



LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE
August 14, 2018: Squires Annex

CALL TO ORDER 7pm

Houston Smith, President

- ❖ **Welcome New Residents:** Ben Sharp and Kathy Miller ; Beverly and Jerry Vaughn; Dale Spence and Tricia; Michael Bushur;
- ❖ **Review and approve June/July, 2018 minutes** –No copies, Need to review and approve at next meeting

ALDERMAN REPORTS

6th Ward

Christine Ingrassia—Not Present

7th Ward

Jack Coatar—Not Present

POLICE REPORT

3rd District

Officer Sherdon Douglas

13 crimes in July

- 5 vehicle theft (several vehicles were recovered)
- 5 larcenies (3 stealing from a motor vehicle, 2 attempts but nothing stolen)
- 1 business burglary on Jefferson
- 1 report of arson at 2300 Hickory (rolled up piece of lit piece of paper jammed into front door....no damage, but homeowner said it has happened twice so wanted it document)
- 1 robbery at 1900 Park Avenue (business owner was held up and got car keys stolen but suspects did not know how to operate his vehicle, wallet recovered, cell phone not recovered; surveillance video will hopefully lead to arrests)

GUEST SPEAKERS

Gateway Cup: Friday August 31

- Big Shark Bicycles is the sponsor of The Gateway Cup. (This is the 33rd Gateway Cup.)
- THANK YOU TO LAFAYETTE SQUARE for letting us put on a fantastic event! Thank you for your support and the sacrifices the neighborhood makes.
- This is a national, sanctioned event; part of the professional racing season for men and women, as well as for enthusiastic amateurs.

- Street closures will slowly start being closed around noon to start building (barricades, start/finish line, etc.) for the event; won't be completely closed until 2pm.
- The main area is at Park/Missouri—that's where the bulk of the fun happens!
- Races start at 3 with juniors; Kids race is at 6pm; last race starts at 9:15.
- The big thing Big Shark stresses is **safety**—there will be a car/motorcycle/both out in front of the racers up to a full block ahead of the racers. If you see a car go by, and you think you can cross the street....YOU BETTER LOOK! The pros are 30-35mph.
- **Host Housing:** Racers and teams do not have a lot of money and are VERY grateful to have host homes in which to stay. Hosts don't need to do anything other than provide a place to sleep, some space in the fridge, maybe use of washer/dryer. Contact Susan Sauer from the neighborhood or Amy Strahan at Big Shark for more info.
- MORE INFO on the website: [https:// gatewaycup.com](https://gatewaycup.com)

NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS

❖ LSBA + LSRC

Houston Smith

- LSBA brings lots of fundraising power to the LSRC; the LSRC can budget for LSBA expenses (including, potentially, patrolling through the business district)
- Bethany Budde (SqWires) and Matt Brazelton (Four Muddy Paws) are co-presidents of the LSBA (Lafayette Square Business Association)—there is excitement about this merger. LSBA will essentially dissolve and become a committee but can still use the name. LSBA is not a 501(c)(3)

Neighborhood input:

- Comment: We have so many groups....makes sense to merge and be more powerful together
- Comment: maybe all groups should merge?!
- Question: As a committee of the LSRC, can the LSBA do whatever they want? Response: They can't operate outside the by-laws; their events will become part of the LSRC calendar. We will pool our resources and become a joint association with much more ability to join resources.
- Comment: Another advantage is upgrading the web presence for both organizations—one central place with more content is better than two different sites.
- Question: What are the budget implications? One of the LSRC's concerns is safety; we have not guaranteed total funding for security, but is interested in funding a lot of it; also depends on how much LSBA fundraises (all of which goes in the LSRC coffers)→Matt notes that security doesn't just benefit business patrons but *everyone* that lives in the neighborhood.
- **Where do we go from here?** There's nothing in the by-laws that says how to join groups. The LSRC Board can create committees as they see needed.

❖ LSRC By-Laws revisions

Houston Smith

- Proposal to add two new elected board members: VP of Business Affairs (LSBA representative) and VP for Capital Improvements (Projects)→We will eliminate one member-at-large
- Increase \$500 limit to \$1000 to use petty cash; gives us more flexibility for spending small amounts. (The limit hasn't been changed in many years.)
- Will vote on this next month.

❖ **RFP- Strategic Plan/RFQ**

Houston Smith

- This is just about completed and ready to be sent out. The proposal is for consultant businesses that create strategic plans for neighborhoods. The membership approved \$20K for this plan; we are not telling the companies how much we have budgeted but waiting for the companies to tell us what it will cost, and then we'll negotiate.

