



LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

December 11th, 2018 Sqwires Annex

CALL TO ORDER 7pm

Emily O'Brien

- **Welcome New Residents**
- **Review and approve November 2018 minutes**

Special Announcement

Dave Visintainer

- When we get a crime in the neighborhood and are aware the suspect has been arrested, we can do a neighborhood impact statement and issue an order of protection.
- A couple months ago there was a robbery/ carjacking on Missouri; police arrested the suspect almost immediately and the suspect has been charged.
- We have a cover letter to the judge and are asking for signatures so that this person is not allowed back in the neighborhood. → signature page is passed around the meeting.
- Neighbor Comment: In years past, judges have commented that this IS affective.

ALDERMAN REPORTS

6th Ward

Christine Ingrassia

- **Choteau/Praxair site:** Passed "perfection" and moving to the 3rd reading and final passage for development. (Highlights: many kinds of residences, highest standard of environmental building, commitment to local and minority owned businesses in both the construction and commercial use)
- **Soccer stadium resolution** has passed (28 to 1)...not as much protection for the city as desired (e.g. having offices and practice facilities in the city; if St Louis is awarded a team, need to do some work to make sure that this is beneficial on the city.

7th Ward

Jack Coatar

- **Additional soccer info:** resolution passed 28 to 1; there will be 300 million in private investment, private ownership group wanting to pay for the team. The reason we passed the resolution is to show the city's support for the project. The city will keep ownership of the land (which currently has nothing on it paying taxes). Building the stadium will be all private money.
- **America Center:** Board perfected 35 million in upgrades to the America Center downtown; the insides are tired, and we're struggling with convention business, some of which has to do with the condition of the building. The debt on the dome is about to be paid off in the next couple of years with the restaurant/use taxes, and then we can use that money toward the convention center. The county is looking at repurposing their money as well. The city/county both have to pass t.

- **Lafayette Park Advisory**new trees, keeping bathrooms open spring through fall. Parks doesn't have the manpower to keep them open in the winter because they have a lot of seasonal employees. There has been some vandalism. Working with the Capital Improvements committee to use War Capital Funds for new projects.
- **Camera Project**—there has not been any movement on it lately.
- **New historic code** (Christine is primary sponsor, and Jack is co-sponsor) will go before the Board of Alderman *tomorrow*. Most of the changes have to do with the NW quadrant and the Praxair development. The goal is to get those through a committee hearing (housing/zoning?) and get them passed before the beginning of February; not expecting much dissention. Jack will let us know when the hearing is and if neighborhood representation is beneficial.

POLICE REPORT

3rd District

Officer Sherdon Douglas

- November—9 crimes (down 6 from October). No robberies or assaults. 8 larcenies and 1 theft. The larcenies are package thefts off of porches. If you can have your packages delivered to work or connect with a neighbor, that's a suggestion. Other larcenies were thefts from vehicles (wallet, cell phone).

GUEST SPEAKER

Looking Glass Designs

Andrea Huegatter

- Announced in October that we would be closing after 10 years. The reason is that the shop hasn't broken even in 4 years.
- Monthly overhead before ordering anything is between 8500-9200/month.
- Online ordering is just a fact, but supporting brick and mortar businesses pay local taxes, employ local people, connect and talk with residents, have a beneficial relationship with the restaurants, etc.
- Following the announcement, several neighbors suggested running the shop as a co-op/collaborative of artist that would rent space. Rebranding as Looking Glass Local: Do Good in Your Neighborhood. The artists would keep 90% of their profit if they agreed to work 8 hours/month in the shop, which would cover overhead.
- The plan in February is to start a collective. Spread the word on social media—like/love it, share it.
- If we want to support the business district—and the LSRC—It might be time to look at hiring someone to market our neighborhood and keep it thriving (and/or advocate for renters.)

NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS

Parlor Tour/Spirited Holiday Past recap

Pat Jones/Floyd Welsh

- Great tour! Net of about \$57K. Expenses won't be more than \$7K so made about \$50K!!!
- The budget we will see tonight doesn't reflect the up-to-date income of the tour.
- We limited day-of sales to 500 tickets, sold until 2:45. Ended online sales a day early. Total paid people was 2666 plus volunteers and guests of homeowners.

- Pat took over running meetings; Floyd worked more behind-the-scenes. Plenty of room for new people on the committee!
- Spring Tour is the 50th anniversary! Will start working in January to properly plan and brand this special tour.
- Thank you to all of the volunteers!
- On December 1, there was an event called Spirits of Holiday Past, on which the McAvoy's' house was one of 26 sites. The LSRC made about \$1100 with 170 people. Mike and Pat are working with Historic St Louis on representing the Square for future events.
- Regarding capping ticket sales: Last year there were about 3300 people; wait times were almost an hour, there were far too many people going through the homes, and people were unhappy that they couldn't see all the homes. So this year, we aimed for 2300 to make the entire tour more manageable for tourgoers, homeowners, and volunteers. We could improve in making the capping more known to the public, some of whom were surprised they could not buy online on Saturday.

