



LAFAYETTE SQUARE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

August 10, 2021 via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER 7pm

Tom Murphy, President (President@lafayettesquare.org)

Welcome New Residents: Tim Strickfaden

Review and approve July 13, 2021 Minutes: Motion by Kelly Schlueter; 2nd by Matt Negri

Participants: 33 logged in

ALDERMAN REPORTS

6th Ward

Christine Ingrassia (ingrassiac@stlouis-mo.gov)

- Apologies for absences in recent months.
- Technically in recess but returning tomorrow morning.
- Controversies over Rescue Plan monies are because aldermen want to make sure we can spend federal funds in the smartest way so that we don't have to pay back millions of dollars if we spend outside the boundaries of the money.
- Have re-engaged with city departments to repair the fence in alley between Park Ave and Rutger (behind parking lot at intersection of Park and Vail). This is city-owned property.
- Question: When will recycling happen again? Answer: The real problem is that, citywide, we are delivering such contaminated recycling that it just about doesn't make sense to recycle anymore. In addition, we are down about 30 refuse drivers, as well as some trucks. Because we have dumpsters in alleys, trucks and the chasses have to be bought separately.
- Question: What is being done to solve problems in the hiring? Answer: The city charter gives the Personnel Officer a lot of power. The new mayor is trying to fix this. We are providing a \$1,000 signing bonus for new refuse drivers. We voted as a city to require employees to live in the city several years ago; this has also created a problem with regard to hiring.

7th Ward

Jack Coatar (coatari@stlouis-mo.gov)

- Not present. Sent updates:
- Questions about light poles popping up in neighborhood – 5G poles, Verizon but standardized for all carriers. The city helped pick the pole design but cannot pick where they go.
- Rescue Plan Money – Mayor and comptroller approved 150 million. Board of Aldermen will approve tomorrow.

POLICE REPORT

3rd District

Officer Sherdon Douglas (sdouglas@slmpd.org)

Crimes for April:

- Not present; off on medical leave. (Still recovering from an accident; was on light duty but is now on leave again.)

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION UPDATES

Lafayette Preparatory Academy

Gail Buffington

- Not present. School starts Thursday, August 19.

Lafayette Park Conservancy (LPC)

Michael Bushur

- No new updates.

Lafayette Square Arts Council

Donna Korando

- We continue to move ahead with concerts as long as the city lets us. Concerts have been well-attended.
- Look for the flagged Arts Council table to donate.

Barr Branch (Mar/Jun/Sep/Dec)**Tonnya Joy (tjoy@slpl.org)**

- Tonnya has taken a new position with the library system.

NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS**Reminder—Board Elections in October****Tom Murphy**

- Tom shared a document showing 2022 positions that are filled per the bylaws: Tom Murphy (President, original term), Kelly Schlueter (Treasurer); Ron Gorman (Development); Sarah Hurst and Diana Gray (2nd year members at large); Matt Negri (past president)
- Nominations: Christina Ryan (Vice President/President Elect); Lauren Ambuhl (Secretary); Brooke Gocken (Member at Large, currently serving); Ian McCormack (Capital Improvements, current head); Suzanne Sessions (General Member, Development Committee); Sarah Hurst (Treasurer-Elect, freeing up Member at Large position); Abigail Schlueter (Business Affairs)
- Open Positions: VP Membership; Communications (?); Member at Large (2), Development VP-Elect, Development Members (?)

Cancelled Event—Farmer's Market**Tom Murphy**

- Unfortunately, the organizer reached out too late to do required paperwork.
- Hope to try for this event in the future.

Gateway Cup**Tom Murphy**

- It's happening! Friday of Labor Day weekend – September 3, 2pm – 10pm.
- Several of the women who raced in the Olympics are on one of the teams.
- Plan on the streets around the park being blocked off for Tour de Lafayette.

By Laws Revision**Tom Murphy**

- Will get final drafts of the revision out next month. Kim Peterson has been spearheading the revisions.

