



LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE
General Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2017 Squires

CALL TO ORDER 7pm

Houston Smith, President

❖ **Welcome New Residents**

- Jim & Robin “Nimchuck” 1915 Hickory; Jamie & Sam, Dolman; Jill, 2029 Park

❖ **Impact Statements (John Weston, Safety)**—sign petition with “19xx” Park; if there are individuals that are known to be troublemakers, judges like to hear that neighborhoods are involved to ensure that individuals don’t have free range of the neighborhood

❖ **Parlor Tour Art:** Sharon Stockmann has Parlor Tour posters and Xmas Cards; for sale at Looking Glass Designs as well

❖ **Review and approve October 10, 2017 minutes**

GUEST SPEAKER

❖ **Gloves for Grades: Marty Joe Murray Jr., 7th Ward Committeeman**

(FYI: Next Election is April 2018)

- Gloves4Grades was founded in 2016 to promote education for inner city kids. “Gloves4Grades” aims to encourage young amateur fighters, in local recreation boxing gyms, to get focused on their education as another road to opportunity.
- Focused on guiding young fighters by working with coaches and caregivers to motivate the kids to see what opportunities can be presented with hard work and dedication in the ring and in the classroom; kids have to have good grades in return; applying things you learn in school to everyday life
- Expanded now to about 45 students, focus on at-risk neighborhoods
- Awards two scholarships—highest GPA and most improved
- See Flyer for more information as well as www.martyjoemurray.com ; <https://www.gloves4grades.org/>
- *****LSRC has discretionary money to spend and is donating \$250 to this program ☺**

ALDERMAN REPORTS

6th Ward

- Not present

Christine Ingrassia

7th Ward

[Jack Coatar](#)

- Prop P: 58% of the vote in 7th Ward
- Jack serves on the **Public Safety Committee**
 - The director of mediation services is retiring; Jack is co-sponsoring the creation of an *Office of Mediation*, which would have a full-time employee whose job it to recruit, train, and deploy volunteer mediators for neighbor disputes/conflicts.
- Jack serves on the **Urban Development/Zoning Committee**
 - Working on expanding fiber-optic Internet access throughout the city, make market more competitive for providers

- Update on **Mop Factory** (40 units)—they’ve started some of environmental and demo; the big demo is starting in Quarter 1 of 2018
- **CAB Reports:** Police Department used to send out CAB reports (basic info about crimes committed); these have stopped...waiting to meet with Police Chief regarding this; it is a good tool for those working on neighborhood safety issues.
- Neighborhood Questions/Input
 - Thank you for new trees on Hickory, Jefferson → Jack says we can still get trees planted → **let him know if there are any areas where trees are needed.**
 - Prop P concern that the raise won’t happen; Jack says the proposition clearly stipulates that the money will go toward police/fire salaries.

NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS

and vision of this large and exciting development.

❖ Northwest Quadrant Meeting with Bill O’Dell

Houston Smith

- The next meeting with Bill Odell regarding the Chouteau Corridor Project will be on November 28th in the Chouteau room at Vin de Set. (This meeting was previously announced to be in the Jefferson Room on 11/29 so please note the change.) Bill Odell is a Lafayette Square resident and also a lead designer of the development project that will be happening along Choteau. A group of residents has been meeting on a monthly basis to talk about the assets

❖ Membership Meetings

Houston Smith

- Houston proposes meeting monthly; some would be for business and some just for fun!
- Meetings that are non-business meetings, we can invite partner organizations and/or have socials.

❖ Substation

Houston Smith

- We heard Officer Douglas talk about how important the substation is and how grateful officers are for it.
- HOWEVER....we have a significant issue with the HVAC, which has failed. Bids to replace it are around \$6500. Under the rental contract, the landlord stipulates building interior is tenant’s responsibility.
- **Keep the above benefits and expenditure in mind as we figure out how to resolve this issue.**

❖ Holiday Parlor Tour

Floyd Walsh/Pat Jones

- We have 11 houses and the bandstand, as well as a holiday market.
- Sunday December 10; sold over 300 tickets already!
- We have \$1500 in items for the raffles; thanks to Gwen for collecting items; thank you to John Herlihy for his donations of the tree and decorations for the Park House.
- **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for docents, ticket sales, etc. [Sign up HERE to volunteer.](#)**
- Next meeting TOMORROW 11/15 at Park House

❖ 2018 Budget

Houston Smith

- Maintenance increased by \$5,000
- Added to technology budget to help with archiving of historical information about the neighborhood (increase of about \$1500)
- Eliminated \$1,000 for strategic plan
- **Where in the budget is park expenses/conservancy?** doggie bags, bird feed, flowers? Concern that volunteers are paying out of pocket because not enough is budgeted for these expenses.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Need to look at budget and make sure this is included or put it back in.

