



## LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

January 12, 2021 via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER 7pm

Steve Wilde, President ([President@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:President@lafayettesquare.org))

Welcome New Residents: None

Review and approve December 8, 2020 Minutes: Motion by Sheri Mistretta, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diana Gray

### ALDERMAN REPORTS

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

Christine Ingrassia ([ingrassiac@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:ingrassiac@stlouis-mo.gov))

- Not present.

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

Jack Coatar ([coatarj@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:coatarj@stlouis-mo.gov))

- Jack spoke with the Mayor and Dr. Eckles re: COVID. Each state has had to develop its own plan for vaccine distribution. Missouri is not doing a great job of coordinating so local municipalities are having to figure it out and coordinate with hospitals, CVS, etc.. We are still in Phase 1A; 1B will include first responders, teachers, childcare providers; 1C is people 65 and older with health conditions. By the end of the week the city will have a portal to know when vaccines are generally available for people in the various categories. The County's version is *not* a pre-registration; they are moving at the same pace as the city.
- Restaurant restrictions remain the same. It's a difficult time during these cold months so please continue to support them the best you can.
- In session for several weeks. February 5<sup>th</sup> starts a winter recess. Jack will be campaigning for the March non-partisan primary.
- There is a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of rental assistance, about \$9 million, from the money Congress appropriated in December.
- New construction downtown (trying to grow our tax base). New speed hump on Mississippi near LPA.
- Question: What's going on with a lot of helicopters flying over the neighborhood in the middle of the night? Seems like it has increased in the last few months. Jack: They are probably medical helicopters. Jack has sent an email and will try to confirm what those are, but there is not really anything he can do to.

### POLICE REPORT

#### 3rd District

Officer Sherdon Douglas ([sdouglas@slmpd.org](mailto:sdouglas@slmpd.org))

- Not present.

### GUEST SPEAKERS

#### Great Rivers Greenway

Emma Klues

- [eklues@grgstl.org](mailto:eklues@grgstl.org), 314-932-4919
- [www.greenwayplan.org](http://www.greenwayplan.org)
- This is the public agency trying to make STL an even better place to live by connecting different areas with pathways that are outdoor spaces for walking/biking, include conservation projects, and amenities such as restrooms, water fountains, benches, etc., and connections to places people want to go.
- Benefits are well-being, exercise, ways to get around town as well as our civic well-being now and for the future. The project is improving habitats, providing jobs to local companies.
- In our district on Missouri side: 1,200 square miles and 2 million people! Currently 128 miles, 16 of the 45 greenways, 3 million visits/ year, 28K acres public lands, 93 cents on the dollar is returned to taxpayers, 14, 264 volunteer hours in 2019: [www.greenwayplan.org](http://www.greenwayplan.org) (Also, happy to mail surveys to people.)

- Every 5 years the project updates its strategic plan and want to have this driven by community input. Please fill out survey to provide feedback.
- Question: What's happening with the Chateau Greenway? Emma: Now called the Brickline Greenway ([www.bricklinegreenway.org](http://www.bricklinegreenway.org)); multiple segments are in design phase....Fairground Park, CWE, Soccer Stadium area
- You can sign up for email updates for both projects on the websites.

#### Mayoral Candidate

**Cara Spencer ([cara@caraspencer4mayor.com](mailto:cara@caraspencer4mayor.com))**

- "I'm running to bring a real concrete crime reduction strategy to our city, to bring our city into the 21st century and position our community for growth."
- Website: [caraspencer4mayor.com](http://caraspencer4mayor.com).
- Lifelong St Louisian, has been serving as an alderwoman. Studied mathematics and has worked in private sector around the globe.
- Absentee voting starts next week.

### NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION UPDATES

#### Barr Branch

**Tonnya Joy ([tjoy@slpl.org](mailto:tjoy@slpl.org))**

- Not present.

#### Lafayette Preparatory Academy

**Gail Buffington**

- Thank you to everyone who supported LPA families with food donations—able to support all families that needed it over the winter break.
- There will be a virtual LPA trivia night on March 18 (normally in February). If you'd like to donate for the silent auction or sign up for a table, please email Gail.

#### Lafayette Park Conservancy (LPC)

**Michael Bushur ([Mjbushur@gmail.com](mailto:Mjbushur@gmail.com))**

- Michael is the new president of the LPC.

#### Lafayette Square Arts Council

**Donna Korando**

- There will be a surprise in February...!
- Proceeding as though there will be concerts this summer.

### NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS

#### Amazon Smile Donations

**Steve Wilde**

- Order your items the way you would normally, but if you activate Amazon Smile and choose a non-profit, then a small portion of each sale will go toward that charity. In 2020, about \$400 came in via Amazon Smile. Please consider the LSRC as your non-profit to support.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Treasurer's Report

**Sheri Mistretta ([treasurer@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:treasurer@lafayettesquare.org))**

- The good news is that we closed this difficult year in
- \$153K in the bank as of 12/31/20. Thought we would be negative 60K for the year, but ended up at negative 29K...an improvement!
- All the committees have submitted budgets. The board is looking at a conservative budget for 2021.
- Virtual House Tours will be amazing and hopefully income-producing.

