



LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

December 12, 2017: Sqwires Annex

CALL TO ORDER 7pm

Houston Smith, President

- ❖ Welcome New Residents
- ❖ Reviewed and approved November 14, 2017 minutes

GUEST SPEAKER: Bill O'Dell and ongoing plans for NW Quadrant

- Interesting drawing of the 3rd or 4th iteration of the highway the state wanted to put in Lafayette Square
- **Next meeting** will be in mid-January on a Sunday afternoon 3-5pm
- Bill and his partners are VERY OPEN to accepting feedback from the neighborhood.
- **Question: How many living units are being proposed?** Not counting the hotel, plans vary, but in the 450 range of apts/condos; all the drawings from the last meeting were labeled apartments, but will do condominiums if possible
- **Question: What kind of pressure will there be on the park?** Are green spaces included? In the plans, there is quite a bit of green space—meaningful outdoor space, including a dog park.
- **Question: What does the Choteau Greenway have to do with this project?** [The Choteau Greenway](#) is a competition project to connect the riverfront to Forest Park/Wash U along a corridor...probably along the train tracks. If the right plan comes together, and we can make a connection as a neighborhood, it could be very positive.
- **Question: How tall will the tallest building be? Is there a code about how many stories we can have within the historic district?** The tallest is 9 stories, on Choteau. The Hickory plot is 2-3 stories and the buildings get higher going north; because of the elevation different, it won't look as high from the center of the neighborhood. New construction within the historic code is different from maintaining older buildings; the code revision will include more information and give guidance for larger projects. Any building has to fit with the other buildings on the block; since the NW quadrant is mostly vacant, there is not much restriction there.
- **Question: Are there investors at this point? Will this project actually happen?** Yes, there are investors. When the project is approved, it will be built—in stages. **Some of the pieces will be paid for by the developers.** Bill and his partners own the land and will stay in control of the project.
- **Question: Can we have a tab on the website with current updates about the project?** Yes, but it's a fluid plan so understand that things are changing.

ALDERMAN REPORTS

6th Ward

Christine Ingrassia

- Not present

7th Ward

Jack Coatar

- **Choteau Greenway:** 4 design teams selected; January 4 @ 5:30pm at Sheet Metal Workers Hall on Choteau introductory meeting to meet the design teams. January 6 @ 9am @ Harris Stowe University

- **City Hall:**
 - Community Mediation Bill (co-sponsored by Jack) will formalize mediation process and bring it under the city's problem properties department with 1 full-time employee to coordinate volunteers.
 - 33 story tower @ corner of Clark and Broadway—will grow the population base and businesses downtown.
- **Questions:**
 - AT&T Building: Nothing happening...owners would like to sell it; it's completely vacant, there's no parking for the building; it's one of two 2 million sq ft buildings that are vacant (other is the Railway Building....apartments, hotels, retail)
 - Union Station Project: Groundbreaking on the aquarium in one of the wings; adding hotel space, adding a ferris wheel→Family friendly hotel (they run the Polar Express)
 - Mop Factory: Should start construction in February; developer has a history of moving fast; this developer is also doing a 5-story building on south side of Soulard at 7th and Barton.

NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS

- ❖ **Membership Meetings- January** **Houston Smith**
 - Social Event for the entire neighborhood—to have a little fun! Other organizations (LPC, Arts Council, etc.) will present information
 - Business events on even months; social events on odd months.
- ❖ **Holiday Parlor Tour** **Floyd Walsh**
 - Raffle: Steven Tuhy won sports raffle; Carol Fisher won “explore the city” raffle. 😊
 - ~3100 tickets sold!!! Day of sales were ~800. →\$65,000 revenue...**net over \$58K!!!** (last year was net \$28K)
 - Feedback from crowds.... Long waits and taxing on volunteers. How can we handle this better?
 - This committee has done a GREAT job! Always looking for more volunteers.
 - **Question: What are the restrictions on vendors? Are there options in the future for food stands?** In the past, Benton Place has done a stand...it's a great idea? (Michael Apert) We do have to be careful that vendors don't conflict but complement businesses in the neighborhood.
- ❖ **2018 Budget** **Houston Smith**
 - Follow up on Park expenses...that was in the budget under the LPC (Lafayette Park Conservancy)
 - Keep in mind that on December 31, the budget is closed, and \$\$\$ doesn't roll over→all requests need to be made by year's end.
- ❖ **Camera Safety Program** **David Merideth**
 - There is \$75K left in Jack's “bucket” and it does not expire, but it needs to be earmarked. There are several things we can ask Jack to pay for---the Truman Fence (\$26K)
 - We have a Projects Committee that is putting together a 5 year capital plan, which will include the camera project.
 - The board voted to support a camera plan, but felt like they needed more information so we can dictate to the city what we want.
 - David: (referring to map)
 - **The red dots** are the locations along major routes that the Real-Time Crime Center think will be the best locations to help the crime. LPR's require 1 per lane per direction (~\$5K per camera). You can either have fixed cameras (minimum of 2-4) or you can get a pan-tilt rotate camera (\$20-40)→This is where we

came up with ~\$40K per intersection. These locations would be owned, operated, maintained...but NOT replaced by the city.

