



**LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE**  
**June 12, 2018: Sqwires Annex**

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**CALL TO ORDER 7pm**

**Houston Smith, President**

❖ **Welcome New Residents**

- Jerry and Catherine Farrell (old and new ☺)—Jerry was LSRC President years ago!

❖ **Review and approve May 8, 2018 minutes**

**ALDERMAN REPORTS**

**6<sup>th</sup> Ward**

**Christine Ingrassia**

- Bill to do away with reduction in alderman (citizens voted on in 2012 to go from 28 to 14 by 70%):
  - Board of alderman have initially voted but need 20 votes to pass (at 19)...stalled
  - If it passes then it will be on the April 2021 ballot
  - One of the main issues is the time required for constituent services without any administrators
  - Next census is 2020 and will redistrict with citizen input
- Bill to retool residency requirement, allowing for anyone appointed by mayor to not have to live in city boundaries
- Updating building codes, especially energy codes, may have some impact on new homes being built
- Short-term rental ....state legislature is in recess so have more time to work on this regulation; trying to find balance between very regulated B&Bs and not regulated at all Air B&B
- Pest Infestation in Clinton Peabody; pests were not a result from poor housekeeping of residents
- A lot of the criminal activity in C.P. is not from within that neighborhood
- Fireworks: have reached out to police department...."hope to address it"

**7<sup>th</sup> Ward**

**Jack Coatar**

- Re: Reduction in alderman: Jack is firmly against reversing the citizens vote
- Re: Building Codes: These are from 2009 and are out of date; ultimately will adopt a forward thinking building code with environmental efficiency without stymying new construction in areas that really need it
- Re: Fireworks: the special officers assigned to that housing complex will distribute flyers about the dangers of fireworks (?!) and additional patrols; this is going on in other neighborhoods as well; reaching out to the managers of these complexes
- City Budget: moving along; Jack is on streets/parking committee....to get more of the parking/ticket money goes toward the city's budget and services
- Increase in crime in Soulard: armed robberies, homicide, shooting—many of the robberies have been solved; cameras on periphery of that neighborhood are helpful in solving these crimes

## POLICE REPORT

### 3rd District

Officer Sherdon Douglas

- May had 10 crimes—7 larcenies: stealing from a building with shared basement; valet parked car with stolen wallet; other 5 were items stolen from vehicles possibly unlocked b/c no damage; 3 auto thefts all recovered (1 the same day)
- Followed up on Nextdoor post regarding neighbor with unleashed dog; this person has a permit to walk the dog w/o a leash → Clarification: Police do NOT monitor Nextdoor but appreciate and respond to emails.
- **Nextdoor is a vehicle for information not a vehicle for attack**

## GUEST SPEAKERS

### Liza Parr, Lime Bikes (Bi-State development metro transit working on Bikeshare)

- Passed permit then ordinance, then open to companies who will comply w/extensive rules
- David, Operations Manager with Limebike (~1000 bikes) & Opo, Yellow Bikes (~750 bikes)
- App-based technology to see where bikes are, scan bike to unlock, manually push bar down to lock
- \$1/ride (30 min for Lime and 60 min for Lemon)
- Legal Parking: Make sure the bike is not in the way of pedestrian paths or right in front of residence! Should at least park btw sidewalk and curb. Anyone can move the bike up to 10' before alarm.
- Phone #s and emails on the bikes if you have complaints or need a bike moved; companies are required to respond w/in 10 hrs.
- Social Equity: there is an option to sign up to text to rent bikes or pay with cash at a location (if don't have smart phone or credit card); really want it to be a neighborhood mobility option.

### Elisha Bosley, Running for State Rep for 79<sup>th</sup> District

- Education, finding jobs, making sure we have affordable and quality health care—these economic factors go together to reduce crime
- Cell Phone: 314-243-9928

## NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS

### House Tour recap

Emily O'Brien

- Net about ~29K (Gross ~40 and ~10 in expenses); this is 5K above last year → earlier online sales
- Peaks follow advertising; mail chimp account has ~6K members and this gets forwarded to friends
- Holiday House Tour—last week was double what was expected!
- Budget
  - Eliminated pre-tour social
  - Sponsorships--\$5K in cash + \$6K from Kennedy Painting
  - Expenses—Trolley (1190) and Carriage (~1100/day)
- Future Considerations
  - Volunteer coverage was 252 slots in Spring 2018 is a lot of comp tickets (2K in rev)
  - Homeowner fatigue
  - Realistic to host 3100 guests? → 440 people is 44-50/home/hr
  - Do we cap tickets or stagger entrance?
- Floyd has been leading the last few tours...and we have a great committee to help the new person who will be taking over

### **Technology, Website, Archives**

**Mike Jones and Dean Hand**

- Brief History of Square—its rise and fall with natural disaster...and rise again with the “bohemians” in the 60s who saw the square as an opportunity
- The archives project has curated over 700 photographs, video, documents, etc. (including 96 house tour booklets) so far and have published over 2 dozen historical essays so far.
- Mike calls this a “Past Forward” Program—takes documents from the past and makes them accessible on any device!
- **The tool:**
  - It’s a searchable database in which you can enter an address, person, key phrase, etc.
  - To get specific, separate search terms with a comma (i.e. *name, address, year*)
  - Can also highlight an area
- [www.lafayettesquare.org/archives](http://www.lafayettesquare.org/archives) or [www.archives-lafayettesquare.org](http://www.archives-lafayettesquare.org)
- **ALSO:** Website is now in the hands of Wayne White with 2108 and looking forward to updating our website
- Thank you to members of the Lafayette Square Historical Records committee (Keays, Buckners, Dahms and others who donated many, many materials) and tech gurus Dixie Gillaspie and Phillip Penrose
- Would love to work in a more unified way across all organizations to drive traffic to the website, start e-commerce, and progress toward the future!

