



## LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

October 13, 2020 via Zoom

**CALL TO ORDER 7pm**

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

**Welcome New Residents:** Annette Llewellyn at Union Club

**Review and approve September 8, 2020 Minutes:** Motion by Suzanne Sessions, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sheri Mistretta

### ALDERMAN REPORTS

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

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

- Absentee Voting: You can vote absentee right now downtown at the Election Board or at 4 library satellite locations (Central is closest to LafSq). Behind the scenes, Jack has been securing about ~\$1 million additional funding (Zuckerberg grant) for poll judges and election workers. (up to \$15/hr).
- Working on surface parking downtown.
- Memorializing an agreement between the National Park service and the STL Police Department regarding incidents that happen on park grounds.
- Trees that have red or blue X's are scheduled to come down in the coming weeks. Blue indicates Ash trees, which *must* come out because of the emerald ash borer. Red X's are trees with some other reason for it to come down. Any tree that comes out will have stump removed, and street trees will be replanted. (Request that residents help water new street trees.)
- New medians have gone in on Lafayette near LPA. They will need beautification from LPA and LafSq volunteers.
- There has been a very strange, strong smell wafting over from a plant in Illinois. Jack knows about the problem and is working on it! He has asked the health department, the city councillor, the director of operations and find out what course of action we can take. It's complicated unfortunately because it's on the Illinois side.
- Question: There have been several complaints about a few extremely loud cars in the neighborhood. Is there anything we can do about it? Is there an ordinance about noisy mufflers that means you can get a ticket?  
Response: Yes, there is a noise ordinance. The easiest course of action is to have Officer Sherdon Douglas connect and talk with the neighbor first before writing tickets. They would need to be pulled over/caught to issue the ticket.

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

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

- Not present.

### POLICE REPORT

#### 3rd District

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

- Joe Morici is the new captain, coming from the 2<sup>nd</sup> district. Jack is connecting with him and will invite him to a future meeting.
- Captain Cousins was promoted to Major.

### GUEST SPEAKERS

#### St Louis Circuit Judges Update

**Katherine Fowler, Madeline Connolly, Annette Llewellyn**

- The courts are taking public safety very seriously. At this point, we haven't had any jury trials. They hope to do that in the near future. All hearings are conducted through WebEx. An important way for citizens to be involved is to attend hearings, including for sentencing. You can do this through WebEx. Each circuit court website has a

link for the virtual courtroom. If you're not sure of when a hearing is or which court, feel free to contact the judges.

- Regarding Judicial Retention Elections...some judges are appointed but then have to get a majority of the vote to stay in their position. Judges do not campaign for their jobs and do their best to stay apolitical. There is a commission that evaluates judges up for retention. They survey lawyers who have appeared in front of the judges; lawyers give reviews. The Commission considers those reviews and other documentation and then gives their full evaluation and recommendations. *All three judges mentioned here have been recommended.*
- Annette and Madeline are in the family courts. These have also been all virtual since March via WebEx.
- Question: How is that we can't get under control the issue of cars having no plates, out of date plates, stolen plates, etc.? Response: The judges share the sentiment. The police CAN issue ticket for people with expired plates. (The judges present here are state judges, and this issue would be handled by municipal judges.)

#### **Prop R/Early Childhood Measure**

**Lindsey Noblot**

- Lindsey directs advocacy for Southside Early Childhood Center.
- Yes on R is to raise money for early childhood in the neediest area. It will be on the ballot for STL City. It was already passed by the Board of Alderman. It is largely led by a grassroots coalition of black women who are early childhood providers.
- The measure increases property tax rate by 6 cents—up to 25 cents per \$100 of home value from the current rate of 19 cents—resulting in an estimated \$2.3 million annual investment in early childhood education.
- Website: <https://yesonproprstlcity.com> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/YesonRSTLCity>

#### **NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS**

##### **LSRC Board Elections/Approve Slate**

**Kim Peterson**

- People have stepped up to fill all 16 positions on the board.
- **Motion** to elect the slate of candidates: Kim Peterson; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bethany Budde → **MOTION PASSES FOR THE NEW BOARD.**

##### **House Tour Update**

**Jill Peckinpaugh/Suzanne Sessions**

- We're not going to conduct an actual house tour this December. We will start filming in December for a virtual tour next year—in 2021. We need to take baby steps to get there. The LSRC will be hosting a Light Up the Square on December 5 or December 12 (date TBD). The event is designed to meet several priorities:
  - Maintain the tradition of hosting a major event in LafSq in December
  - Bring people of the neighborhood and surrounding communities together with fun, family-focused events
  - Support neighborhood liveability by supporting businesses
  - Through video and pictures, capture the vitality of the neighborhood, to be used with the 2021 production...we will be videotaping everything this year
  - Collaborate with other LafSq groups
  - Raise funds to support the many projects vital to the ongoing success of the square
- Events may include:
  - coordinate neighborhood effort to light homes on day of event to support drone video graphic for production
  - Decorating of fountain square and tree lighting
  - Coordinated restaurant themed menu items
  - Socially distanced Santa
  - Pet parade
  - Pop-up events—i.e. cookie exchanges
  - Raffle
  - Music

- Sponsorships for the event
- In need of volunteers to work on these various committees
- From Suzanne—We will need lots of donations for a great virtual auction in 2021. This is an opportunity for different homes to be featured, homes that don't have a back door or owners that don't want all the traffic going through their home but are delighted to be on a virtual tour.
- This could start a really nice annual tradition for lighting up the square! We need everyone to buy in to putting the candles in their windows. Need block captains and neighbors to help get the word out.

