



LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

April 13, 2020 via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER 7pm

Tom Murphy, President (President@lafayettesquare.org)

Welcome New Residents: None

Review and approve December 8, 2020 Minutes: Motion by Sheri Mistretta, 2nd by Matt Negri

ALDERMAN REPORTS

7th Ward

Jack Coatar (coatarj@stlouis-mo.gov)

- Thank you to everyone who got out and voted...Jack welcomes feedback on his service.
- This is the last week of current Board of Aldermen. New Board will dive into the budget, especially how to spend the \$517 million (American Rescue Plan) from the federal government. Some of it will fill gaps left by sales tax revenue deficit in 2020-21.
- Jack will remain the Board's representative to the Preservation Board.
- FEMA has partnered with the city and state and set up a mass vaccination site at the Dome at America Center. They have the capacity to do 3,000 shots/day; you can register, but they are also taking walk-ins. Also, you can get your second Pfizer shot instead of returning to areas hours away where you got your first.
- Ward capital priorities: Jack is waiting for clarity on budget and how much discretionary money the aldermen will have. Then, he will consult with the LSRC board/membership.
- **Question:** What kind of big "buckets" will money be allocated toward? **Answer:** This money will likely go toward filling the gaps from \$70 million budget shortfall for government services. Then...violence prevention, work force, rent/utility assistance. Also waiting for additional guidance from federal government (i.e. cannot spend on pension obligations, tax cuts, etc.). Not sure how much would be spent on infrastructure because if Biden administration infrastructure plan goes through, there will be additional money for that.
- **Question:** Could any of the money go toward streets? **Answer:** Last year, bulk of Ward 7 funds went toward repaving parts of downtown that were in such bad shape. Not sure how much of the \$517 million can go toward streets, bridges, etc.
- **Question:** What ideas are being generated for violence prevention? **Answer:** There are some programs that were getting started, which the pandemic slowed down. To the extent we can use dollars to for witness protection program, would absolutely do that.
- **Question:** Did anything ever come of the investigation of the terrible smells from across the river? **Answer:** Viola (sp?) plant across the river...will follow up (*again*) with Dr. Eckles (it's not his top priority right now during COVID). There was supposed to be a report generated. The city did do various air quality tests and did not find anything concerning.

6th Ward

Christine Ingrassia (ingrassiac@stlouis-mo.gov)

- Jack covered everything....Mayor-Elect Jones is interested in collecting feedback from citizens for some of the money allocated from the American Rescue Plan.

POLICE REPORT

3rd District

Officer Sherdon Douglas (sdouglas@slmpd.org)

- **Crimes for March:**
 - 2 auto thefts (Hickory and Laf/S Jeff), both vehicles recovered
 - 2 burglaries (both garages on Mississippi)

- 5 larcenies—S 18th embezzlement, Dolman, Lafayette stealing from a vehicle, Lafayette license plate (recovered and arrest made), Benton Place catalytic converter (officers responded and arrested a suspect)
- Crime is down ~37% in April so far
- Suspect descriptions and video footage is very valuable; you can send to Officer Douglas.
- Posting on Nextdoor is not helpful (at least not immediately) to the police so make sure that you report. Officer Douglas leaves it up to the individual regarding whether to call 911 or the non-emergency number.

GUEST SPEAKERS

N/A

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION UPDATES

Lafayette Preparatory Academy

Gail Buffington (grbuff@gmail.com)

- LPA is working on how to do a safe 8th grade graduation and field day.
- Anticipating the release of the plan for 2021-22 school year, which will return kids to school full-time.
- **Question:** Is LPA still taking food donations? **Answer:** Yes, on the 2nd Tuesdays of the month throughout the school year. Also welcome to deliver donations to Gail on Lafayette Ave. Send an email to make arrangements.

Lafayette Park Conservancy (LPC)

Michael Bushur

- Not present.

Lafayette Square Arts Council

Donna Korando

- Not present.

Barr Branch

Tonnya Joy (tjoy@slpl.org)

- Next quarterly update in June.

NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS

House Tour Update

Jill Peckinpugh/Suzanne Sessions

- Actively promoting the event—[Show Me St Louis segment](#), posters out, Suzanne is writing an article for Post Dispatch home section, social media, etc.
- Filming 7th house on 4/14, and last will be filmed on 4/23.
- <https://lafayettesquare.org/housetours/>
- Reality Check: We lost \$87,000 of revenue last year. We need everyone's support to buy tickets, raffle tickets, garden tour tickets, etc but also to spread the word to our networks by sharing links, emailing, etc.
- **Question:** How are ticket sales for the house/garden tour so far? **Answer:** We have over \$12K in sponsorships, which is covering our costs. We've sold 243 tickets at \$10 each. (In-person house tours sell ~2000 tickets.)

Auction Update

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

- Many auction items have been strategically placed in filming of homes on tour.
- Still in need of auction items/experiences (at ~40 right now). Contact Suzanne directly.

Summer Farmer's Market

Tom Murphy

- The organization that runs the Tower Grove Farmers Market (and others) contacted us about doing a one-time Night Market, with proposed dates in August (all Friday nights). 100 vendors with crafted foods, locally made artisan wares, etc. and would include the businesses here in LafSq. The LSRC Board did not see any downsides to this prospect! Has potential to evolve and be repeated in 2022.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Sheri Mistretta (treasurer@lafayettesquare.org)

- Looking to move Treasurer's Report to a quarterly update, which will give treasurers more time to put together reports and reduce redundancy from meeting to meeting.
- We have ~\$45K in income and ~\$39K in expenses as of April 5.
- James King Memorial Fund is doing well in first quarter of 2021. Will provide an end of year summary.

Business Affairs

Bethany Budde

- Not present.

Development**Suzanne Sessions**

- Nothing to report.
- Problem Properties: lsrcproblemproperties@gmail.com

Beautification**Linda Weiner (linderweiner@gmail.com)**

- Not present.
- Thank you to Linda and volunteers who worked on beautifying the median on Lafayette near LPA.
- **There will be many upcoming opportunities to beautify the neighborhood. Keep eyes peeled on social media!**

Communications/Community Affairs Committee**Jeff Baird (communications@lafayettesquare.org)**

- Website continues to change and adapt. More elaborate Arts Council page forthcoming, as well as Marquis page.
- Please don't hesitate to send errors/edits/misinformation to Jeff.

Membership**Christina Ryan (membership@lafayettesquare.org)**

- ~250 memberships
- Thank you to Larry Heugatter (vintage truck owner/driver) and Dave Peckinpugh (the Easter Bunny) for helping create a lovely experience for neighborhood families in April!

Capital Improvements**Ian McCormack**

- New columns installed at Rutger and Jefferson—look fantastic! Adds flair to that entrance and to the neighborhood.
- In process of identifying the next ~15 spots to put historic poles/signs with rollout in late summer/fall.
- **Question:** Where are we with repair on the column on Lafayette? **Answer:** We're making slow progress at getting the column repair paid for and are investigating the cost of moving the column and pouring a new pad. (This was the 2nd time in several years that the column was hit in its current location.)

Block Captains/Safety**Tom Murphy/Glenn Eckert (Safety@lafayettesquare.org)**

- City has started repainting crosswalks and street lines—please thank the city workers! (Alderman Coatar helped facilitate.)
- We have ongoing traffic issues throughout the neighborhood and on Choteau (which is more complicated because it is a state road). Shaun Tooley has a lot of experience with the topic and is willing and enthusiastic to work on the issue. **If you are interested in being part of traffic solutions, please send an email! We are looking to get a committee together that includes neighbors, business representation, etc. and work with the strategic plan committee to improve traffic.**

OTHER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Discussion of having a hybrid meeting in the near future, with some people attending in person (may need reservations) and some on Zoom. **Look for a poll in LafSq Community Facebook Group to gauge interest in hybrid meetings.** It's highly likely that we will continue using Zoom, at least in part, for the foreseeable future.
- **Question:** Do we know whether the bike races will happen this year? **Answer:** We have not heard anything yet...They usually reach out in June.
- **Question:** Will concerts happen this summer? **Answer:** There is not a definitive answer yet, and still awaiting guidance/permission from the city, but the Arts Council is planning as though they will happen.

Next LSRC Board Meeting: May 4, 2021 @7pm**Next LSRC General Membership Meeting: May 11, 2021 @7pm****ADJOURN: 8:00pm**