



LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE
November 13th, 2018 Sqwires Annex

CALL TO ORDER 7pm

Matt Negri

Welcome New Residents

Review October 2018 minutes—moved and approved

ALDERMAN REPORTS

6th Ward

Christine Ingrassia

- Regarding former Praxair site development: a bill was introduced to board of aldermen last Friday. Because of the difficulty of the site (Milk Creek MSD goes through entire site which prevents building; remediation, adding utilities, etc.), the board will provide 15-year tax abatement for utilities only with a clause that if the developers can get done what they need to in less time, the abatement will cease.
- Working closely with Mary Visintainer on the Rutger/Jefferson monuments....been slow moving but have met with BPS and seem to have motivated them.
- Introducing legislation next week on short-term rentals to start regulating. They will be subject to inspections by the housing department. Meanwhile, B&B's are being OVER-regulated so adding a provision for them to be regulated under short-term rentals. The legislation will also allow for conditional use on single family homes turned to short-term rentals, which leads to some neighborhood input. LafSq has many multi-family zonings; the board doesn't think they have the authority to regulate these.
- Soccer stadium...stadiums often put the city on the hook for many expenses. The ownership should own the stadium while the city owns the land, and the city could still provide abatements.

7th Ward

Jack Coatar

- Not present.

POLICE REPORT

3rd District

Officer Sherdon Douglas

October Stats: 15 (same as September)

- 3 robberies:
 - 10/16 @ 10pm, 1300 block Mississippi, victim was standing next to her vehicle, he struck her with his gun and took her keys
 - 10/18 @ 1:10pm, victim sitting in his vehicle on 1500 block Missouri was held up at gunpoint; *SAME SUPSECT* as 10/16 was arrested \$100K cash bond

- 10/18, @ 9pm, 2000 block of Lafayette (@ Nicholson), victim was walking north on Mississippi, pointed gun @ victim and shot him in the arm; police are working on it
 - 10/14, aggravated assault, 1600 block of Missouri, suspect struck his taxi cab driver in the head with the cell phone; suspect stayed at the scene was arrested
 - 4 auto thefts; 2 were recovered
 - 7 larcenies; 5 were stealing from the vehicle
- ***Cases that are public...we should be able to get follow-up information

GUEST SPEAKER

Metro Transit

Courtney Miller/Julie Stone

- Metro Reimagined: the bus system has not been updated in the last 10 years. Metro Reimagined Project is the result after an 18 month period of talking with various stakeholders and evaluations.
- Evaluation revealed that people want: Faster times, more frequent service, better connections, and better customer experience. Want to improve equity and accessibility, make more rider-centric, etc.
- Proposed changes: more frequent service (13 routes running every 15 minutes); more reliable connections, new mobility options (i.e. mobility on demand in low ridership areas), faster and more direct travel, create unique ways to get people from point A to B (i.e. partner w/Uber, Lyft)
- Lafayette Square proposed changes: #80 Park/Shaw eliminated; #11 Chippewa 15 minute frequency; #31 Choteau 30 minute frequency 4-7pm on weekdays and otherwise 60 minutes
- Increase partnerships with businesses and service providers, increase technology, etc.
- Implementation begins next fall.
- **Question:** How do we get shelters at stops on Choteau? **Answer:** Hybrid between the project and alderpeople/city funds/neighborhood & nonprofit donations.
- **Question:** Does Metro have responsibility for trash? **Answer:** Metro does not have their own refuse system but pay the City of STL to pick up trash. This is part of the infrastructure upgrades (trash receptacles) at which the project is looking....some neighborhoods want barrels and some don't!

NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS

Special Meeting Update (re: offer on Stray Rescue property)

Matt Negri

- For details of the meeting, please see previously shared minutes. (May request from Christina Ryan: membership@lafayettesquare.org)
- The owner was impressed and sincere, but our LSRC high bid was not the number he was looking for. He has his own business plan: looking for undervalued properties in good neighborhoods, fixes them up, and sells them about 5 years later.

Lafayette Square Parlor Tour

Pat Jones

- Posters are for sale: \$10 for big & \$5 for small; McAvoy's home.
- All homes are over a century old.
- Sold over 350 tickets already.
- Please sign up for docent spots.

- Katherine and Kate are working on raffle items: currently collecting for donations and will be putting together baskets.
- **Question:** Did we decide to limit ticket sales? **Answer:** It was discussed, but it has not been decided to cut sales at 2000, for example. We have not made that move because we would hate to turn people away the day of. It's true that the holiday tour, because it's one day and if there's nice weather we get a big turnout, and that has posed some problems with high traffic and wait times. We are advertising a "limited number of day-of ticket sales," so the day before the committee will determine that number.

SAFETY REPORTS

VP Safety

John Weston

- Holiday season...stay alert and aware! Keep a blanket in your car to throw over items in your car. Have your keys in your hand before getting in your vehicle.
- Package theft goes up this time of year; try to send to a place of business instead.
- Costco is running a sale on Ring cameras right now.
- If you park outside, consider using the Club. (These are available for sale at cost.)
- Substation would benefit from extra holiday decorations; we also accept donations of drinks and snacks.

