



LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

November 10, 2020 via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER 7:01 pm

Steve Wilde, President (President@lafayettesquare.org)

Beginning Meeting: Motion by Diana Gray, 2nd Amy Cyr

Review and approve October 13, 2020 Minutes: Motion by Sheri Mistretta, 2nd by Kim Peterson

Welcome New Residents: Abigail Schlueter on Lafayette Ave

ALDERMAN REPORTS

7th Ward

Jack Coatar (coatarj@stlouis-mo.gov)

- Covid situation is getting worse. City numbers are relatively stable compared to surrounding counties; hospitals are filing up beyond what they were in the spring. Continue to socially distance, keep gatherings small, and wear your masks! The Major does not want to do any further restrictions, but if the numbers continue to climb and hospitals lose capacity, we're looking at another shutdown.
- Jack is on Coronavirus Select committee responsible for \$40 million dollars trickled down from federal to state to city. Approximately 10 million for rent assistance, some for utility assistance. Encourage anyone that you know is in need to seek assistance and look for resources; welcome to contact Jack and Christine.
- The smell from across the river: Update from Dr. Eckles, city health director—there has been air quality monitoring that determined there are not pollutants in the air, despite smells. The state EPA is doing an ongoing study. Coming from the Viola Incinerator Plant in Illinois.
- Regarding holiday neighborhood events...hoping to get them approved, but outdoor events do require health department sign-off. They are taking a very close look and are taking social distancing very seriously.
- **Question:** How long will road construction be going on at 44/Jefferson? **Answer:** Jack will look into getting an update from MODOT....supposed to continue until spring? **Comment:** Lafayette/44 on ramp is open again.

6th Ward

Christine Ingrassia (ingrassiac@stlouis-mo.gov)

- The city passed Prop D. Christine will be working with neighborhood to educate about March ballot. Instead of having to request a ballot along party lines, you'll be able to pick your top two candidates; there will be a runoff at the general election between top two candidates.
- Christine is working with Jack on revisions to [city] historic code. There were demolitions involving soccer field that were not brought to their attention. Seeking a more transparent process where citizens can weight in via public hearing versus all of the authority resting with Cultural Resources.

POLICE REPORT

3rd District

Officer Sherdon Douglas (sdouglas@slmpd.org)

- Not present. Officer Douglas had been ill for a while and recently returned to work. Steve Wilde will follow up and check in with her.

GUEST SPEAKERS

None.

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION UPDATES

Barr Branch

Tonnya Joy (tjoy@slpl.org)

Lafayette Preparatory Academy

Gail Buffington (grbuff@gmail.com)

- The school has been working on how to best address Covid concerns, what the school will be doing in 3rd quarter. Still trying to meet community needs for food, diapers, etc. 3rd Tuesday of the month is drop-off day for groceries, toiletries/personal care, etc. from 8am-4pm at front office walk-up window.

Lafayette Park Conservancy (LPC)

Michael Bushur

- Not present/no updates.
- <http://lafayettepark.org/>

Lafayette Square Arts Council

Donna Korando (acls@lafayettesquare.org)

- Contacting bands in the hope of having concerts next summer; contracts will have a clause for Covid
- Anyone with ideas of arts projects that the arts council can do for families, please e-mail acls@lafayettesquare.org
- <https://lafayettesquare.org/community/arts-council-of-lafayette-square/>

NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS

House Tour Update

Jill Peckinpaugh (jill.peckinpaugh@sbcglobal.net)

- The plan is to get together on December 5 for neighborhood festivities; contingent on getting permits. The main reason to get together is that the production company will be filming that evening for marketing for next year's virtual house tour and many other avenues. Enthusiasm needs to be tempered by safety concerns. → Updates forthcoming on specific schedule/components.
- *The big message is:* LIGHT UP YOUR HOUSES! (Even just candles in the windows!) Trying to get people involved on each street. The footage will include folks walking in the streets, enjoying the neighborhood, etc.
- **Question:** Is anyone working on a group buy of 120vac (C7 LED) electric window candles? Group buys tend to lower costs and brings about a common appearance. **Answer:** We do not intend to do a group purchase, but we will share information/resources. If anyone needs help ordering, installing, etc., we hope to have a volunteer to help.
- **Comment:** Holiday lights are part of so many cultures and religious; let's make sure to keep it inclusive and honor lighting up the darkness as a universal thread.

