

MINUTES FOR MARCH 11, 2014 LSRC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting was held at the Lafayette Park United Methodist Church with approximately 25 residents in attendance. Vice-President Matt Negri called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed new residents and guests. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the February meeting minutes.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- **Marius Johnson—Better Together Outreach Director:** Better Together is conducting a series of studies to examine municipal service delivery by function. The studies will be sequential and will include: Public Finance; Economic Development; Public Health; Public Safety; Parks, Recreation & Infrastructure; and Administration. Their goal is to provide the public with data so they can make an informed decision. They hope to finish by end of the year. They want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to provide feedback, not just City and County leaders. For more information, visit their website BetterTogetherSTL.com.
- **Michael Brockland—Haar & Woods, LLP:** Spoke about Senate Bill #731. Mr. Brockland is a member of a Bar Association of Metro St. Louis volunteer group that is interested in helping the city counselor's office and neighborhood associations in dealing with problem property actions brought to court. Sponsored by State Senator Jamilah Nasheed. The bill will allow neighborhood organizations to bring common law nuisance suits against problem property owners. There is already a bill like this in Kansas City. The goal is to enforce abatement. Looking for feedback from residents.
- **Zack Chasnoff –Participatory Budgeting:** Alderwoman Ingrassia has put up 40% (\$100,000) of her budget for this process. Residents have come up with proposals. Project Expos will be held on Saturday, March 29, from 3-5 pm. Feedback will be taken. This is the first time this process has happened in the City of ST. Louis. It will address the biggest needs of the ward as a whole. The project most applicable to Lafayette Square is a proposed crosswalk at Lafayette and Jefferson.
- **Jeffrey Boyd—Alderman 22nd Ward:** Alderman Boyd spoke about the Board of Alderman sponsoring a Veterans Preference Hiring Program, which will be on the ballot in November. The measure would give veterans “a leg up” on obtaining employment, but it does not guarantee a job. Veterans still must qualify. Alderman Boyd also announced that he is running for License Collector. He wants to streamline government and make it easier to get a business license.

ALDERMAN REPORTS

- **Phyllis Young – 7th Ward:** No report.
- **Christine Ingrassia – 6th Ward:** Alderwoman Ingrassia was not in attendance but sent her report via email.
 - The Parks Department will be out tomorrow to remove the dead fish from the lake. The theory is that the rapid change in temperature killed the fish. A biologist with the Department of Conservation will confirm the water quality is where it needs to be.
 - We are moving forward with rezoning Chouteau without Vanguard Trucks, as the owner of the property isn't comfortable up-zoning at this time.
 - Alderman Ingrassia set aside up to \$30,000 in ward capital funds for the bump out/traffic calming plans for Missouri and Mackay.

- MODOT's study of the Chouteau/Mississippi found there isn't evidence to support a stop light at this intersection. One of the suggestions was to remove the entry features, as they are impeding the view of drivers. She is working with Streets on additional ideas and will get back to the neighborhood with thoughts soon.
- As an aside, she scheduled a meeting on April 2nd with Great Rivers Greenway, Chouteau businesses, MODOT and a Lafayette Square representative to begin discussions about a corridor plan for Chouteau, which would include traffic-calming measures.

SAFETY REPORTS

- **3rd District Police Report** – Captain Mary Warnecke introduced herself as the new Captain for the 3rd District. Captain Gwen Spicer retired. Captain Warnecke was most recently in the Special Operations Department. The core mission of her job has not changed, even with redistricting and new leaders. She commended Lafayette Square for being involved. She is excited to be our captain again. She also coordinates training of police officers in how to interact with mentally ill—Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). Can ask for a CIT trained officer if needed.
- **Officer Brian Min** – Officer Min reported that we've had no crime in last 3 weeks. However it is getting warmer and crime typically goes up during the warmer months. Be careful with leaving items in your car. He also reminded residents to make sure that their contractors are not dumping illegally, putting construction debris in alley dumpsters. He encouraged residents to call him if you witness it. Call 911 and Brian for quality of life issues.
- **Safety** – Safety Chairman Mike Petetit reported that the substation has moved as of Monday to 1927 Park Avenue (above Ricardo's). He thanked Andrea for allowing us to rent space from her for three years. He thanked Chris Goodson for leasing us the new space for \$250 per month plus utilities. He also thanked Scott Jones and Dave Gratz for donating funds to cover the move. And he thanked Dave Gratz, Scott Jones and Tim Delahanty for helping move. Lastly, he thanked Roy Peterson for donating some of his time to renovate the new space.
- **Problem Properties** – No report.
- **Block Captains** – No report.

SPRING TOUR

13 homes on tour. House tour information on website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Development** – VP Keith Houghton reported that there are three houses under construction with a fourth starting construction within the month on Dolman north of Park. A developer is interested in building homes next to the Spay Neuter Clinic on Rutger.
- **Community Affairs** – Matt reported that new features have been added on the LafayetteSquare.org website.

- **Finance** - Assistant Treasurer Kate Francis reported that there has not been any significant change in the last two months. We have \$81,043 in Savings, and \$51,409 in Checking.
- **Membership** – Membership Secretary Jennifer Weston passed around membership lists and encouraged expired members to rejoin.
- **Capital Improvements** – No report, however Mary was commended for the many hours she has put into the Capital Improvements and MSD Grant work.
- **Beautification**– Linda Weiner reported that pots are being replaced. On Sunday, Students Today, Leaders Tomorrow will help with beautification in the neighborhood. Volunteers will be needed soon to help with beautification and maintenance throughout the neighborhood.
- **LSRC Board** – The Board has been discussing the house tour, the MSD grant, and the substation move. LSRC Board meetings will now be held at 6:30 on the first Tuesday of the month in the Park House.

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION REPORTS

- **Arts Council of Lafayette Square** – Season will start house tour weekend.
- **Lafayette Park Conservancy** – Larry Dodd reported that construction has begun on the boathouse and is supposed to be completed within 2 months. The LPC has identified 10 sections of fence that need to be repaired. Tables are still available for trivia night. The LPC is working on getting new bridge railings approved by the City.
- **Lafayette Square Business Association** – Lisa Young reported that the LSBA will be updating their brochure by the house tour. There are many new members. She thanked the Events & Services Committee—the new website is “gorgeous and user friendly”. The 2nd Annual Cocktails on Plaza will be held on Thursday, May 22.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

- **Barr Branch Library** – No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 250th Anniversary cake has arrived, located on Park & Mississippi corner of Park.
- After-meeting social host needed for April.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

AFTER-THE-MEETING SOCIAL

The social was held at Glenn and Pat Eckert’s home. Many thanks to our hosts!

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Weston –Membership Secretary

* Minutes will be voted on at the April General Meeting.