### Strategic Plan Update

Linda Weiner

- After 3 years of meetings and planning, the strategic plan is launching!
- The team is seeking input **BY OCTOBER 16**. Team has been meeting every few weeks and producing information for the community online, seeking re-energized enthusiasm and feedback.  
<https://lafayettesquare.org/community/lafayette-square-restoration-committee/the-lafayette-square-strategic-plan/>
- Will have a Virtual Launch on Sunday, November 15 from 3-5pm. The launch will introduce people from various organizations and find out more about how we move forward.
- Question: Could you share the different implementation committee topics? Response: That committee will decide which goals and objectives to work on. The committee is formed by all the organizations, including the business community, the Arts Council, the LPC, as well as renters/owners, new and veteran residents, etc. Trying to get a diverse group to decide on what goals to work on.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Treasurer's Report

Clark Affholder ([treasurer@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:treasurer@lafayettesquare.org))

- Clark not present.

#### Lafayette Sq Business Association (LSBA)

Bethany Budde

- 11 businesses have decided to donate toward the security shifts 3 nights per week through the end of the year; these funds will come from the businesses not from LSRC coffers.
- The businesses will discuss their contributions to Light Up The Square—donating, working on raffle, coordinating plaza lighting and Santa.
- LSBA dues invoices have been sent out. Typically those would have gone out earlier but gave a reprieve this year due to COVID.
- There have been numerous instances of panhandling throughout the business district.

#### Development

Suzanne Sessions/Phil Lamczyk

- Construction of infrastructure on LaSalle and the 1<sup>st</sup> 128-unit apartment building (that faces the new section of LaSalle) will begin in a few weeks. This infrastructure is the backbone for all the utilities for the whole site. Grading can begin after that. On the Hickory site between Hickory and Praxair site, a new retaining wall needs to be built.
- Question: Is there any progress on the Hickory townhomes? Response: There is a lot of interest in the townhomes on Hickory, but builders were waiting to see progress on Praxair. With that getting started, hopefully there will be new interest.
- Preservation Board has delayed for a month approving the revised standards for "infill" in the historic standards.
- 2001 Park Ave (Mayo Ketchup)—still trying to get the rest of the design (the brackets) completed that was presented to the Development Committee. The building looks great, but the committee would like to see it completed the way it was presented.
- The restaurants are having a difficult time with takeout orders. Square One has asked specifically, but it would apply to multiple businesses. They are asking for temporary wooden structures with awnings to protect people inside and outside during the winter.

#### Beautification

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

- The new median will get plants and will be a targeted project going into the spring. With only 6-8" of soil, we are looking into installing 3 urns.
- We need lots of volunteers to mulch.
- Plantation on Park Avenue medians with perennials 9-11am on Sunday 10/18.
- The Fountain will be turned off during the week of 10/26.

#### Communication Committee

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

- The committee is thankful to everyone who participated in the photo contest and has announce the top 4 winners!
- Social Media:
  - Instagram – LafayetteSquareSTL
  - Community Facebook Page (public): <https://www.facebook.com/LafayetteSquareStLouis>
  - Private Neighborhood Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LafayetteSquareCommunity>  
\*\*\*You must provide your address.
- Wrapping up the new website with StoryPower.
- The committee decided to update the neighborhood logo, featuring line drawings of Victorian houses.
- Always welcome new volunteers to the committee!

#### Membership

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

- Currently at about ~240 household memberships as well as about 35 LSBA memberships.
- Halloween Decoration Contest: Email photos and nominations!

#### Capital Improvements

Mary Visintainer

- Not present. New VP will be Ian McCormack.

#### SAFETY REPORTS

##### Block Captains/Safety

Glenn Eckert ([glenneckert@gmail.com](mailto:glenneckert@gmail.com))

- Block Captains have been distributing directories.
- We still need Block Captains for specific blocks.
- The contracted company to put up first interior camera at Park/Mississippi will be completing the install tomorrow 10/14. We will see how to use most effectively as we move forward.
- Problem Properties: [lsrproblemproperties@gmail.com](mailto:lsrproblemproperties@gmail.com)

#### NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION UPDATES

##### Lafayette Preparatory Academy

Gail Buffington ([grbuff@gmail.com](mailto:grbuff@gmail.com))

- K-3 students will be returning for a hybrid model beginning October 26.
- Continue to hold food drives. Accepting fresh produce/perishables 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 8am-4pm. LPA is also happy to take donations for other items (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, school supplies, etc). We've also had some people make cash/check donations, which I can get you more info on Gail is also happy to coordinate drop-offs. Thank you for your ongoing support!
- Amazon wish list:

##### Lafayette Park Conservancy (LPC)

Ward Buckner

- Not present

##### Lafayette Square Arts Council

Donna Korando

- Not present.

##### Barr Branch

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

- Not present.

**Motion to adjourn:** Suzanne Sessions 2<sup>nd</sup>: Linda Weiner

**ADJOURN:** 8:34pm

**Next LSRC Board Meeting: November 3, 2020 @7pm**

**Next LSRC General Membership Meeting: November 10, 2020 @7pm**

**Lafayette Square Strategic Plan Launch: November 15, 2020 @3pm**