Strategic Plan Update

Linda Weiner (linderweiner@gmail.com)

- Strategic Plan Launch.: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 3-4:30PM
- This virtual launch will provide a brief review, summarize feedback, respond to questions, and celebrate this community milestone. At that time, we will call for volunteers to join committees as we move to implement the Strategic Plan's goals and objectives over the next 5 years.
- To get involved, please review the following documents: Short Description of Strategic Plan, Member-At-Large Implementation Committee Application and/or the full draft of the Strategic Plan
- For lots more info, [click here](#).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Sheri Mistretta (treasurer@lafayettesquare.org)

- Sheri is in the process of receiving documents from previous treasurer, Clark Affholder, who served for two years. He is working with Sheri on 990 right now, membership will receive through email in next few dates.
- We're in a lean time right now and being conservative and forward-thinking. However, we have ~\$139K in the bank and are anticipating some exciting donor information!
- Excited to be part of new website; there will be a lot of specificity regarding donations. Transitioning to Stripe from Paypal.
- **Question:** Most companies that offer matching gifts, require a contact person...who is that person? Answer: On the new website, there will be the ability to select "matching gifts." Contact information will be right there for the treasurer.

Fundraising

Sheri Mistretta (treasurer@lafayettesquare.org)

- Looking at getting matching gift initiatives. The hard work has been done by the Strategic Plan—groundwork has been laid! Look forward to connecting fundraising to initiatives.
- House tours have been 85% of our income. We've missed one...and will miss the next 2-3. Sheri and others are getting creative and putting many hours into complementing holiday tours with lasting fundraising alternatives.
- **Question:** When will new website be launched? **Answer:** In next 1-2 weeks! We're very close.
- **Question:** Do we have any new businesses moving into the Square in the near future? **Answer:** Sauce Magazine bought the building next to them; bottom floor will be rented to a law firm (associated with a resident in the square.) Old Stray Rescue building is having work done on it; not sure what the future is there.

Lafayette Sq Business Association (LSBA)

Bethany Budde (bethany@sqwires.com)

- Not present.
- Steve Wilde: Local businesses are working with multiple committee heads and the president to brainstorm ways to contribute to the neighborhood.

Development

Suzanne Sessions (suzanne.sessions.inc@gmail.com)

- Few things on the agenda; very few are coming forward with new projects right now...some window replacements
- Ground-breaking Ceremony for 2200 LaSalle in the Chateau Development is happening this week on 11/12.
- Phil Lamczyk has been recruiting folks to take photographs throughout the neighborhood that greatly assist in resources for historic models, creating a directory of homes. (Haven't done this since year 2000.) Have found several architectural students

Beautification

Linda Weiner (linderweiner@gmail.com)

- Thank you to many residents, and frequent neighborhood landscaper, Jake Corgan, and his team who worked on new medians on Lafayette—26 bushes were planted and lots of mulch!

Communication Committee

Jeff Baird (communications@lafayettesquare.org)

- Not present.
- Steve Wilde: Jeff has been working tirelessly on getting the new website ready to go; wrapping up small details.

Membership

Christina Ryan (membership@lafayettesquare.org)

- Currently at about ~250 household memberships as well as about 35 LSBA memberships.
- Halloween decoration contest was a grand success! So many thanks to Scott and Suzi Jones who started the tradition of—and funded and organized—the festival in the park for 12 years. Feedback from many residents is that they enjoyed this year's approach as much or more than the park party, which tends to be families only. Trick or treating provided more intergenerational involvement and got more people than ever before excited about decorating their homes and mingling with neighbors. We did a good job of distancing and wearing masks, too!

Capital Improvements

Ian McCormack

- Not present.
- Steve Wilde: It's a slower time of the year, and we've cut back on a lot of new projects this year.

Block Captains/Safety

Glenn Eckert (glenneckert@gmail.com)

- New camera has been installed at Park/Mississippi. We've purchased a high-def TV to serve as a monitor for the camera. This will be used to view footage of incidents and give us a chance to follow up on them. We'll be able to give the login to the RTCC (Real Time Crime Center) so that the police can login. look at recordings, and use in

their investigations. Note that the camera footage is not livestreamed to the police department, but they will have access to the footage.

- The camera is mounted on the building that houses the police substation; has a light, but it's relatively discreet. One stationary camera looks at the corner entrance of park at Park/Mississippi, another toward Vail Place, and a 3rd camera rotates and has a LPR (license plate reader).
- We have more directories being distributed.
- Question: Any update on cars with loud mufflers at all hours of the day? Answer: The reality is that at this time there are more pressing issues for the police department. It's disappointing that these folks feel like they can do whatever they want.
- Steve Wilde: We've had a lapse in follow-through on Problem Properties. We're going to work on improving that. Problem Properties: lsrcproblemproperties@gmail.com
- **Question:** There are many expired tags on cars... have the police suspended the requirement that car tags be updated because of Covid? **Answer:** This is a question for Officer Douglas....sometimes people need to be cut some slack, but anything over 90 days (even up to 2 years!) needs to be addressed. **Comment from Tom Murphy:** This is a city administration/enforcement issue...potentially address at future meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None.

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

Next LSRC Board Meeting: December 1, 2020 @7pm

Light Up the Square: December 5, 2020 @3-6pm

Next LSRC General Membership Meeting: December 8, 2020 @7pm

ADJOURN: 8:04pm Motion by Tom Murphy, 2nd by Sheri Mistretta