clark Affholder**

- Clark not present. Reports were sent.
- [treasurer@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:treasurer@lafayettesquare.org)

### LSBA

**Bethany Budde**

- Not present.

### Development

**Phil Lamczyk/Suzanne Sessions**

- Not present.

## NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

### Lafayette Park Conservancy

**Ward Buckner**

- Great lecture Sunday on breweries in Lafayette Square. Square One generously donated the beer.

- In October there will be a lecture on how the Victorians celebrated death.
- People have written initials in slab where bench will go on Lafayette so need to re-level it.
- Parks Dept painted the handrail over the bridge.
- There is a tree that has a significant crack that, if extended, could split the tree. Exploring ways to save the tree (i.e. bolting the tree, pruning)....looking at about \$5K.

**Lafayette Square Arts Council**

**Sue Lindhardt**

- As of this Saturday, finished the concert series—big crowd!
- One more event: Storytelling event next Saturday; then analyzing this year and planning next year.

**ADJOURN:**

**AFTER-MEETING SOCIAL: Thank you, Sqwires!**

- ❖ **Next LSRC Board Meeting is Tuesday, October 1 at the Park House, 7pm (This was changed to Monday September 30 because many board members attended National Night Out celebrations on 10/1)**
- ❖ **Next LSRC General Meeting is Tuesday, October 8 at Sqwires Annex, 7pm**