- The only way we can add to the budget is to let the board know when there is a need
- Motion made to approve budget as it is, seconded. Likely will return to this next month to vote on amended budget that accommodates additional park expenses.

❖ Cocktails for the Canopy recap

Linda Pallmann

- Thank you to Jodn Dedeke & Chelsea Harris, new residents, who jumped in to help execute the event!
- After expenses, **raised about \$4,300**; LSRC is holding money to be used specifically for trees.
- Meridith Perkins was able to partner with other organizations/city/grants to get 32 small trees and 15 bigger trees; 5 new species
- Forestry will be taking down about 12 ash trees this year; new trees are being planted near the location of trees to come down.

❖ Camera Safety Program

David Merideth (not present)→John Weston/Houston Smith

- **Location:** These cameras can only be put outside the neighborhood; Truman/Lafayette, Truman/Park, Truman/Choteau where there are fiberoptics.
- **Cost:** ~\$40K per intersection; but depends on the type of camera (Stationary, LPR, etc.) Basically, we're buying cameras and donating them to the city.
- **Question:** Where and for how long is this footage is held...privacy concerns?
 - Depending on what is decided is best for each intersection, camera may have License Plate Readers and have the ability to see pedestrians as well; some cameras will have the ability to tap in, some are real-time, some will store footage.
- **Question:** Would decoy cameras cost less but have same affect?
 - There are legal issues regarding if a crime happens and someone thinks there's footage when there's not. This is why we are hesitant to put cameras inside the neighborhood.
- **Question:** Technology evolves all the time...will these cameras be outdated within a few years?
 - Technology evolves, but these cameras (20 megapixel) will last a long time, and technology can be applied to older cameras.
- **Question:** What is the purpose of the cameras? We heard Officer Douglas give the statistics...there is not much crime (at least, recently). Do we really NEED them?
 - John Weston: In the neighborhoods that have gotten cameras, the crime has gone down because people can be caught, but also people avoid the cameras.
 - Crime moves around the city...if the city puts up cameras that are then moved, crime goes back up. Thus, alderpeople want permanent cameras put up.
 - We'd be helping the city and helping the neighborhood next to us as well.
- **Question:** Should we look at an SSBD again?
 - We don't have a special taxing district (SBD, SID) like Soulard; they have a lot more money than LafSq because of the special taxing district and the many businesses there. We could consider applying for this again; the last time it was not approved because we did not have a specific enough purpose for the money, but now we would.
- **Question:** Why do we need to decide NOW?
 - Jack has about \$100K for the neighborhood; ~\$16K will go toward Truman fence (although he may fund all of it). Jack wants to put up cameras and would like \$50K from the neighborhood. We need to jump on this now or we won't have another chance for about 18 months.
- **Question of Fairness:** The LSRC money comes from a small number of people—those who pay for memberships, those who volunteer for house tour which raises the bulk of the money. A small

percentage of our residents would be paying a large sum of money for a camera program that would benefit everyone.

- **Question:** Should we be investing in more fences versus cameras?
 - Fences and cameras work together in tandem. Fences help direct people into the neighborhood onto more major thoroughfares, which may have more cameras.
- **Question:** Has the LSRC specifically asked neighborhood businesses for contributions:
 - No.
- **Tabled to next month:**
 - We will have a handout with all the specifics and Real Time Crime Unit statistics.
 - Have a representative from Soulard speak about their camera program.
 - Decide how much LSRC money are we willing to put toward these cameras.

❖ Dog Park

Mike Jones

- Mike and Jeff Baird have been working on this for about a year.
- Have surveyed community on Facebook/twitter/Nextdoor—over 320 responses!
- 92% in favor of establishment of dog park in LafSq; many willing to donate toward foundation of the dog park—over \$15K in pledges from people who actually shared their names/emails; Nestle Purina Beneful Dog Park Project will donate money as they did for Lucas Park and Frenchtown in Soulard.
- Working with Julia Middlestaff who is the founder and manager of Frenchtown Dog Park in Soulard
- There are 14 people willing to be board members of the dog park and dozens more willing to help with maintenance, writing grants, etc.
- Lots of momentum...asking LSRC to:
 - provide a piece of land with clear title
 - to work with Dog Park to work under general liability insurance umbrella of LSRC
 - grant of \$10K

❖ Murder Mystery Night

Christina Ryan/Jackie Gewinner

- Social Event on Saturday, February 3—save the date!
- Will be selling advanced tix to LSRC members in January.
- Look for “teasers” with more info throughout December.

