



LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

December 8, 2020 via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER 7pm

Steve Wilde, President (President@lafayettesquare.org)

Welcome New Residents:

Review and approve November 10, 2020 Minutes

ALDERMAN REPORTS

6th Ward

Christine Ingrassia (ingrassiac@stlouis-mo.gov)

- Not present.

7th Ward

Jack Coatar (coatarj@stlouis-mo.gov)

- City's COVID numbers are ~47/100,000; this is lower than the county and surrounding counties. Mayor does not intend to create any additional closures as long as numbers stay where they are and will go after specific businesses that are not following the rules.
- City Hall is in session and under deadline to spend federal monies (for COVID help) by the end of the year-- non-profits, and people needing rental assistance, utilities help, etc.. Hope is that there will be additional funding coming from federal government.
- Looking at changing some language in standards for preservation review districts (vs. historic districts) especially regarding demolition-->better public input and notice of demo.
- Short-Term Rentals--difficult to get lawyers, and people in various offices to agree on what is good legislation. Some of the complaints (there were a lot city-wide and in 7th Ward) have decreased due to owners doing some self-policing.
- Regarding speeding...Jack will talk to police department about getting some patrols going. 44 is open again so hopefully that will cut back on people speeding down Lafayette. There was a large outbreak of COVID in the 4th district (over 20 officers), and the 3rd district police were stretched thin.

POLICE REPORT

3rd District

Officer Sherdon Douglas (sdouglas@slmpd.org)

Crimes for November:

- Officer Douglas' father passed away on Thanksgiving, and she is out on bereavement leave.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Darlene Green, Comptroller for City of St Louis

- From a year ago: Revenue taxes are 10% down, sales taxes at 27% down, hotel/restaurant taxes 84% down from a year ago
- Local use tax has grown (mail order goods by residents and businesses)
- Expenditures: We have a hiring freeze, trying to keep city services; some have not been as productive because employees and departments have been affected by COVID.
- Have saved city over 160 million through bond financing. City's credit rating has sustained an A credit rating, which means we can borrow at lower rates. The STL Youth Jobs (summer program for several years) is successful.
- This office does all the accounting services—payroll, accounts payable, internal audit for the city, fraud hotline.

- There are 3 municipal elections on March 2—Mayor, Comptroller, odd-numbered ward aldermen/women. In addition, the earnings tax issue will be on ballot; this is one of the larger revenue sources. The question is whether to retain the earnings tax; Ms. Green encourages people to vote Yes.

Paul King, Estate Manager for and Brother of Jim King

- Not present.

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION UPDATES

Barr Branch

Tonnya Joy (tjoy@slpl.org)

- Not present.

Lafayette Preparatory Academy

Gail Buffington (grbuff@gmail.com)

- LPA Bake Sale--thank you for contributing.
- LPA will be on break from 12/18-1/3 and virtual through 1/10. When school is not in session, families do not have access to food pickup. So this month's donations (through 12/18) are available to be dropped off 8am-3pm every school day. Specific demand for certain items. Please email Gail. Gail can also arrange to get items to the school.

Lafayette Park Conservancy (LPC)

Ward Buckner

- Not present.

Lafayette Square Arts Council

Donna Korando

- Not present.

NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS

House Tour Update

Suzanne Sessions/Jill Peckinpaugh

- The production team will be filming 8 houses. 3 will be for the holiday house tour, and 5 for June. Starting interviews this week.
- Comment: Check out Souldard Parlor Tour online for inspiration.

Strategic Plan Update

Linda Weiner (linderweiner@gmail.com)

- The plan was launched virtually; about 60 people attended. Overlooked the results and goals. Asking people to step up for the implementation committee. We have 6 possible candidates for , whic3 member-at-large openings. Decisions in December and plan to meet in January.
- <https://lafayettesquare.org/community/lafayette-square-restoration-committee/the-lafayette-square-strategic-plan/>

Light Up the Square Update

Sheri Mistretta (treasurer@lafayettesquare.org)

- Over 10 retail businesses, great weather, did our best to distance and stay safe. Very successful!
- Small pet "parade" will be an annual event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Sheri Mistretta (treasurer@lafayettesquare.org)

- YTD last year was \$217K. When we bring the budget to you next month, it's going to be lean, but we're still going to have
- James King Memorial Fund is a \$200K gift! It is given and endowed.
- Kudos to all members this year--that income has been very important this year!
- Hoped to have budget to members this month, but we are working on it and will have it out in January.

Fundraising

Sheri Mistretta (treasurer@lafayettesquare.org)

- Professional video company is working now to record footage
- Virtual June Summer Garden House Tour and a Holiday Virtual Tour that will line up with Light Up the Square.
- There will be online auctions for both tours; we need contributions for both.

Business Affairs

Bethany Budde

- Not present.

Development

Suzanne Sessions/Phil Lamczyk

- We will be photographing every property (3 views of each) in Lafayette Square in December and January. The photographers are from Wash U (and Uof MO?). This project is underwritten through donations.
- Infill on Lafayette Walk development.
- Hickory Townhomes--there are no updates from the developer. Scheduled to start in December or January.
- On Development Agenda: window replacement
- Before you start a project, PLEASE read the code and be aware of what you can and can't do.
- Problem Properties: lsrcproblemproperties@gmail.com

Beautification

Linda Weiner (linderweiner@gmail.com)

- Nothing to report; everything has been mulched and put to sleep. =)

Communication Committee

Jeff Baird (communications@lafayettesquare.org)

- Not present.
- Website is live but still being updated.
- We will have some new Lafayette Square merchandise! Masks, koozies, foldable chairs (perfect for park concerts...which WILL return someday!). Stay tuned.

Membership

Christina Ryan (membership@lafayettesquare.org)

- Currently at about ~240 household memberships as well as about 35 LSBA memberships.
- Online payments have transferred over from Paypal to Stripe.
- Will be sending out tax letters to those at Preservationist (\$250) and higher levels of memberships. If you are at a different level and need a letter, feel free to request.

Capital Improvements

Ian McCormack

- Not present.
- Ian and President Steve Wilde met recent to discuss the budget. The goal for 2021 is to do our best to complete projects that are already underway and look at new projects with much scrutiny because of the budget situation.

Block Captains/Safety

Glenn Eckert (glenneckert@gmail.com)

- Looking at Block Captain program and discerning whether it needs to be updated for the future.
- Looking at effectiveness of neighborhood directories.
- We have a camera installed above the police substation. Internet service has been installed and will increase effectiveness of the camera. DK Stuff (camera provider) is scheduled to come out to make sure everything is connected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next LSRC Board Meeting: January 5, 2021 @7pm

Next LSRC General Membership Meeting: January 12, 2021 @7pm

ADJOURN: Adjourned at 7:49pm