



LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

February 12, 2019 SqWires Annex

CALL TO ORDER 7:02pm

Emily O'Brien

- **Welcome New Residents:** Kieran Lindsay (Hickory/Mississippi); Jared Ewing (LaSalle/Miss)
- **Review and approve:** January 2019 minutes

ALDERMAN REPORTS

6th Ward

Christine Ingrassia

- No new updates, board is on recess until mid-April. Happy to take questions.
- **Question: Recently passed tax increase to pay/hire more police officers. What is the net increase with regard to that?** Christine and Jack will look into the numbers. With attrition, we are still below the recommended number. →Captain Cousins: Can't tell exactly how many (still down), but we are constantly putting classes through the academy (three recently and two upcoming). Voucher has been offered to 50 officers to lift residency requirement so they don't have to live in the city.
- **Question: What's the status on the historic code?** Everything (standards, zoning overlay, redevelopment plan) has passed the board of alderman. Waiting on mayor signing it.
- **Question: What are the updates on neighborhoods joining the camera program? Or updates on the city's communication in general?**
 - There is a meeting scheduled on Friday with a lieutenant who is an intelligence officer...because of changing leadership, the camera programs have been problematic.
 - Christine and Jack both have money set aside, and Christine is aware that the neighborhood is interested in private cameras as well. (One of the questions is why Gravois got cameras before LafSq.)
 - SmartCities initiative would not make cameras more difficult and possibly make them easier.
 - With regard to communication, the neighborhood ownership model has not gone anywhere with the circuit attorney. Information is not as clear as it used to be. →Jack Coatar

7th Ward

Jack Coatar

- Jack would like to replicate what was implemented in Soulard. We need businesses and homeowners to step up in addition to putting money toward the exterior cameras.
- One of the issues we have with cameras is getting them into the interior of neighborhoods because they lack fiberoptic and don't tie into real-time crime center. On the April Ballot will be a ballot measure to tweak how we tax fiberoptic Internet companies...want to provide more competition among providers and better service, and reduce cost of initial infrastructure. (This is part of the Smart Cities initiative.)
- One benefit Jack sees of a city county merger is to pool the resources of the police department.

POLICE REPORT

3rd District

Officer Sherdon Douglas

- December—16 crimes. 1 robbery (car) 1700 block of Park, obtained footage and caught suspect; stolen phone; burglary 1800 block of Rutger, suspect arrested; 11 larcenies—6 stolen packages off porches. One suspect apprehended. 4 from vehicles. 2 vehicle thefts, 1 vehicle recovered and suspect arrested.
- January—
- Police officers took victimized children to Clementine's and met with principal of LPA. Will be doing a safety program at LPA in the near future.

Captain's Comments:

- Neighborhood Order of Protection: e.g. suspect stole ~17 packages, was arrested and was sent back out because wasn't a major crime → got an N.O.P
- This is still one of the safest neighborhoods in the city. Only three incidents in January.
- Regarding cameras, the police department is a big supporter. Looking for video footage is one of the first things that the police do when investigating a crime. There are many options for home cameras.
- **How do the rules apply to juveniles?** Unless it's a severe incident, if the crime is not added up until 12 or 14 points, then the person is released. Numbers add up after repeated crimes. It's frustrating for residents, victims, AND police officers, who do the investigations and make sure they have the necessary documentation.
- **What can the neighborhood do to help?** Impact statements, calls, emails, video footage, neighborhood orders of protection.
- **Are there statistics about how crimes are prosecuted over time?**

Jack:

- The police can catch people all day, if the circuit attorney doesn't charge them, then it's all for naught. **The circuit attorney needs to hear from MANY people the frustration with people not being prosecuted.** The neighborhood ownership model that began under the previous circuit attorney is no longer in place; Jack has asked repeatedly for the information to be made available.

Detective Gillan working the two cases that have happened this month. The investigations are ongoing; there are two possible suspects, but no positive ID yet.

GUEST SPEAKER

Website/Tech

Mike Jones

- 892 documents on lafayettesquare.org/archives → check it out! ☺ Also looking for photographs!
- Still accepting folks to join an initiative to incentivize volunteerism and recognize volunteers.
- Website: lafayettesquare.org is what the LSRC uses to put its best foot forward to the online community. The design from 2012 is insufficient as we approach 2020.
- Mike, Dixie Gillaspie, and Philip Penrose have been working on goals:
 - Provide better navigation
 - Make timely and clear information readily available
 - Community support

- Entice those that get on the site to stick around on the site and bring themselves to the square!
- Should be valuable for our merchants, make people want to visit the square
- Also need to provide consistency over time even as LSRC board and membership changes
- **Objective:** Raise the level of positive activity in the LafSq neighborhood → Resource for visitors, residents, LSRC residential and business members
 - **Visitors:** sites of interest, history, shops and businesses, upcoming events, event venues, links to social media pages
 - **Residents:** government and emergency contacts, neighborhood leaders (i.e. block captains), invitations and links to online communities, LSRC outreach (President, Membership, Community Affairs), LSRC Membership info
 - **LSRC Members:** Board members, calendar of meeting dates, manage membership (log in to check renewal, auto renew, etc.), LSRC members-only committees
 - **General:** online sales of event tickets and merchandise, donations, membership business listing (map), blog (news and archives), contact form.
- **Added Features:** Directories, membership management, e-commerce security, chat bot, social feeds (sidebar featuring posts by designated administrators), search field, box “ads” for LSRC Business Members, photo galleries
- **Branding:** Emotional investment, curiosity, nostalgia/history, hope
- **Looking for Suggestions:** brand, content, features, providers/designers → send to archives@lafayettesquare.org
- With regard to providers and designers, it is our preference to do business within the square.

