



Meeting Minutes

David Merideth called the meeting to order at and welcomed new residents to introduce themselves. September meeting minutes were not available.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Barr Branch Library

- Been working on digitizing history files; there's a donated collection (Walter Meek, 2006)—1500 images of houses in LafSq (Search: Lafayette Squarephotographcollection) that are along the park. Not online yet, but call special collections. 1985-1995.
- At Central Library, on 11/18—Stranger Than Fiction Gala: When Worlds Collide celebrates golden era of science fiction; all funds raised go toward literacy programming and after school programming, serving ~30000 students.
- Homework Helpers after school program; kids can come in with their homework and school projects that require research. Find out more on the library's website.

Prob P

- Speaker is Treasurer for Citizens for a Safer STL
- What is it? A use and sales tax to increase money for public safety to be voted on November 7; would raise \$8 million toward police staffing and \$5.4 million allocated to retain and attract top firefighters; \$1.5 million to circuit attorney's office, \$3.9 million use tax toward after school programs, recreation, social work, mental health programs, etc.
- Why the city needs it: To compete with STL County because they have raised officers' pay and officers will begin leaving the city for the county

Rock 'n' Roll Marathon

Natalia Mendez (Community Relations Manager for Marathon)

- Sunday, 10/15; Begins 7am, starts downtown, comes through the square
- Road closures beg at 6:30am, first runners around 7:50am; Roads will reopen around 11:30am
- Volunteers offer their time in the square for garden/landscape maintenance

3rd District

Police Captain Darryl S. Dace

- Officer Sherdon Douglas is our new community liaison officer
- Reiterates Prop P benefits regarding losing officers to the county as well as East STL; other districts with less crime are paying much more for starting salaries

- Pay is not the only reason city officers want to be police officers, they believe in the city; we're still getting good quality applicants, but we need to take care of them with salaries
- **Officer Douglas—Community Liaison for LafSq and Soulard**
 - sdouglas@slmpd.org 314-444-2500
 - Eager to help in any way possible, to connect us with resources, look for trends, talk to people to get info to help detectives, footbeats, etc.; very proactive
 - Update: No longer can generate a CAB report (suspect info, address, synopsis of incident) because Lt. Col. Caruso (with chief's support) is strictly enforcing that this information should not be public; under current chief's command, this is a permanent change.
 - Resident Input: In the past, these reports were used to prevent repeat criminals from entering the neighborhood through a Neighborhood Order of Protection. There is concern that people will not be held accountable because neighborhoods cannot identify them.
 - Officer Douglas's response is that we are welcome to call the public information office: Office manager is Schron Jackson and the supervisor is Leah Freeman. (Post meeting information: their protocol is to be contacted via email (Media@slmpd.org). They want to receive any request in writing first and then either Schron or Leah will contact you.)
 - Criminal Activity for August:
 - 3 robberies
 - 1 aggravated assaults—road rage, gun pointed at driver as changing lanes
 - 1 Burglary/Home Invasion—cameras stolen while person was sleeping
 - 21 larcenies (Soulard had a problem, too)—people leaving things in vehicles (laptops, cameras, cell phones, etc.), majority non-residents
 - 1 vehicle theft
 - Criminal Activity for September:
 - 3 robberies
 - 1 Burglary—money stolen from register, through patio door at Planters House
 - 9 larcenies
 - 1 vehicle theft—owner was drunk...found the car a day later...so...really ZERO 😊
 - Resident Question regarding Juveniles, what can be done proactively—Officer Sheldon is connecting with schools

ALDERMAN REPORTS

6th Ward

Not present

Christine Ingrassia

7th Ward

Not present, but sent updates:

Jack Coatar

- Board of Public Service Engineers are meeting regarding installation of new water lines in the park
- Developer of Mop Factory is finalizing all financing right now; project is moving ahead!

- Ongoing traffic problems at Lafayette Prep Academy—parents are making U-Turns on Lafayette Ave, which is dangerous to drivers and pedestrians→city is going to do something to prevent u-turns
- Amazon: St Clare County/STL County/STL City has come together to promote downtown location

NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS

Capital Improvements

Mary Visintainer

- Brief intro of Truman Fence project (see below)
- Discussing about Dog Park/Run; meeting with residents (more info to come)
- Alderman Coatar willing to spend 100K on cameras at entrances to the agenda (see below)

Truman Parkway Fence Improvements

Mitch Hunt

- Badly deteriorated fence needs replacement along Truman between Park Ave and Carroll St
- Fence is at least 30 years old, chain link fence with barbed wire fencing holders still in place (barbed wire no longer there); Remnants of a parking lot that is no longer there that was for old City Hospital employees; When Truman came through, the parking lot was removed along with 3 sides of the fence. leaving the 1 that is still there today.
- WHY?
 - Safety issue—Gaps over 1 foot in height beneath the fence in places where trees have grown up creating easy entryways through the fence
 - Increase property values
 - Significant number of incidents, suspicious persons, car break-ins, stolen autos, burglaries hold-ups, etc.; SE Quadrant residents have expressed concern about safety
 - Beautification of our neighborhood for us and the thousands of drivers that go by on Truman Ave every day.
- New fence will match existing fence to the immediate north; new fence will join this and will be same in appearance; thicker gauge to save money in repairs.
- HOW?
 - Option A: Paid for by LSRC Funds only; would cost approximately 20,000
 - Option B: Paid for by city and LSRC Funds; would cost approximately 24,000 because a civil design (\$3-4K) is required for bid purposes→12K by LSRC, 12K by Alderman Coatar.
- Timeframe:
 - Option A: Permit only required and then can start whenever; project managed by LSRC
 - Option B: 3-4 month bidding process before we can start; project managed by city.
 - Regardless...LSRC responsible for maintenance
- City has said there is no problem with moving the fence out several feet in order to keep trees to help with some sound abatement.
- Concerns/Ideas Expressed: Maintenance and upkeep, would need to extend insurance; could we dream big and make a soundproofing wall
 - Could fence be extended past Carroll farther up the street?