Recognition committee proposal

Mike Jones

- Tabled until next month.

2019 Budget

Clark Affholder

- Still getting hammered out. We had budgeted for \$16K...and we have \$50K from house tour!
- A lot of the budget was copied from the previous year, and we need to make sure that we reflect reality in more detail.
- Looking to clear about \$33K net income, which includes 15-16K of reserved capital improvement expense. Our operations will net about \$48K net income.
- The balance sheet is a little outdated from not catching recent deposits from the house tour. We are currently sitting on \$296K cash; \$145K is reserved for future expenses.

Murder Mystery

Christina Ryan

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SAFETY REPORTS

Safety

John Weston

- Officer Douglas talked about not leaving stuff in your car; leave a blanket in your car to cover stuff up! 😊
- Package thefts—it stinks, but that's the way it is. Cameras help, know your neighbors.
- Substation—please support the substation with donations, snacks, drinks, etc. We need to make some improvements to the 3rd floor for storage, the archives, etc.
- Committee meetings vary between the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of the month; please contact John to make sure.

Problem Properties

Ron Taylor

- We have about 12 properties; 10 residential and 2 commercial.

- **1625-27 Carroll:** Owner is deceased, and children are taking over. Phil sent photographs and a letter detailing concerns on December 3 to the family's representation on December 3. There is a dumpster there, but there has been no progress.
- **Cobblestones between Choteau and Park:** Contractors/utilities do not replace cobblestones. We have been trying to get an agreement at the city level. Christine invited Ron to a public utilities at which the Streets Commissioner was present, who produced an excavation permit that goes out to the contractors, requiring them to restore streets to their original condition. No new agreement is necessary.
- **Beyond Mapping Decline Nuisance Properties Workshop:** 25K vacant properties and only 7K have buildings. In our neighborhood we have about 20. They affect our neighborhood. There is legal help if the property is vacant, tax-delinquent, or against code.
- Ron and Don are "retiring" from the committee. Philip Penrose and David Brax are stepping up! 😊
- Scientology building: They cleaned up some stuff, built new steps, knocked down the building next door...they were *supposed to* put in new windows, but they are just boarded up.
- Planters House window has been out since April.

Block Captains/Alleys

Glenn Eckert

- Who needs Block Captains? Hickory 2000, 2300; Park 1900, 2200; 18th St; Lafayette 2500, 1700; Nicholson Pl; Simpson; Rutger 2300
- Block Captain Meetings are quarterly and at SqWires.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LSBA

Bethany Budde

- No updates.

Capital Improvements

Mary Visintainer

- Moving Forward: Rutger Entry (thanks to Christine pushing it ahead)
- Hydrant got moved at end of Carroll; new sidewalk and fence on cul-de-sac

Membership

Christina Ryan

- 180 general/household memberships
- Membership cards are always available for anyone who would like one.
- Tax letters will be going out to those who are members at the Preservationist + levels.
- If you're wondering anything about anything in the neighborhood, and don't know who to contact, email your membership secretary and they'll put you in touch.
- If you are not getting emails, let Christina know.

Beautification

Linda Weiner

- No updates.

Development

Phil Lamczyk/Suzanne Sessions

- Alderpeople updated on historic code.

- Phil is looking to pass the House Tour Volunteer Sign-Up role onto a new person.
- Development meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month as long as there is something on the agenda.

Community Affairs

Dixie Gillaspie

- Many people step up in big ways and little ways. The House Tour is more than just a house tour; whatever people are doing to help make this neighborhood a great community, thank you! We can't attract people to the house tour based on houses alone.
- If you haven't volunteered...please think about how you can spare just a couple of hours. Let us know what you can do and what you want to do, and we'll find something for you. And invite your neighbors to help make them more part of the community.

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Lafayette Park Conservancy

- See Park Notes.

Lafayette Square Arts Council

- Thank you for support throughout the season. Will start up again with the Spring House Tour.
- Always interested in new members and new ideas. Looking for new partnerships—schools, churches, etc.
- Meet 4th Wednesday of the month at the Park House, BUT it's a small group so that may vary.

***As applicable, all committees updated membership on when their meetings are.

ADJOURN 8:12pm

AFTER-MEETING SOCIAL: Thank you, Sqwires!

NOTE: The first Tuesday in January is the 1st, so the meeting schedule is adjusted!

- ❖ Next LSRC Board Meeting is Tuesday, January 8th at the Park House, 7pm→ **MEETING CHANGED TO MONDAY JANUARY 7** (as of 1/2/19)
- ❖ Next LSRC General Meeting is Tuesday, January 15th at Sqwires Annex, 7pm→ **MEETING CHANGED TO TUESDAY JANUARY 8** (as of 1/2/19)