



LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

July 14, 2020 via Zoom

Minutes taken by Kim Peterson, Secretary, in Christina Ryan's absence

CALL TO ORDER 7:00 pm

Matt Negri, President

Welcome New Residents: Tim and spouse from 1623 Missouri; Stacy at Lafayette Walk; and Julie, manager at the Bordeaux introduced themselves. They were welcomed by the group.

Reviewed and approved June 2020 Minutes (Motion by Suzanne Sessions, 2nd by Diana Gray)

ALDERMAN REPORTS

6th Ward

Christine Ingrassia

- Mississippi tree plantings and Fence project is moving forward. The Board of Aldermen are discussing COVID19 measures and federal money given for this project.
- At the request of Glenn Eckert, Christine talked at length about airport privatization and it being on the ballot. It is a complex issue and citizens need good information to make an informed vote. She summarized what happened in recent years. She is skeptical that it will be on November ballot. Matt Negri suggested a Zoom meeting for further information.
- The legislation about Air BnB's has not moved out of committee; traditional Bed and Breakfast establishments are over-regulated compared to Air BnB places.
- Safety concerns regarding the Bordeaux Air BnB in 1300 block of Dolman: Julie, the manager of the Bordeaux apartments, spoke about the Air BnB units at the Bordeaux. They will greatly be reducing the number of the 25 short term rentals there due to ongoing problems with crime and disruption.
- Speeding on Chouteau: a resident at Lafayette Walk asked Christine about measures to control speeding on Chouteau. A speed trailer is possible. Christine sees no possibility of infrastructure redesign.
- A resident asked about having restaurants expand out to sidewalks and street. Christine said a pilot project for an entire street may be set up (not in Lafayette Square)—stay tuned. Delivery fees for 3rd party companies such as Grubhub have fees capped if an ordinance goes through. Bethany Budde said outdoor dining is on the agenda for the next LSRC Business Committee.

7th Ward

Jack Coatar (not present)

GUEST SPEAKER

Gateway Cup Bike Race

Mike Weiss

- Mike Weiss spoke about holding the annual bike race on Labor Day Weekend (Friday) as usual, in light of COVID19 concerns. He said bike races all over the country have started up and their health advisor advises of precautions to take. They are working with 3 sets of guidelines 1) City of St. Louis Health Department, 2) State guidelines, 3) SafeSport for health safety.
- He is making application for an adjusted event that includes socially distancing so that it is a safe event that will not have the usual crowds. It will be spread out around the Park, racers must leave when done with their ride, there will be daily temperature checks for volunteers, racers, crew. All will be encouraged to stay in hotels. Hand sanitizer stations, signage about social distancing, and a registration table set out from crowd are in the plans. Permit has not yet been obtained.
- If anyone wishes to communicate with Mike Weiss Mike@bigshark.com or contact Matt Negri.
- Diana Gray spoke against holding the race given the closeness required of cyclists and how easily infection will spread. Mike said there have been no outbreaks traced to previous races since June, and each athlete makes the decision for himself to attend. There will be a go/no go deadline date, and it will be made clear that it can be cancelled at any time.

YMCA

Nicolle Hahn

- Nicole thanked the LSRC for our donation which helped very much in this year's \$90,000 capital campaign. All of this money goes to supplement membership, team programs, refugee swim lessons, adult and fitness programs. She will send a link to a promotional video to Matt for distribution should anyone want to see it. The Y closed in March for virus control, reopened June 15 with masks, smaller classes, childcare, blood drive, food drive, and a modified summer day camp.

POLICE REPORT

3rd District

Officer Sherdon Douglas

- There were 9 crimes in June. A robbery took place at Lafayette and Jefferson on June 6 where two men took a book bag from a protestor on his way home; they later took his car, found in Peabody. In addition, there were 5 larcenies including items stolen from cars. She suggests walking around our cars each time we use it to check on license plates and tags. Other crimes: there was an auto theft and breakins at 1600 S. Jefferson at Boost Mobile and 1600 Mississippi where a truck with keys in ignition was stolen from a garage.
- During July 1-13 there was a larceny. Residents mentioned vandalized car on Dolman and other issues not included in these crime stats. Officer Douglas will look into it with possible reasons beings reports are not yet fully processed, and Dolman crimes count in Peabody's stats. Linda Weiner mentioned her car was vandalized at 12XX Missouri during protests when police were very busy.
- Dogs off Leash: Officer Douglas reviewed the ordinance about dogs which states dogs must be on a leash or held in control in public spaces. Given concerns of residents, officers will be patrolling the Park and handing out citations to dog owners not in compliance. A resident will help by posting signage about leash ordinance.

NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS

Strategic Plan Update

Linda Weiner

- Linda Weiner summarized the process and invited all to give feedback. See Strategic Plan on the LSRC web site. A short summary may be distributed to generate comments. It will be launched in the fall.
- Bill O'Dell and Ron Gorman are making plans to welcome new residents.
- Please complete the survey about volunteering in the LSRC.

Website

Matt Negri/Dixie Gillaspie

- Matt summarized the process of identifying a firm to renovate our website. It has been a 2-year process and is an investment of \$10,000. Dixie reviewed our goals for a new website. 3 firms responded, 2 of those within our budget. The Steering committee looked at each point and evaluated each firm, and chose Story Power. We plan to launch in mid-September.

VP of Community Affairs

Dixie Gillaspie

- Dixie Gillaspie said she has resigned her position because she is moving, and she handed the reigns to Jeff Baird. Jeff introduced himself and thanked Dixie. He invited people to submit photos to an archive, to be used for our new website. We are looking for images that fit the theme "Life in the Square." Submissions need to be your own work and give permission to publish.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Clark Affholder (not present)

- Matt said the Treasurer's report was distributed via email, let him know if questions.

Lafayette Sq Business Association (LSBA)

Bethany Budde

- Bethany summarized their Zoom meeting. There were no safety problems in June, and none so far in July. Items discussed were the Bike Race, a Passport of goods/services for residents, a newsletter.
- Committee Election takes place in November and they will elect several positions including their committee head to serve on LSRC Board. Their fundraising, membership, and security committees will work with comparable LSRC committees. They are working on a membership drive. She listed changes in each business inducing a new Market at SqWires.

Development

Suzanne Sessions

- Suzanne Sessions reported on recent issues in front of the Preservation Board including hardyboard vs. brick at LaSalle Apartments and addition on #9 Benton Place with no model example. The Preservation Board ruled against the stated wishes of our LSRC Development Committee.
- President Negri thanked the Development Committee for their recent work and said we may need to review our relationships with the Preservation Board and Cultural Resources staff. Phil Lamczyk expressed unhappiness with their decisions.
- Suzanne said bulldozers will start in September in the NW Quadrant. Issues with utilities there have been addressed.
- Inquiry re: CID in New quadrant: A member asked about this. Matt said we have no information.

Beautification

Linda Weiner

- Linda Weiner needs people to water plantings. The irrigation system for Park Ave median was fixed. Thanks to Bethany Budde for mowing new installation of turf.

Community Affairs

Jeff Baird

- No additional reports beyond the website RFP selection.

Membership

Christina Ryan (not present)

- In Christina Ryan's absence, Matt thanked her for her work in getting out a membership mailing and campaign. It was very successful. We have the highest membership ever and raised lots of money.

Capital Improvements

Mary Visintainer

- Mary Visintainer said Kelly Schlueter joined the committee. Plans for a sign at the Parkhouse have been finalized. The group is identifying street signs yet to be installed.

SAFETY REPORTS

Block Captains/Safety

Glenn Eckert

- Glen Eckert said the planned camera for Mississippi and Park will be linked into the city's Real Time Crime Center. It will be a pilot project. It should have minimal to no lighting pollution.

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION UPDATES

Lafayette Park Conservancy (LPC)

Ward Buckner

- Ward Buckner thanked the city and Jack Coatar for holding restrooms open 7 days a week.
- The young trees are stressed by hot weather, please adopt a tree to water.

Lafayette Square Arts Council

Donna Korando

- Donna Korando said all Concerts in the Park are cancelled for the year. There are plans in the works for art activities for children.

Barr Branch

- No updates.

Lafayette Prep Academy

Gail Buffington

- Gail said they are planning for the new year which starts August 24. The annual meetup for new students is cancelled.
- She thanked all who donated food for their drive. Next drive is this Saturday, drop off at lot on Mississippi and Lafayette.
- There is a Go Fund Me campaign for their garden, a middle school science project. Green activities are under review. They need supplies for a compost bin.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm. During the meeting as many as 60 attended. Motion to adjourn by Sessions, 2nd by Bethany.