### **LSBA + LSRC**

**Houston Smith**

- The LSRC Board and LSBA Board have voted unanimously to explore and discuss the LSBA becoming a subcommittee of the LSRC.
- This would require a change in the by-laws, which would be pursued in the upcoming months.

### **Camera program – Ring**

**Houston Smith**

- Exploring and welcoming neighborhood input for subsidizing home camera program to reduce nuisance crimes such as package theft.

### **RFP- Strategic Plan/RFQ**

**Houston Smith**

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### **Community Affairs- Open**

**Houston Smith**

- Catch all for many different things—community liaison to other organizations, fundraising, event-planning, cheerleading for the neighborhood.
- Dixie Gillaspie stepping up!!!

## **SAFETY REPORTS**

### **VP Safety**

**John Weston**

- Support the substation—helps keep officers in the neighborhood to do their paperwork
- Clubs available at cost; great way to prevent auto theft
- Be the eyes and ears of your neighborhood...call 911 instead of posting on Nextdoor

### **Problem Properties**

**Ron Taylor**

- 11 Properties...some of the neighboring properties will be taking action to try to take care of them
- One should go on sale this summer to recover real estate taxes

- **1732 Chouteau** (corner of Dolman), problem since at least 1995; currently has 16 violations, mostly on the back (actually 2 buildings); 2500+ in fines outstanding; supposed to go to court hearing on 4/12....on 4/11 they postponed to 7/11...and on 4/12 the back of the building collapsed. Now there is a temporary structure around the back. Dahms and Christine Ingrassia are trying to re-engage city officials to move this property along. (The lawyer for the owner of the building is the wife of Lewis Reed.)

### **Block Captains**

**Glenn Eckert**

- What does a Block Captain do?
  - Distribute information (i.e. plea for help for house tour volunteers, crime uptake)
  - Will have a meeting at end of July for Block Captains at SqWires
  - Working with Wayne White to streamline e-communication for Block Captains (so you don't have to go door to door!)
  - Will be distributing a list of blocks that need captains
- Public Thank You to Mike Petetit of Park Ave B&B whose passion was reducing crime in the neighborhood.....and to all neighbors who take ownership of this neighborhood and participate in activities

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Treasurer**

**John Schoemehl/Clark Affholder**

- Total revenue for the year is projected to be \$88K based on two House Tours; Expenses for the year are expected to be ~\$109K
- Still waiting for some House Tour income to be represented in the budget
- Email Clark with any questions: [clark.affholder@gmail.com](mailto:clark.affholder@gmail.com)

#### **Capital Improvements**

**Mary Visintainer**

- Rutger/Jefferson
  - Provided BPS pictures of other entries, columns were measured and sent on to BPS, preliminary drawing; since that time, BPS has said they want engineered drawings
- End of Carroll
  - Sidewalk at end of Carroll needs to be replaced (asphalt crumbling); contacted Jack, who forwarded email to sidewalk person with the city
  - Fire hydrant will need to be moved....cost?!
  - Mitch Hunt has contacted fence fabricators; prior to approval will need drawings
- Fence to Zumwalt
  - Construction should be moving forward soon
- Park Ave Improvements moving forward
- Fountain Plaza—thanks to Linda Weiner, Bethany Budde, Matt Negri for improvements
- Bricks—We need someone to take over for Linda Skinner to coordinate this program

#### **Membership**

**Christina Ryan**

- We are at about 180 household memberships
- Members are the best advertising for recruiting new members! Let your neighbors know what the LSRC is and how much it benefits the Square.
- Membership cards available after the meeting (or at any time in between meetings!)

**Beautification****Linda Weiner**

- In need of people to adopt several around the neighborhood (including Park/Truman) to water

**Development****Phil Lamczyk/Suzanne Sessions**

- Almost, almost, almost finished with the revision of the historic code; need a few images to put in the book. Should be no problems with Cultural Resources because Jane Cameron has been working with the committee. Will present to membership at upcoming meeting.
- Slow period of coming into the development committee with projects; the major project that the committee will see next Tuesday for the first time is the Stray Rescue plans

**Community Affairs****Vacant**

- Thank you to Dixie Gillaspie stepping up!
- Need updates for Neighborhood Directory by mid-July.

**NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS****Lafayette Park Conservancy**

- N/A

**Lafayette Square Arts Council (John Weston)**

- Calendar of Events cards available

**Lafayette Square Business Association (Bethany Budde)**

- Cocktails on the Plaza raised \$6K+ for security
- Had a booth at House Tour, which raised over \$1K for security; will have a booth at Bike Race also.
- Next event is Taste of Lafayette
- Security benefits everyone in the neighborhood, not just businesses
- Excited about discussing joining forces with the LSRC

**Barr Branch**

- Summer reading program for adults: Give Back to Reading—read 8 books, which donates a book to a child's home library at specific locations
- Vouchers for Cardinals tickets
- Quilting exhibit, demos, Q&A, from St Alphonsus Rock church in July

**Other**

- Teresita Cometa investigation with MODOT and EPA regarding noise coming off the highway to investigate noise abatement or barriers on the highway.

**After Meeting Social- SqWires****ADJOURN**

- ❖ Next LSRC Board Meeting Monday, July 2 at the Park House 7pm
- ❖ Next LSRC General Meeting is a Neighborhood Social, 7pm, Tuesday, July 10 at Sqwires Annex (but adding a "special guests" and needed voting sections hard stop at 15 minutes)