



## LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

March 10, 2020 Sqwires Annex

CALL TO ORDER 7pm

Matt Negri

**Welcome New Residents:** George and Celina Owens on Missouri; Mary Pat & Dan Eastman in the Georgian  
**Reviewed and approved February 2020 minutes**

### ALDERMAN REPORTS

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Ward

Christine Ingrassia

- Last week of session before 1-month break; have met with Matt and hounding MODOT re: increase of traffic of Choteau and speeding—looking into safe crossings from the Square around Ameren and Hamilton restaurants
- Had briefing on coronavirus from health department. The city has activated the unified command center and are in contact with all regional health directors. We have a medical doctor on staff. Wash your hands! Anything that contains 60% or more alcohol works well. Stay home if you're feeling sick.
- Moved MLS bills forward; the soccer stadium and land will be owned by the soccer team itself.
- Hoping to pass a traffic control plan this coming week. Developers will be required to help people who are disabled, pedestrians, cyclists, etc. get through construction zones if streets and sidewalks are affected.
- Perfected a board bill that mirrors a federal law that is not currently being implemented—prevents domestic violence and people with restraining orders from open-carrying.
- Reintroducing a bill next session re: redistricting.
- **Question:** What can we do about short-term rentals? The Bourdeax has a number of Air B&B units listed for ~\$32/night. **Answer:** Until we have a short-term rental bill, there's not much we can do, but Christine will keep bringing it back.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Ward

Jack Coatar

- Not present.

### Guest Speakers

#### Chouteau Avenue Development Update

Lisette Odell (for Bill Odell)

- Community Improvement District officially set up.
- The infrastructure will start this spring: grading for new roads, site demo, etc. Big change in master plan—no longer need steps and a ramp from McKay to Chouteau because road will be graded more simply.
- Townhouses will start in late spring. The edge apartments (Adawami project) will also start in late spring.
- 120-unit apartment building is in design and should start in early summer and open in summer 2021 along with new road system. Will have a large number of large apartments and many amenities.
- There's a possible tenant for the Mac truck lot for that office space. We do not have a buyer for the potential hotel yet.
- The remaining two sites are to be determined.
- **Question:** Is there an estimate on how many new resident this will add to the neighbourhood? Current estimate in the neighbourhood is about 3,000 residents. **Answer from Suzanne Sessions:** We have some numbers for units....so maybe 10-15% increase in total residents
- **Question:** At one time we heard that the office building would have surface parking and a garage. Is that going underground? **Answer from Suzanne:** It will likely include both surface and underground parking. Neither Suzanne nor Lisette no final numbers, in part because there is not yet a tenant.

## Lafayette Prep Academy Update

Susan Marino (Exec Dir of LPA)

- Opened in 2013 with 74 kids downtown. Moved to square in 2016. 350 kids in K-8...growing by about 20 kids/yr next few years up to ~400. About 33% of kids come from 63104.
- Construction: Built expansion on Mississippi for middle school; working out really well. Gymnasium/auditorium addition was put on building facing Lafayette Ave. Stairwell will be finished...someday! Top will have a terrace.
- In process of developing sports programs; will have basketball, volleyball, dance, etc.
- In process of restoring landscaping as well.
- Working on traffic slowing improvements in the area; been working with Matt Negri and Jack Coatar. Will start seeing improvements over the summer. Will see how the following work out and meet with city if further improvements are needed.
  - speed bump on Mississippi near alley/parking lot (couldn't do anything like that on Lafayette)
  - additional crosswalk across Mississippi.
  - On Lafayette, putting in a median where there is currently westward left-turn lane from Lafayette to Mississippi
  - Restriping
- Have been working on additional detour signs because of traffic redirected because of 44 on-ramp closing (for a year)—increase in semi-trucks.
- **Question:** Will gym be available for rental? **Answer:** Yes! We have a rental policy and want to be a community space. However, no alcohol can be served so....that limits type of events. 😊
- **Comment:** Noticed that there was a police car on Lafayette last week that made a big impact on the traffic! **Response:** Officer Douglas has been awesome and stops by whenever she can—they go out of their way to try to be there at drop-off/pickup times.
- FYI, LSRC was a proud sponsor of recent LPA Trivia Night.

## Clean Missouri Reform

Will Krueger (Community Organizer)

- Will is a community organizer. Clean Missouri was on the ballot last cycle—series of reforms such as redistricting so that Senate and House districts are drawn in a competitive way that protects the rights of minority voters.
- Incumbents in Jeff City have a plan to override what voters passed by over 60% and give power to incumbents and lobbyists. Vote no on Amendment 2, which would UNDO and overturn the redistricting reform and make “geography” (which is arbitrary) the number 1 criteria for districts and take away the ability to fight unfair districts in court. The bill is written to be confusing. We need your help to protect a reasonable system that allows for fair elections.