#### Fundraising

**Sheri Mistretta/Suzanne Sessions**

- House Tours 2021: Ended up with 8 homes on virtual house tours. (This is the limit the producers asked for within our budget.) 3 were photographed for the holiday tour, and the other 5 will be filmed by early February. The quality so far is extremely impressive; they took about 5 hours to shoot footage inside plus 2 outside.

#### Business Affairs

**Bethany Budde**

- Not present.

## Development

## Suzanne Sessions

- 2001 Park Ave incomplete additions that have not been done—this has gone to court. They will either pay the \$500 fine or do the work.
- S 18<sup>th</sup> St/Hickory flashing lights issue has gone to court as well. They have 30 days to respond or they will be fined.
- Hoping to have the standards clarification go to print. (Will clarify what “infill” will really be and when a historic model example will be needed.)
- Several restaurants have requested temporary outdoor structures to help with outdoor seating particularly during the winter.
- We have it in the budget to have two students from Wash U photograph every structure in Lafayette Square. They are about halfway through with the project. This effort was fully funded by several people in the neighborhood.
- Problem Properties: [lsrcproblemproperties@gmail.com](mailto:lsrcproblemproperties@gmail.com)

## Beautification

Linda Weiner ([linderweiner@gmail.com](mailto:linderweiner@gmail.com))

- Not present.

## Communications/Community Affairs Committee

Jeff Baird ([communications@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:communications@lafayettesquare.org))

- New merchandise rollout with new logo: masks (\$8), folding chairs (\$50), beanies (\$20), koozies (\$3). The point is to give back to the neighborhood, and we thought this would be a fun way for people to support the LSRC and also get a cool piece of merchandise.
- Exclusively for sale at SqWires Market.
- Lafayette Square Community Facebook Group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LafayetteSquareCommunity>



## Membership

Christina Ryan ([membership@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:membership@lafayettesquare.org))

- Letters will be sent to members who are Preservationist, Marquis Circle, and Lafayette Society levels for tax purposes.
- We have about 250 memberships.
- The list of members and expiration dates on the website has not been updated since last May. We apologize! Please email Christina with any questions about your membership; the February Marquis should also be accurate through January 18. Christina hopes to be able to have access to the website to update membership content in the near future.

## Capital Improvements

Ian McCormack ([ian.mccormack@mccormackbaron.com](mailto:ian.mccormack@mccormackbaron.com))

- No updates.

## Block Captains/Safety

Glenn Eckert

- Safety includes block captains, traffic concerns, maintaining the police substation.
- We have installed a camera at the police substation with License Plate Reader (LPR) and connected to the Real Time Crime Center. After evaluating the effectiveness of this camera, we will consider installing another camera (at the cost of about \$3,000).
- Tom: There's a new captain for our ward. He did order some increased patrol around November, but we haven't seen consistent patrol that would shut it down on a larger scale. Traffic control is pretty obviously not a priority in St Louis as compared to other cities. A strategy of constant contact with both of our alderman and
- **Comment:** Why can't we explore different kinds of traffic strategies, such as removable speed bumps? **Tom:** The city was able to get a speed bump on Mississippi over by the school, and the city did put in the median in front of LPA, as well. Part of the problem is that Park Ave and Lafayette Ave are routes for emergency vehicles, and we're not going to be able to get speed bumps on those roads. Even the temporary ones have to be screwed into the street, and the city is not willing to do that, perhaps because the streets are not in great shape to begin with but also because of emergency vehicles, snowplows, etc. There's not a lot we can do directly as the LSRC; these are city functions, and we need to raise the awareness and be the squeaky

wheel to stay on top of them. **Comment:** Just seeing painted crosswalks, stop signs in the middle of the road, etc. are visual signals and rather simple to do that could help us out. **Tom:** Here is an actionable item—We can complain through the Citizens Service Bureau—Let's start with the Park/Mississippi intersection (use 1938 Park Ave. as address.) <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/neighborhood-stabilization-office/citizens-service-bureau/How-to-file-a-service-request.cfm>

- **Comment:** Part of the problem is that the streets are so wide; the roadways could be shortened with paint and vertical delineation. It's more than just a crosswalk issue. The width of the road invites speeding.
- Discussion continued regarding setting up a neighborhood task force/subgroup through the Safety Committee to work specifically on researching and improving traffic.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS**

- Steve Wilde will be stepping down as LSRC President because of personal/health reasons. Per the by-laws, the Vice President, Tom Murphy, will fill the President role. Steve will remain involved but in a lesser capacity for the foreseeable future.
- Jill Peckinpaugh: Thank you to everyone who helped make Light Up the Square a success! We realized that we have no decorations! Keep this in mind for donations next year. 😊

**Next LSRC Board Meeting: February 2, 2021 @7pm**

**Next LSRC General Membership Meeting: February 9, 2021 @7pm**

**ADJOURN @8:18pm:** Motion by Tom Murphy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ian McCormack