❖ **Nominations for elections**

Houston Smith

- President: Emily O'Brien; VP Elect: Matt Negri; VP for Development: Phil Lamczyk; VP Dev Elect: Suzanne Sessions; VP Community Affairs: Dixie Gillaspie; Secretary: Kim Peterson Membership Secretary: Christina Ryan; Treasurer: Clark Affholder; 4 Member-at-Large positions: Steve Wilde, Katie Noonan, Laura Vowell, Mike Jones
- **Needs: VP Safety: TOM MURPHY VOLUNTEERED, Treasurer Elect, VP Business Affairs, VP Capital Improvements (Latter two pending approval of by-laws revision)**

SAFETY REPORTS

❖ **VP Safety**

John Weston

No updates

❖ **Problem Properties**

Ron Taylor (with David Curry, Don Owens)

- Tracking 9 properties; 3 are owned by deceased people, which are very difficult to address.
- Property on Carroll that had the fire; the owner has started "rehab" work, will take about 4 months.
- 2348 Hickory is supposed to go on the tax sale this fall.
- 1009 Dolman (at corner of Choteau)—city attorney has worked out a deal...owner has 90 days from 7/11 to remedy the situation with the back building...the remedy may be demolition. They have a permit in the city pipeline (city requested?). The owner will not sell at a reasonable price.
- 4 with renewed action...been tracking for 25 years, 10-15 years, 5 years, and 5 years
- Corner of Lafayette and 18th across from Clementine's....construction came to a skidding halt...sounds like owners ran out of money.
- You can't force owners to sell their properties. They get fined over and over, and the amounts are not much to some of the developers. Once the heat comes from the city, the owners sometimes do sell it...and the citations do not transfer to the new owner.
- **LOOKING FOR NEW ENERGY AND MEMBERS ON THIS COMMITTEE!**

❖ **Block Captains**

Glenn Eckert

Dumpster PSA:

- Do not recycle the following dumpsters: alkaline batteries (trash or IKEA), plastic bags (Schnucks, Lowe's), Styrofoam; Break down your boxes!!!

- There's a place on Hoffmeister (near River City Casino) that takes hazardous chemicals like paint, garden chemicals, etc. Make an appointment.
- Dirt does not go in recycling/yard waste.
- Who is my block captain?.... ????

COMMITTEE REPORTS

❖ Treasurer

John Schoemehl

- We're in good shape financially; 266K in cash in the bank in two accounts; at 40-45% of what we've budgeted for expenses.

❖ Capital Improvements

Mary Visintainer

- Bricks: Dan Schutte is taking over for Linda Skinner for Brick Program.
- Fountain Plaza: thank you to Bethany Budde and crew for weeding on the plaza.
- Thank you to Matt Negri and Matt Brazelton.
- Fence installation should be starting soon.
- End of Carroll: met with BPS, fire hydrant has to be moved, sidewalk has to be replaced; recommendation is to wait on drawings for the fence because these needs will impact how the fence is done.
- Rutger/Jefferson: BPS was provided pictures of ideas....BPS came back and said they want engineered drawings; working with an engineer.
- Received donated money to replace benches in front of the Park House.

❖ Membership

Christina Ryan

- Up to 190 households that are members; Christina has membership cards available.

❖ Beautification

Linda Weiner

- The bagworms have expired! ☺
- August 26th 10-12:30—There will be 100 college kids here to do work on our green spaces....talk to Linda if you'd like to help supervise.

❖ Development

Phil Lamczyk/Suzanne Sessions

- Stray Rescue has decided to sell their property 1463 S 18th St. Development committee would love to see the neighborhood buy it! ☺ It has to be re-zoned no matter what because it's zoned for a kennel. Before Stray Rescue, it was a tool shop back in the 1980s. Historically, it was a stable.
- 5 new construction projects coming up.
- Historic standards are about to be completed; cultural resources has been slow because of staff turnover.

❖ Community Affairs

Dixie Gillaspie

- Think on it: What is the best way to communicate with everyone? Nextdoor, resident-only Facebook group...? Looking for suggestions.
- Dixie is committed to keeping people as informed as possible through multiple vehicles.

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

❖ **Lafayette Park Conservancy**

- Bathrooms in the park: The conservancy rearranged the building at great expense to have these bathrooms available. They were open for a while, and over time were opened less and less, and now they are not open at all. Francis Park has restrooms that open, as do the larger parks. Will talk to the city and find out why and what we can do about it. The conservancy offered to open and close them and keep track for a trial period for a month.

❖ **Lafayette Square Arts Council**

- No updates

❖ **Lafayette Square Business Association**

- Events: Taste of Lafayette Square on 8/25; Tricks and Treats on Park 10/27; Tree Lighting 12/2; Holiday Market at House Tour

ADJOURN

- ❖ **Next LSRC Board Meeting Tuesday, September 4 at the Park House 7pm**

- ❖ **Next LSRC General Meeting is a regular Business Meeting, 7pm, Tuesday, September 11 at Sqwires Annex**