## Candidate for Circuit Attorney

Mary Pat Carle

- Ran in 2016 and came in second place among 4 candidates.
- Recently got a job at a large law firm and never planned on running again....however, she has 3 kids and was very moved and upset by last summer's gun violence, particularly with children, and it motivated her to run again.
- Knows about resilience—contracted Bells Palsy after birth of her 3<sup>rd</sup> child—and thinks everyone has that resilience inside them. (Spoke passionately about her character-building experiences recovering and living with this condition.)
- What if we surrounded people who come into the criminal justice system with the tools to give them a path to success and helps victims deal with trauma.

## POLICE REPORT

### 3rd District

Officer Sherdon Douglas

- Lafayette Square had 4 crimes in February:
  - Attempted theft of a vehicle S18th/Kennett @ 11pm
  - Auto theft on 2/26 @7:45pm 1400 block of S18th

- Larceny from a vehicle 2/22 @ 3:30pm, stole a wallet and cell phone through a broken window.
- Robbery 2/16 @10:35 1700 Park (Square One), employee noticed someone pass by and then returned, asked for owner by name and asked for cigarette. When bartender left bar, suspect approached and told bartender to give him everything and indicated he had a gun. Suspect is a Black male, 5'8", 20s-30s. Footage was available.

## NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS

### Strategic Plan Update

**Matt Negri (for Linda Weiner)**

- Save the date for May 3, 3-5pm, in the Jefferson Room for Strategic Plan Launch.
- The final plan is under review and may be posted as early as this weekend on lafayettesquare.org website.
- This has been a tremendous effort—please come to the launch party.

### 2020 Budget Approval

**Clark Affholder/Sheri Mistretta**

- We approved the LSRC operating budget for 2020 but were holding off until LSBA submitted their financials.
- **Page 1:** Reserved funds, has not changed since January except for addition of \$1,000.
- **Page 2:** Clark moved things around to accommodate LSBA 2020 budget. We're still waiting on final 2019 numbers. Going forward we will be closing their bank account and LSRC Treasurer will take over so that there won't be delays/miscommunications. They will generate about \$16k revenue through events and dues. Their biggest expense is security patrol. That annual expense is about \$35K. Asking for a vote for LSRC to pay \$20K a year in addition to their \$16K of revenue. This is NOT the ongoing plan for 2021 and onward; hope to resolve this ongoing large expense through the strategic plan.
- **Page 3 and 4** are year-to-date activity.
- **Question:** What is that \$35K paying for? **Answer:** Thursday-Friday-Saturday private security that patrols the business district and around the park and up and down Mississippi from 7pm until midnight. In the past, the LSBA has funded this on their own in the past. When the LSBA merged with LSRC in early 2019, the thought was that we would figure out how to make it work. The businesses are a huge part of the success of the neighbourhood and we want to see them succeed. Beginning in 2021, we need a more sustainable approach to security.
- **Motion to approve 2020 budget, seconded, passed.**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Treasurer's Report

**Clark Affholder**

- House Tour posters are available for free—donations are appreciated. All posters have been scanned and digitized, and we need to part ways with the posters, which are taking up a lot of space in the Park House.

### Development

**Phil Lamczyk/Suzanne Sessions**

- The major update is the Chateau Development.
- Smaller projects are hovering around Park Avenue. There are significant changes from last month.

### Beautification

**Linda Weiner**

- Concentrating on plaza area this year; grasses are not doing well, and there are some diseased plants. We'll redo the plaza in two phases; phase 1 is getting rid of grass and putting in turf.

### House Tour Update

**Suzanne Sessions**

- **Question:** What happens if the house tour needs to be cancelled or is not successful? **Answer from Clark:** We could get through 2020, but would not have a lot of cash going into 2021. We have money in reserve that we could release—i.e. 20K for cameras, 10K for bandstand. We have money spoken for....but we can "unspeak" it just as easily. **Answer from Matt:** The House Tour committee will be discussing this tomorrow re: taking a break in the spring and making December tour 2 days long. We can discuss alternative events for fundraising.

### Community Affairs

**Dixie Gillaspie**

- Not present.

### Capital Improvements

**Mary Visintainer**

- Rutger/Jeff Entrance will begin in next 6 weeks...supposed to be finished by house tour.

- Meeting at end of the month—would love to have new members.

#### Membership

**Christina Ryan**

- Thanks for your forgiveness with human error in the Marquis and website. If you notice any inaccuracies, or have any membership questions, email [membership@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:membership@lafayettesquare.org).