Pocket Park Acquisition**Tom Murphy**

- The pocket park is at the SE corner of Park and Mississippi. A pocket park is “a small neighborhood park, scaled down, meets a variety of needs – different function of Lafayette Park.
- Currently owned by a TIFF set up in 2008, Near Southside Improvement, along with several other properties (Fountain Plaza, parking lot on Choteau). Chris Goodson is president of that TIFF. Have been having conversations with him regarding moving this property from the TIFF to the community.
- The park has been maintained by volunteers. The retaining wall has fallen, some of the trees are damaged or diseased. As much time and effort that has been put into it, it has its challenges and needs some help.
- Current State of Pocket Park
 - Pros: No current cost to the neighborhood, Convenient social space
 - Cons: Maintained by volunteers, we rely on south neighbors for water access
- Potential – there is a movement to develop these kinds of parks, including a group in STL developing them.
 - Enhanced space for neighbors and visitors
 - Adjunct to local businesses
 - Sponsored Events (music, art exhibits)
 - Revenue generating events (farmer's market, pop-up fundraisers, corporate cocktail events)
- Reasons to Acquire
 - The space needs investment to update the area, regardless of ownership
 - The cost of the actual property is zero; relatively low cost of acquiring (attorney title, closing)
 - Relatively low cost of maintaining (no property tax, incremental insurance cost is minimal <\$1000/yr)
 - Adds to the neighborhood appeal
 - Adjunct to local businesses (waiting space)
 - Potential future real estate asset
- Next Steps

- Complete a real estate transfer to LSRC ownership – approved by Board and general Membership in 2020; \$3700 retainer with attorney should cover costs
- Utilize funds received from King Estate
- Develop multi-year funding plan for completion
- Requesting Membership Approval to Acquire Pocket Park
 - Motion to accept the donation of gift of property with a valuation of \$82,700 (STL City Assessment); 1922 and 1924 Park Ave
 - Motion to approve attorney and anticipated acquisition costs, including insurance, up to \$6,000
 - Motion to approve targeted King Estate funds
- Question: Would we have a survey done? Answer: Yes
- Question: What would be the scope of ~\$6,000 in landscaping? Answer: These are funds we have available from the foundation, without impacting this year’s budget. If we need to increase that, we’d have to come back to the membership, unless we want to increase that number now.
- Matt Negri: Chris Goodson has been very generous; we’ve been talking to him for 18 months about several properties. With the King Foundation, one of whose goals is beautification, we have definite funds to improve this property. We might be able to get some ward funds for infrastructure (water, power)
- **Motion by Sheri Mistretta and 2nd by Kelly Schlueter – VOTE PASSES**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer’s Report (Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct)

Sheri Mistretta (treasurer@lafayettesquare.org)

- None this month.

Business

Bethany Budde

- Not present.

Development

Suzanne Sessions

- New projects coming in: garage, new home, garage/extension
- Problem Properties: lsrcproblemproperties@gmail.com

Beautification

Linda Weiner (linderweiner@gmail.com)

- The water on the Park Ave medians are back on.

Communications

Jeff Baird (communications@lafayettesquare.org)

- Not present. Sent update:
 - Shirts are selling well and will be on sale at the concerts in the park.
 - Directories have been delivered. If you didn’t get one, email Jeff.
 - Plan on the streets being blocked off for Tour de Lafayette.

Membership

Christina Ryan (membership@lafayettesquare.org)

- Actively recruiting a strong lead for the Membership Role; Christina moves up to VP-Pres Elect in October.
- Halloween this year will be like how we did it in 2020 with old-fashioned trick-or-treating, lots of fun decorations, and multi-generational fun!

Capital Improvement

Ian McCormack (ian.mccormack@mccormackbaron.com)

- Not present.

Block Captains/Safety

Glenn Eckert (safety@lafayettesquare.org)

- Substation Open House modestly successful. Restocked drinks. Previous fundraiser funded a portable A/C.

Fundraising

Kelly Schlueter

- Halloween Party on 10/29 is cancelled due to rising COVID rates/Delta variant.
- September 25 – Mark your calendars for a neighborhood celebration. More details to come.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

Motion to Adjourn – Kelly Schlueter; 2nd – Donna Korando -- ADJOURN 8:05

Next LSRC Board Meeting: September 7, 2021 @7pm

Next LSRC General Membership Meeting: September 14, 2021 @7pm