❖ Needed Positions on LSRC Board

Houston Smith

- Treasurer Elect and Community Affairs are still open; Kim Peterson is Board Secretary.

SAFETY REPORTS

❖ 3rd District

Officer Sherdon Douglas

- Crime stats: 1 Auto theft, vehicle recovered; 29 larcenies; Officer Douglas distributed more information cards for cars with theft over \$100 and did building checks.
- Arrest on 10/31: Jason Bratman, who was committing some of the above larcenies, was arrested at Park and Dolman. The Nextdoor description was very helpful to Officer Douglas! He was charged w/felony stealing; \$10K bail; will be able to have a neighborhood order of protection
- From 11/1-11/13: No larcenies, robberies, aggravated assaults, theft→likely the result of the arrest of JB, descriptions on Nextdoor, calling in incidents, etc.
- On 11/4, there was a suspect rummaging through vehicles, he was positively identified by a resident.
- Gunshots heard recently near 18th street came from the highway where two people were shooting at each other.

- Three robberies: Midwest Petroleum, Quiktrip, Clementines→Pierre Rodgers & Abdul (last name?) were arrested for all three...\$200K bail
- Substation: Thank you for the substation! Keeps officers within reach of their area so that they don't have to go all the way to the central station; drinks are appreciated
- Tour of LPA: met with Exec Director Susan Marino, was a very positive experience!

❖ **VP Safety**

John Weston

- Clubs available for \$13 (at cost)
- Advice/Suggestions: Keep car doors locked, porch lights on, know your neighbors, know your block captain (contact Glenn Eckert)
- It's the season for package theft—be aware.
- Officer Douglas's cards are available
- Please donate to the substation if you're able

❖ **Problem Properties**

Ron Taylor

- Not present

❖ **Block Captains**

Glenn Eckert

- Directories are being distributed; extras available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

❖ **Treasurer**

John Schoemehl

- Under-budget on expenses and tracking on income.
- Cocktails for the Canopy was very successful

❖ **Capital Improvements**

Mary Visintainer

- Met Friday with BPS to look at beautification in SE and NW; also discussed severe problem at the school with traffic, as well as fiberoptics through the neighborhood
- Reiterated concern of beautification/capital improvements being returned to the budget.

❖ **Membership**

Christina Ryan

- Membership cards now available!
- Working with LSBA on discounts for LSRC members; e.g. extra points on [St Louis Originals card](#).

❖ **Beautification**

Linda Weiner

- Not present

❖ **Development**

Phil Lamczyk/Suzanne Sessions

- LPA expanding campus—not increasing footprint but putting on additional floor (the original plan for that building was for a 3-story building); building on the current land; LPA pitched last month to the Development Committee, which provided input and suggested improvements.
- Revising ordinance standards—Particular area being looked at is new construction and avoiding “cookie-cutter” design; including new language about larger projects; will present revisions at future LSRC meeting. Jane Cameron from Cultural Resources has been attending these meetings.

❖ **Community Affairs**

Vacant

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

❖ **Lafayette Park Conservancy**

- Just had annual meeting on 11/12/17

- Finished 9-year project of refurbishing revolutionary war cannons and put together brochure for purchase for \$5; in process of fixing up the base.
- Rest of pathways in the park paved (mostly Park and Missouri side)
- Entry gates at corner of Park & Mississippi were rebuilt and restored, and by end of year should have mid-Lafayette gates in place
- Need more gardening volunteers...currently putting gardens to bed and working in greenhouse in Forest Park in the winter
- Bandstand is on Parlor Tour: will have a Xmas Tree in the center along with photos displayed---there is a group working toward refurbishing the bandstand.

❖ **Lafayette Square Arts Council**

John Weston

- Movie/concert season is done! Will start up again at Spring House Tour.
- Reminder that this group accepts donations.

❖ **Lafayette Square Business Association**

- No updates.

ADJOURN

- ❖ **Next LSRC Board Meeting December 5th at the Park House 7pm**
- ❖ **Next LSRC General Meeting 7pm, December 12th at Squires Annex**