

Minutes of the LSRC Board of Directors Meeting August 3, 2021

The Board met via Zoom with the following members present: Tom Murphy, Kim Peterson, Christina Ryan, Sheri Mistretta, Kelly Schlueter, Ian McCormack, Ron Gorman, Matt Negri.

A quorum was not achieved for this meeting so no official action was taken.

Development: Ron said his committee would be meeting in a couple of weeks. 1 resident has building plans for review.

Revision of By-laws: Tom said Rachel Witt of the Strategic Plan Committee is reading over our suggested By-laws. We need an attorney to review them. She may know of someone, but John Schoemel will look them over, too. So far Rachel recommends 1) referring to LSRC as “Lafayette Park Neighborhood Association” or a version of that since we are adopting that new name. She suggests cutting down the number of Board members. To this goal there was discussion and general agreement that Members at Large could be cut from 4 to 2 positions. Members at Large need to engage in a project early in their tenure on the Board.

Christina suggested combining the clerical duties of Board Secretary and Membership Secretary (taking minutes of both meetings, giving meeting notices, distributing minutes, etc.) Justification for this is that membership recruitment and retention takes up much time, and that is a key component of our income. This would free up the Membership Board member to concentrate on these important duties. Consensus was this is a good idea. Kim will change by-laws to reflect this.

Fall Celebration September 25: Kelly reviewed plans for the event held at the Kern pavilion. Drinks including alcohol will be furnished. Food trucks and food for sale will be available. Tom would like to recognize volunteers. Q and A session with all Lafayette Square organizations is planned.

LPC and Arts Council: There was brief discussion about further collaboration with them. The LPC is exploring membership software to manage their membership list. Arts Council may want to become part of LSRC.

Mini-Park acquisition: Tom would like to bring forward to next Board meeting acquisition of the Mini-Park. Costs and plans for its use will be in a detailed proposal.

Board elections: Tom showed the current slate of candidates for the October election. Several slots are open. Christina has agreed to run as VP-President Elect. Ian agreed in the meeting to continue. Brief discussion was held about member at large positions, Assist. Treasurer, and Safety. Tom wants all Board members to talk with likely candidates and recruit them for positions.

New Business: Tom discussed changing up meetings. There was opposition to holding membership meetings less often than monthly. Board meetings could be held less often, or could be streamlined for only essential business, or could alternate in heavy agendas vs light agendas.

Incentivized membership levels: Tom said Rachel Witt agrees with the idea to offer promotional items for members at various levels and asked Christina to make a list of suggestions. Tom recommended that members get the “Passport.”

Park Ave. Fence: the wood fence along Park Ave’s parking lot is falling down and nearby residents have been complaining about it for some time. Alderman Ingrassia does not respond to requests for help with it. It was originally placed there by the Safety officer of the LSRC with funds from ?Alderman? and ?LSRC? on the city’s property. A discussion with City Treasurer may need to take place now since the alderman for that property does not respond. Ian and Tom will look at it to assess options.

Capital Improvements: Ian said historic street and stop sign project is continuing. Sheri asked that the Board make official the fund increase.

Halloween event: Christina recommended that, since Scott and Suzi Jones have moved, we drop any subsequent plans for the big annual Halloween event held in Lafayette Park. The Jones funded this event for many years. There was no objections. A neighborhood effort will be planned, much like the one in 2020.

Masked Ball: Christina asked for guidance in continuing the plan for the October 29 fundraising event, the masked ball at Sqwires. Covid is ramping up—is it a deterrent to holding this event? Discussion showed no clear consensus. She will put a poll on Facebook and we can have a brief Zoom meeting next week if necessary to make a decision.

Next week’s membership meeting will be held via Zoom.

Kim Peterson
Board Secretary