- The blue dots do not have access to fiber-optic cables; there is a plan in place to try to get cameras at these locations, which much be sponsored with wifi. They cannot be owned or operated by us; the company would grant access to Real Time Crime Center to tap into those feeds whenever neighborhood.
- There have been meetings with 10 neighborhoods (all those in 6th and 7th wards) with Real Time Crime Center to get cameras and License Plate Readers to cover all of Jefferson and Gravois → where there are long stretches of LPR's, if they can track for two minutes, they can catch people.
- ~80% of the staff at the Real-Time Crime Center has turned over so there has been a slow-down of information....until we get a permanent police chief, probably will not get a lot of information.
- We need to have an initial commitment: Jack wants to have SOME money committed so that the process can get rolling. Although the \$\$\$ probably won't be spent for 2 years, if they start studying it now, we can work on raising other funds
- Soulard is ~\$400K invested in cameras.
- City is limited to 3 vendors right now....the neighborhood coalition would like to see it opened up to more vendors.
- **Question: How do the other neighborhoods pay for theirs?** Soulard and CWE have money coming in through SBD (Special Business District); Soulard's only goes toward safety. No one else has one yet.
- **Question: Do we want to spend LSRC money to put cameras on the main thoroughfares?** Those catch the felon vehicles coming and going....what they have seen is that crime overall drops because criminals are worried about being seen.
- **Ideas/Thoughts:**
 - Subsidize residential cameras?
 - This program is on hold (until new police chief?), but you can voluntarily put your household camera in the police database.

- The board will give a dollar amount (\$20K) to Jack for seed money to which we're committed. (NOT to match)
The board will provide the general membership with a more detailed plan for how to fund this.

❖ **Projects Committee**

Houston Smith

- We need additional volunteers for the Project Committee to look at a comprehensive safety plan (including the camera project and other major investments for LafSq, perhaps put together a SBD plan for the neighborhood.
- Bumpouts McKay/Missouri, features at end of Albion, closings at 18th/Lafayette....all done with Projects Committee guidance (and TIFF money, which is almost gone).

❖ **Murder Mystery Night**

Christina Ryan

- In need of volunteers to help decorate, serve, coat check.
- Be on the lookout for the final details! Tickets will be discounted for LSRC members for a 5-day window.
- Pre-casting available for enthusiastic actors!

❖ **Treasurer Elect (Clark Affholder), Community Affairs**

Houston Smith

SAFETY REPORTS

❖ **3rd District**

Officer Sherdon Douglas

- 5 crimes for month of November: 1 aggravated assault (1000 block of Dolman, friends arguing); 2 larcenies (1 @ S18th, friend took items; 1800 Choteau, unlocked vehicle); 1 attempted auto theft (McKay, nothing taken); auto theft at 1800 Park, surveillance video so can follow up
- December 1-12: 2 crimes (larceny—package theft and an auto theft @Midwest Petroleum)

- Police are doing patrols on a daily basis, and Officer Douglas follows up on all calls and emails.
- Houston Smith: Regarding the newspaper article...
 - We encourage everyone to report everything that happens, which pushes up numbers
 - If you go through the actual crimes, almost everything is nuisance crimes like stealing from a car, package theft.
 - There is a lot of reporting of gunshots...they can be occurring up to a mile away and still sound like they are close.

❖ **VP Safety**

John Weston

- Clubs available for \$13 (at cost)
- Donations always welcome for the substation—drinks, snacks, money
- Looking for a supplement heater while repairs are being done in the substation.

❖ **Problem Properties**

Ron Taylor

- 20 total properties; 6 big and 14 small properties→7 with no movement and in some cases worse; 7 in which some type of action--1 is off the list; 2 undergoing gut rehab; 1 improved structurally but not cosmetically or interior; 1 with change in occupants...made it more stable; 1 with outside chance that owners changed occupations and may have time to work on house; 1 tomorrow going to preliminary court hearing...problem since 1995
- There is city money to make sure dumpsters are in working order

❖ **Block Captains**

Glenn Eckert

COMMITTEE REPORTS

❖ **Treasurer**

John Schoemehl

- Budget is finished; project committee will be coming with some budget items.

❖ **Capital Improvements**

Mary Visintainer

- No updates.

❖ **Membership**

Christina Ryan

- Having great success with renewals, but not many new members. We (as active LSRC members) are the best advertising for new members; let your neighbors know what the LSRC does and encourage them to join.

❖ **Beautification**

Linda Weiner

- No updates.

❖ **Development**

Phil Lamczyk/Suzanne Sessions

- Working on historic standards revision, particularly in new construction area.
- LPA construction will be starting.

❖ **Community Affairs**

Vacant

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

- ❖ **Lafayette Park Conservancy**—Will have a table at January’s social meeting.
- ❖ **Lafayette Square Arts Council**—Donations accepted!
- ❖ **Lafayette Square Business Association**

After Meeting Social

Tom and Merry Dahms- 1525 Missouri

ADJOURN

- ❖ **Next LSRC Board Meeting January 2nd at the Park House 7pm**
- ❖ **Next LSRC General Meeting is a Neighborhood Social, 7pm, January 9th at Squires Annex**