Problem Properties

Ron Taylor

- Currently have 9 residential properties with not much going on with 6.
- **1009 Dolman:** This building is flattened, and debris remains. There is another building on that parcel that has all the earmarks of demolition by neglect like the first building. Another problem is the alley behind the demolished building, which the owners claimed they owned (they do NOT), and is currently blocked by debris, boat, trailers.
- **1625-27 Carroll:** had 9 violations dating back to 2016; had a deceased and desist order back in 2017 because of ongoing calls to police and other problems; not long after had a fire and has not had much work done. On October 16 had a conversation with the executor of the estate who lives in Georgia. She has not seen the building. She has a brother in St Louis. She said she has fire insurance proceeds to use on the building and seemed to think they could spruce it up and attract \$1500/mo rent for each of the four units. There is a contractor hired to do exterior work and the deck; some work has been started. There is concern that the insurance money will NOT cover all the work that needs to be done. Neighbors have taken photographs to send to the owner.
- **2348 Hickory:** Went up for sale at auction (for back taxes) and did not sell. Going to LRA and will probably be available in the next few months.
- **Cobblestones from the utility workers on Mississippi:** Since last month, another contractor, who told Ron that he'd replace the cobblestones, and instead left them on the side of the road in the grass and filled the space with asphalt. Christine Ingrassia says there will be a meeting on 11/19 @ 6pm in the Kennedy Room at City Hall.

- **NEW MEMBERS ARE NEEDED FOR THIS COMMITTEE!!!!** Ron Taylor and Don Owens are retiring from this committee. David Curry will remain. Thank you to Philip Penrose and David Brax for stepping up.

Block Captains/Alleys

Glenn Eckert

- Beginning quarterly meetings.
- If you don't think you have one or aren't sure, please contact Glenn.
- The expectation is that if you volunteer for this position, you will be responsible for your block and keep up communication with your neighbors. This communication is imperative to get the word out to everyone in the neighborhood.
- **New captains are needed for NW Quadrant.** Julie Stone has been captain for 19 years for entire NW Quadrant but needs help and wants to phase out. It includes: 22/2300 Rutger, 21/22/2300 block Hickory, 11/12/1300 Missouri (not officially counting McKay but they are tied in). This is an active, fun part of the square (i.e. they have a great party for National Night Out)!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LSBA

Bethany Budde/Andrea Heugatter/Matt Brazelton

- Andrea's presentation postponed until December meeting.
- Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 1 from 5-7pm. Need volunteers to help out: help kids decorate ornaments, serve cookies and drinks, etc. Will have a holiday movie playing, Lafayette Park choir will carol, and tree lighting at 6. **Need a Santa!** 😊

Treasurer

Clark Affholder

- Reports were sent out. There have been a lot of ticket sales (~\$5K since the last report).
- Currently operating at a \$13K deficit, BUT the whole budget was a \$19K deficit, and some capital improvements were not in the initial budget. So currently we are operating at over \$10K net.
- Sitting at about \$250K cash; about 106K earmarked for various projects. \$145 is just operating cash, and of that
- Overall, the LSRC is in really good shape!
- 2019 budget will be presented at the December meeting.

Capital Improvements

Mary Visintainer

- Linda Pallman is now the director of Capital Improvements.
- Bricks have been ordered. (We do two orders ever year.)
- Meeting Thursday 11/15 @ Park House; new members always welcome. Will discuss: plaza improvements (i.e. LED lights), Rutger entrance (probably will have to spend more than initially budgeted), noise abatement on 44, Park Ave signage,
- Some plans are imminent and some are 10-year plans.

Membership

Christina Ryan

- Current LSRC members are the best advertising for membership! Please let your neighbors know why this organization is important.
- New feature in the Marquis: interviews with a newish resident/member and a vintage resident/member. Let Christina know if you are interested.

Beautification

Linda Weiner

- Linda could not attend. Matt Negri knows that she planted 1000 bulbs that will bloom next spring. 😊

Development

Phil Lamczyk/Suzanne Sessions

- Phil and Suzanne could not attend.

Community Affairs

Dixie Gillaspie

- Nextdoor has no central place for events in contrast to the Facebook Community's site. Please let Dixie know if there are any events that should be posted.
- Block Captains/Community Contact List: People don't often just share information, but that's the only way captains can connect with people on their block. We welcome input on how to best communicate.
- There will be a brick for Theresa Hamms; her sister Becca says she died too young... Dixie promised her that name would not be forgotten. ♥

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Lafayette Park Conservancy

Ward Buckner

- Held annual meeting last Sunday with guest speaker Mike
- Just completed 60-day trial to keep restrooms open. There was only one incident.
- We need more volunteers to arrange a schedule to try to keep them open.

Lafayette Square Arts Council

- Season has ended. Held concerts, movies, and helped with the Halloween Party. Will start up with spring house tour.

ADJOURN

AFTER-MEETING SOCIAL: Thank you, Sqwires!

- ❖ **Next LSRC Board Meeting is Tuesday, December 4th at the Park House, 7pm**
- ❖ **Next LSRC General Meeting is Tuesday, December 11th at Sqwires Annex, 7pm**