- There is going to be some landscaping at the end of Carroll to mimic the other side of the neighborhood (i.e. Whittemore/Jefferson); some talk about adding fencing to the end of Carroll to make it cohesive and then run it south to the Zumwalt
- Cap Improvements will research extension

• **MOTION PASSED TO FUND FENCE BY SPLITTING COST WITH CITY**

Cocktails for the Canopy

Linda Pallmann

- Thursday 10/19 6-8pm; Cocktail Party to support maintenance and planting of trees in the park
- Some trees have reached the end of their life, and others are slated to be removed b/c of disease
- Linda has put together a master plan for replanting the park and maintaining those trees post-planting; will set up a fund that will sustain the trees over time
- Tickets can be purchased on LSRC website or at the door \$20/pp

House Tour

Floyd Welsch

- 7 confirmed houses
- Committee Meeting tomorrow (10/11) at Park House
- Beautiful poster in the works by artist/resident Sharon Stockman and printed by Studio 2108
- Looking for raffle donations

Camera Safety Program

David Merideth

- Installation of three cameras at: Lafayette/Truman, Park/Truman, Choteau/Truman
- ~\$40K per intersection
- 2 would have license plate readers—have caught 170+ felony vehicles with these LPRs (if you can track for 2 miles, police can catch them)
- Sidenote: The entire Real Time Crime Center has had turnover with new police chief
- \$85K matching funds are available NOW...if we don't take advantage of this, it will take another 18 months to get another chance!
- Notes Coming out of Resident Discussion:
 - Wherever cameras are with flashing lights→criminals know they are there and crime decreases
 - Trying to get whole 6th and 7th ward involved eventually, but we don't have a commitment from 6th ward (which covers Jefferson intersections) yet, and Choteau and the interchange is owned by MoDot which raises other issues→we need to get involved NOW to take advantage of matching funds
 - Intersections were chosen because they have to belong to a city road and/or have major infrastructure present
 - All the cameras would be identification quality and approved/suggested by police department
 - Walkers will be caught on camera as well as drivers...allows gaining of "points" against juveniles who harass neighborhood/businesses; we don't know percentage of neighborhood

crimes that are committed by people on foot from nearby neighborhoods vs. people in cars (i.e. along Truman)

- Treasurer Input: We have \$191K in reserve, we are required to reserve about \$50K; leaves about 140K to spend on projects, but we don't want to use all of that up! The goal is to do fundraising to raise additional money from residents and businesses to support the camera program.

- **We will vote on this next month.**

SAFETY REPORTS

3rd District

Officer Sherdon Douglas

See previous entry.

VP Safety

John Weston

- Officer Douglas left business cards.
- Substation is in need of HVAC repairs—in discussion with Chris Goodson regarding extending the LSRC's lease to figure out whether to repair or invest in replacing the system. At minimum, the system will need repairs before winter settles in.
- Looking to do renovations to increase storage space.
- Donations of cash and drinks/snacks are always welcome to substation—you can do so online at lafayettesquare.org or give to any board member or contact John Weston personally
- Stay positive! 😊

Problem Properties

Ron Taylor

- ~20 properties are on the list—2 are getting close to coming off; a few other things percolating
- Some have been on for 25 years. 😞
- Trash:
 - Put your trash in your dumpsters!!!;
 - Bulk Pickup—put it by the dumpster if you have one outside or by your own property (i.e. garage)—not next to someone else's!
 - Ron will send Christina city guidelines to post on Nextdoor.

Block Captains

Glenn Eckert

- We are looking for more block captains!!! Please let John Weston know if you are interested.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer

Laura Vowell

- We're in the black! 😊 Under expenditures and over on income.
- Working on reformatting accounting forms for tax accountant.
- Next month will present a draft budget and vote on it in December.
- Please make sure to submit projects before next month to get on the budget.

Capital Improvements

Mary Visintainer

- See earlier notes.

Membership

Jennifer Walsh/Christina Ryan

- Lots of renewing/new members!
- Goals for 2018—membership cards, potential discounts at LafSq businesses and on Kern/Park House rental especially to help recruit new members
- Working on top-secret social event in February 2018—volunteers welcome

Beautification

Linda Weiner

Development

Keith Houghton/Suzanne Sessions

- No major updates
- Next Sunday at Vin De Set is the next *Chateau Corridor Work Session*; main topic is circulation/roads/traffic flow

Community Affairs

Vacant

- No updates

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Lafayette Park Conservancy

- Annual meeting 11/12 from 3-5pm in Kern—come have a glass of wine and take part! Will rededicate Revolutionary War Monument at this meeting.

Lafayette Square Arts Council

- Saturday 11/21 is last Movie in the Park—*Young Frankenstein*. Dress up—there's a costume party! Sqwires will be there with food and goodies.
- Halloween Night Tuesday 10/31, 5:30-7:30pm—Halloween in the Park Party, hay rides around the park, lots of fun!

Lafayette Square Business Association

- Andrea wanted to let us know that money and lots of supplies were donated to schools/teaches who were very grateful!; Please shop at Looking Glass and support our local businesses.

ADJOURN

- **Next LSRC Board Meeting November 7th at the Park House 7pm**
- **Next LSRC General Meeting 7pm, November 14th at Squires Annex**

Election Results:

- All on the ballot were voted in
- Two additional write-in Members-at-Large: Steve Wilde and Mike Jones