

Minutes of the LSRC Board of Directors Meeting July 6, 2021

The Board met at the Park House with the following members present: Tom Murphy, Kim Peterson, Kelly Schlueter, Jeff Baird, Suzanne Sessions, Ron Gorman, Glenn Eckert, Brooke Gocken, Sarah Hurst, Diana Gray, Matt Negri.

Strategic Plan: Rachel Witt who leads the Strategic Plan committee said her group had drafted a Mission Statement. They are interested in hosting an Open House to give information about all 3 organizations in Lafayette Square and Lafayette Preparatory Academy to inform residents and recruit volunteers for committees and work in the neighborhood. This will be held in conjunction with the September event. She asked is it was a good idea and there was agreement it was. She asked for funding for signage and possibly other ways to publicize the event.

Rachel said the Strategic Plan Committee is happy to perform work for the LSRC such as research and analysis. Board members were interested in having help with these issues: Bylaws revision, Marketing especially membership retention, procedure for changing name of "Lafayette Square Restoration Committee."

Dog Park: Nicole Poston, a resident who lives at LaSalle and Mississippi, is the manager of the Benton Park Dog Park and was instrumental in setting it up. She wants to head a workgroup to set up a dog park for Lafayette Square, location to be determined. She is familiar with city ordinances, city personnel, issues in having a dog park in a city park, etc. She outlined the process for setting up a dog park. She would like to talk to LSRC members at the August meeting. There was agreement that this exploratory work can go forward. She will contact the Lafayette Park Conservancy to make sure they are aware of this.

Fall Celebration: We will hold a neighborhood-wide event in the Park on September 25. Many ideas were given for food, drinks, time, agenda. A budget of \$2,500 is suggested. Several Board members including Kelly and Sarah are planning this.

Motion passed to spend \$2,500 for September's event. Motion by Negri, 2nd by Hurst.

Bylaws revision: Kim reviewed some key proposed changes to Bylaws to make sure Board members are aware. She talked about clarifications for Meetings that include Robert's Rules of Order are the authority unless superseded by Bylaws, Board Meetings will be held quarterly, voting may be by electronic means for meetings if the Board determines it, and meetings may be held via teleconference if the Board determines it. Discussion of the Development committee showed it should be increased to 6 general members.

Mini-Park update: it is currently owned by Southside C.I.D. Chris Goodson is in favor of the LSRC taking it on. More information is coming about ownership responsibilities and costs. Costs to transfer ownership will come out of the Jim King fund and may run about \$5,000. We will gather plans for infrastructure and then will talk with LSRC members about this.

Matt talked about an invoice that is due to be paid. A Motion passed to pay \$225 to Explore St. Louis for signage. (Motion by Negri, 2nd by Schleuter.

Park House repair and painting: Matt reported that window grates were redone at no cost to the LSRC by a neighborhood resident in the business. Door were repaired and painted, and plaster fixed.

A Motion passed to pay Scott Fraser's invoice. (Motion by Negri, 2nd by Gocken.

Matt talked about an appropriate marker to honor Scott and Suzi Jones who have moved to Florida. They were great supporters of our neighborhood. Former Dolman resident Mark Kapp bought their house on Kennett.

A motion passed to designate a bench in their honor, forgoing \$675 in revenue. Motion by Negri, 2nd by Gocken.

Board elections: Tom reviewed open positions on the Board which include Vice President. Send Tom your ideas of names to submit.

Membership: some big renewals are lagging. We will explore the names of people who have fallen off the rolls. The Strategic Plan committee can help with a marketing plan.

Budget reports: Tom and Kelly reviewed finances.

Announcements: Kelly recommended we drop our Mailchimp subscription saving \$66.00 per month.

Motion passed to drop Mailchimp. Motion by Schlueter, 2nd by Peterson.

Safety: Glenn is working with Shawn Tooley to gather members for a committee on traffic calming.

Improvements: The budget may go over allocations a bit.

Communications: Newsletter is going out by email. Kelley sends it out with brief announcements of events of interest in Lafayette Square. New T-Shirts are here!

Development: Suzanne reported on 2001 Park and the hearings at the city's Cultural Resources office. Enforcement was discussed. There are no new projects right now.

Fundraising: October 29 is the date for the masked ball. Kelly talked about entertainment and details of this event. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 profit. Ticket sales start in September.

Announcements: Sarah said there is an election on August 3 for the Community College district to increase taxes for support.

Kim Peterson
LSRC Board Secretary