



## LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

March 9, 2021 via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER 7:01pm

Tom Murphy ([President@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:President@lafayettesquare.org))

Welcome New Residents: None

Review and approve February 9, 2020 Minutes: Motion by Sheri Mistretta, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Korando

### ALDERMAN REPORTS

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

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

- Can also contact Jack at: 314-374-0691
- Voting Day: April 6 – vote for 7<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman, Mayor; also Earnings Tax is critically important (makes up 1/3 of general revenue fund \$180 million), have to vote on it every 5 years.
- Anticipating STL City will receive \$400+million from federal government.
- A lot of money is available for rental, mortgage, or utility assistance – those that need help can contact Jack directly or look up on city website.
- The driver that hit the LafSq pillar during snowstorm (at Lafayette and 18<sup>th</sup>) had insurance; city is working with insurance company for ~\$6500.
- Board of Alderman is on recess until late April when new alderman and mayor are sworn in. After that will be working on the budget. Jack does not know what ward capital will look like in the upcoming year but will certainly work with the neighborhood on improvements.
- The Mayor is lifting *some* of the COVID restrictions; moving to midnight (from 11pm) closing time as well as some occupancy changes. There will be Cardinals fans in the stadium (30% occupancy). As vaccines get to more of our population we will be able to open things back up.
- Keep signing up on various sites to get vaccines! Expecting to see some mass vaccination sites in the upcoming weeks.
- Question: Is there an update on the incinerator issue on the east side? Answer: No updates. Will follow up with health department regarding any available reports.
- Question: Will concerts in the park be allowed? Answer: Jack is more optimistic about this...if there will be fans in the baseball stadium, it seems like there could be concerts in the park as long as guidelines are followed. Will reach out to Dr. Eckels and the special event coordinator for COVID plans for larger venues. Comment: It would be helpful if there is a template to follow for events that have already been approved.

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

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

- Have been in contact with both Mayoral candidates on a number of issues; will speak with about potential approval of concerts.
- We also have NSD proposals, school board elections on election day.
- Question: Any info on the sinkhole on Missouri near Choteau? Answer: This is the first Christine has heard about it. Will look into it and report back.

### POLICE REPORT

#### 3rd District

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

- Welcome back to Officer Douglas!
- January 2021: 3 larcenies (catalytic converter), 2 burglaries (Boost Mobile, and a garage on Carroll St
- 7 larcenies, 2 burglaries (garage on 18<sup>th</sup> and a vacant garage on 18<sup>th</sup>), 1 theft

- 17 crimes total for January and February – down 53%
- Reminder: When you park your car, lock your door and remove your keys, keep packages out of sight, don't keep valuables in plain sight (take them with you!); if you put items in your trunk, do it before your arrival.
- Question: Is there anything that can be done about dogs off leash in the park? Answer: Officer Douglas recalled a conversation about more signs that were put up. Sometimes seeing a sign does help. Can't tie up police very much in the park. Will contact officers who are out on their beats to keep an eye out.

### NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION UPDATES

#### Barr Branch

**Tonnya Joy (tjoy@slpl.org)**

- Email Update: All STL Public libraries are open with limited hours and services. Curbside pickup still available. Age 5+ required to wear a mask.
- Summer camp (online) sign up: <https://slpl.jumbula.com/#/home>
- Library has a COVID Resource Page: <https://www.slpl.org/covid-19-vaccine-resources/>.

#### Lafayette Preparatory Academy

**Gail Buffington**

- This Friday night is the LPA Trivia night...too late to sign up but can sign up for 50/50 raffle and silent auction.
- Hybrid model will continue through May.

#### Lafayette Park Conservancy (LPC)

**Michael Bushur (Mjbushur@gmail.com)**

- <http://lafayettepark.org/>
  - Not present.

#### Lafayette Square Arts Council

**Donna Korando**

- Nothing to report...crossing fingers that we can have a concert season.
- Appreciated the response to the hearts on the fence for Valentine's Day. 😊

### NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS

#### VP/President-Elect Vacancy

**Tom Murphy**

- No one has stepped forward yet. Please contact Tom if interested.

#### Fundraising Chairperson

**Tom Murphy**

- Kelly Schlueter has stepped up as Fundraising Chair. Kelly is also our Treasurer-Elect. Thank you, Kelly!

#### House Tour Update

**Jill Peckinpugh/Suzanne Sessions**

- 4 of 8 houses have been filmed. There will be one day of limited-attendance, in-person garden tours.
- **Tickets will be available April 1.**
- Please take a look at the media release so we're all on the same page regarding what the event is. [Click here to see the media release](#). We can market this event far beyond our city limits! We need everyone who lives in the neighborhood to distribute this information out, especially as we get closer to the date.
- **We're looking for gardens, sponsorships, and auction donations.**
  - Refer garden owners to [housetour@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:housetour@lafayettesquare.org)
  - Almost all of the houses have auction items placed in them so buyers have the visual reference; narrator or homeowners will point them out. Auction donations can be items that look like they come from Lafayette Square/antiques, trips, gift baskets, etc. [Click here for auction donation form](#).
  - Sponsorships: [Click here for the sponsorship form](#).

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Treasurer's Report

**Sheri Mistretta (treasurer@lafayettesquare.org)**

- We had more income than expenses for the month of February. 😊 Spring is coming so lots of repairs—and expenditures—are on the radar for the upcoming months.
- The Virtual House Tour is our main fundraiser...we need everyone to get behind this event!

#### Business Committee

**Bethany Budde**

- Not present.

#### Development

**Suzanne Sessions**

- Things are still very slow with development in the neighborhood and requests *for* development in the neighborhood.
- There is forward momentum on the Praxair site.
- Problem Properties: [lsrcproblemproperties@gmail.com](mailto:lsrcproblemproperties@gmail.com)

**Beautification**

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

- No updates.

**Communications/Community Affairs Committee**

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

- Last month there was a question regarding needing to create an account to pay for LSRC memberships: Yes, it is, mainly because we want the information purchases are providing to be password protected. It also allows for auto-renewal of memberships and purchasing tickets for events (in the future).
- There have been a number of website improvements:

**Membership**

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

- We have about 250 memberships.
- With the new website and changing over to Stripe from Paypal, we have several additional features. One is the ability to auto-renew. When you sign up or renew your membership on Stripe, the default will be for a recurring membership. Prior to the auto-renew, you should receive an email allowing you to opt out of this feature.

**Capital Improvements**

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

- Rutger columns are going up in the next 1-2 weeks.
- Expanding the historic street sign program to another 18-24 signs later in 2021.

**Block Captains/Safety**

Glenn Eckert

- In need of Block Captains; streets in need were posted in the Marquis and in Facebook Community Group. Contact [lsrc@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:lsrc@lafayettesquare.org) .

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS**

- David Merideth: I am one of the candidates for the School Board, and if anyone would like to talk education or get more info from me you can email me at [davidforslps@gmail.com](mailto:davidforslps@gmail.com), call me at 314-917-2549, or check out my website at [davidforslps.org](http://davidforslps.org).
- At some point, we'll get feedback regarding meeting in person again for monthly meetings, but we will also still livestream the meetings over Zoom.

**Next LSRC Board Meeting: April 6, 2021 @7:56 pm**

**Next LSRC General Membership Meeting: April 13, 2021 @7pm**

**ADJOURN @ 7:57** (motion by Kelly Schuleter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sheri Mistretta)