Deborah Carnahan: Running for 6th Ward Alderperson

- Reach higher as we look at where we are going.
- City resident of 26 years, assistant circuit attorney, assistant district attorney, first problem properties judge (don't just need fines, need results)
- Need to think of a ward as part of a region
- Promises: transparency, accessibility, ethics, no balls 😊
- Website: Deborah Carnahan for the City of St Louis

David Meredith: Running for STL Public School Board

- Resident, 11 kids
- <https://www.facebook.com/david4slps/>

Choteau Greenway

Bill Odell

- Will provide a critical link between Forest Park and the Gateway Arch
- The whole near Southside, including Lafayette Square, is completely missing from the plan.
- Make your voice heard: info@grgstl.org, 314-36-7099

Choteau Avenue Redevelopment → Competition for Name Ideas for the Development

- First Prize—Dinner and drinks for 2 at Vin de Set, 1111, or Hamilton's

- Second Prize—Dinner and drinks for 2 at PW
- Third Prize—Drinks at Rhone Rum Bar

Lift for Life Academy

Jill Peckinpaugh

- Jill and Dave moved here six months ago; we hear a lot about the negative. THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE DOING A LOT OF GOOD!
- About the School:
 - Co-founded by Marshall Cohen who originally started a weight-lifting gym and gave kids a purpose. A lot of the kids were not getting the education they needed.
 - In 2000, founded the first charter school for inner-city kids; now at 500+ kids, grades 6-12
 - Houses in an old 1930's bank building. They are expanding into multiple vacant buildings on 7th Street.
- Jill's goal tonight is to bring awareness of the school. We can take tours of the school, volunteer, donate. On 4/28 there is a fashion show fundraiser.

Sound Barriers

Teresita Cometa

- There may be eligibility for sound barriers on 44 bordering Lafayette Square.
- Would love to mobilize and pressure the bureaucracy.
- Have talked with Jack Coatar, and this is definitely a MODOT issue.

SAFETY REPORTS

Block Captains/Alleys/Cameras

Glenn Eckert

- Still in need of ~10 block captains.
- Alleys: Would like to beautify the alleys and have a competition before the spring House Tour.
- Cameras: TGH (Tower Grove Heights) raised \$7K for hundreds of cameras. In contact with TGH Safety Committee to find out more.
- Brightside: No plastic bags in recycling dumpsters!!! Can keep caps on bottles. Flatten boxes.

Problem Properties

Ron Taylor

- **New** committee of 7 people met on 1/24 with Sandy Coleman regarding the NSO and discussed some problem properties.
- **Scientology Building:** For Sale! Bids are due on 2/14.
- **1625-27 Carroll:** May be considering selling as is...phone conference set up on 2/19
- **1000 Mississippi:** Windows are fixed.
- **1725-27 Lafayette (across from Clementine's):** January permit for internal/external renovation of the building.
- **1713 Carroll** (has 13 violations) and **2013 Lafayette** (has 21 violations) will be on court docket on March 28. **Would like neighbors to write letters and attend hearing.**
- **28__Hickory:** demolished, LRA got it, awarded the building
- **1730 Nicholson:** had a back wall fall out...indications that it will be fixed and restored.
- **1009 Dolman:** Lost the building, and there is cleanup to be done....some done in early February.

- If the LSRC never got started....Ron estimates that if all the planned demolitions that we know about had occurred, about 40% of the buildings (about ~146) in this neighborhood would be flat, including most of 18th and Dolman.

Safety

John Weston

- \$13 for a club
- Please donate to the substation: snacks, drinks, supplies, money
- The LSRC has been discussing what we can do as an organization to help.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LSBA

Bethany Budde

- Not present.
- The LSBA raised \$1800 from Souper Sunday that will go toward their camera program.

Capital Improvements

Linda Pallman

- Meeting on 2/21 @7pm @ Park House.
- Working on street signs....ordering all new street signs...hope to have up before house tour.
- Rutger entrance is still a work in progress. Have met with Christine; money has already been allocated.
- Carroll is also still in progress; boulders have been removed. Jack came through with more city money than initially allocated.

Development

Phil Lamczyk/Suzanne Sessions

- Next meeting on 2/19
- Reviewing a new apartment complex at intersection of Missouri and LaSalle.
- Always working code violations. See the Marquis for article regarding staying within historic code.r
- Looking for a replacement for house tour volunteer recruitment coordinator.

Membership

Christina Ryan

- Would love for new members to join the LSRC!
- Still have mystery party tickets.

Beautification

Linda Weiner

- The sun will come out tomorrow...and we'll be looking for volunteers!

Community Affairs

Dixie Gillaspie

- Been working closely with Mike Jones on website planning and volunteer recognition.

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Lafayette Park Conservancy

- It's time for the President's Day Procession to Washington Statue in the park. Gather in the Kern Pavilion for refreshments.

Lafayette Square Arts Council

- Gearing up for next season. Always looking for volunteers.

ADJOURN: 8:45 pm

AFTER-MEETING SOCIAL: Thank you, Squires!

- ❖ Next LSRC Board Meeting is Tuesday, March 5th at the Park House, 7pm
- ❖ Next LSRC General Meeting is Tuesday, March 12th at Sqwires Annex, 7pm