#### LSBA

**Bethany Budde**

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### SAFETY REPORTS

#### Problem Properties

**Kyle Keenan**

- 2348 Hickory has been an LRA property for a long time and sold on 1/28, and \$200K of permits have been approved.
- 1625 Carroll just got another \$6K in permits approved.
- Issues:
  - 1730 Carroll has had many citations and a warrant on the owner; spelling issue with last name has been problematic with serving proper notice.
  - 1427 Missouri has scaffolding that's been up for years.
  - 1733 Choteau (old Gasthaus restaurant); parking lot is partially owned by Eden Lofts, the City, and LRA....people parking all kinds of vehicles there.
  - 1929 Hickory, 1900 LaSalle, 1103 S/18<sup>th</sup> (same owner)...derelict vehicles, broken vehicles, infestations
  - Church of Scientology...still technically listed; been taking bids for two years.
- First step: send a letter first with final warning
- Second step: Citations, visit with police officer to show problems for which photos have been taken/submitted
- Third step: Senate Bill 203 allows us to physically going onto a property
- Most extreme: court
- If you see something, send email to: [lsrproblemproperties@gmail.com](mailto:lsrproblemproperties@gmail.com)

#### Block Captains/Safety

**Glenn Eckert**

- No update on camera installation...have picked out a few properties where we'd *like* to have cameras.
- Reminder that in warmer weather there is more foot traffic. Be careful about what you leave in your car—please don't ask for trouble by leaving valuables in the car, especially in plain sight!
- Thank you to Tom Murphy for cleaning substation.
- Thank you to Ron Taylor and David Visintainer for following up with broken street lights.
- **Question**: It's appalling how people don't stop for pedestrians at Mississippi and Park. Is there ANYthing we can do to get traffic calming at that intersection? **Answer**: Glenn doesn't know, but it would definitely be nice to have some kind of enforcement. // Tom Murphy says that while it's outside the jurisdiction of the LSRC, there is interest in painting curbs, crosswalks, etc. because the city won't do it forever if we ask. // Jerry Ferrell says there are plastic speed bumps (they're using them in Maplewood), which could be taken out when needed (i.e. the bike race). // \_\_\_\_\_ In the transportation industry, it's called a regional tactile kit; it allows the neighborhood to experiment with design and observe what the response is from usage. // Suggestion to have stop signs with lights on them. // Tom: the Safety Committee will reach out to the City....we can't go rogue. 😊
- Matt: Traffic and traffic calming is going to be a significant project resulting from the strategic plan because of an increase in residents as well as about 700 office workers.

### NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

#### Lafayette Park Conservancy (LPC)

**Jerry Ferrell**

- May 23 @10:30am Fundraiser Brunch at SqWires to refurbish George Washington statue, which needs to be refurbished every 2 years. Nice meal and a presentation about the statue.
- Damaged fence section at Missouri/Lafayette where a car hit it about ten years ago. Board has approved to repair that section and have shipped to the foundry.

- Trees: We've had a bonanza of trees! We've planted over 40 big trees in the park—a lot of shade trees. A benefactor donated about \$1000 for 15 flowering trees (magnolia at Laf/Missouri entrance, cherry at the pond). Looking into contracting with a watering program so that we don't lose them.
- The Grotto: There were a couple dead trees, landscaping needed updating. LPC will be re-landscaping the Grotto. Removing dead trees, planting lots of flowers, and enhancing the image.
- Matt: LSRC Board approved a \$250 donation toward the renovation of the GW Statue.

#### Lafayette Square Arts Council

Donna Korando

- Concert schedule is set and posted on website!
- Special Event: Ralph Butler will do a reunion concert on Friday May 8.
- **Question:** Was there any potential to do an additional week at the end of the season? **Answer:** The time changes, and it gets too dark.

#### Barr Branch

- Not present.

#### Other:

- Kathryn Ferrell: Artists Gathering on 3/17 in Benton Park. Look for announcements on Nextdoor.
- Matt Negri: Part of the Strategic Plan is to increase the overall liveability and health of LafSq. There is some energy to engage with MODOT about putting sound walls along the southern edge of the Square along I-44. There is a group that is forming and will be convening to get a feel of how to formally ask for a sound abatement study. If you want to get involved, please talk to Matt.
- Hania Bednarski and Raul Sanchez are moving and having an Open House/Sale; Saturday 3/13 1:30-5pm 1515 Mississippi.
- **Question:** Are there block parties in the summer? **Answer:** There are National Night Out block parties; that has moved to Sept/Oct. The LSRC will give \$125 toward organized block parties; it does not have to coincide with NNO....but you can't have one every week! 😊 There are often Friday night summer socials—look on Nextdoor.

**ADJOURN:** 8:39pm

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Next LSRC Board Meeting is Tuesday, April 7 at the Park House, 7pm**
- **Next LSRC General Meeting is Tuesday, April 14, at 7pm at Sqwires Annex, 7pm**
- **Launch for the Strategic Plan Sunday May 3rd 3-5pm at the Jefferson Room**

**AFTER-MEETING SOCIAL: Thank you, Bethany and Sqwires Staff!**