



Lafayette Square Neighborhood Association (LSRC)
Board of Directors Meeting
March 1, 2022

The Board met in person with the following members present: Tom Murphy, Jamie Shahmirzadi, Megan Biegacki, Marsha Delcour, Christina Ryan, Matt Negri, Kelly Schlueter, Sarah Hurst, Jill Peckinpaugh, Tim Strickfaden, Brooke Gocken, Abbey Schlueter, Ron Gorman

Meeting Minutes:

The meeting was called to order and last month's minutes were unanimously approved at 7:01 PM. Motion by Kelly, 2nd by Christina.

Ongoing Business:

Accounting Services- Each chairperson needs to approve their committee's expense receipts before sending to Treasurer. Kelly has blank W9s when needed.

Neighborhood Video Footage-Next Steps?: Options were discussed with the possibility of selling rights to realtors and/or travel companies highlighting our neighborhood, use clips for Lafayette Square promotion on website and social media. We need to weigh options if we want to outsource video production to complete these tasks.

Problem Properties: Currently there is no one leading Problem Properties and the position has been vacant for years. We are looking for someone to lead this committee and they will need to be able to attend hearings and provide the board with updates. A small group of committee members are meeting with an attorney on 3/19 to get some guidance on how to deal with the City to get the ball rolling. Discussions whether we want a paralegal on retainer to deal with problem properties. Right now there are about 9 vacant/problem properties in the neighborhood.

New Business:

Donation Request-Lift for Life Academy: The neighboring school, Lift for Life Academy, is trying to get their name out and appreciate us getting them involved in our neighborhood. The students had a booth at Light Up The Square that was very successful. Their next fundraiser is their annual fashion show and it would be nice if we had a presence there. Fundraising Committee recommends we donate at the \$1,000 sponsorship level. LSNA is committing \$333 which will come from our 2022 budget and we will ask neighbors at the membership meeting to match donations. Our bylaws state to coordinate and work with communities that are adjacent to Lafayette Square.

Directory: Lafayette Square will have a new directory produced before June 2022. Funds to print are coming from advertisements. Our directory will have 40-50 pages and will also be available via app. A photo contest is in progress for pictures to be featured in the directory with prize winnings.

“General Manager” Position: We did not budget for a general manager this year but we want to start thinking about what the duties will look like i.e. fundraising, event planning, Park House management, problem properties, etc. It is not clear if the next generation has the strength to do \$75,000/year in fundraising. A GM will bring a lot of value to our organization as we continue to grow and wish to continue the house tours.

Committee Updates:

Membership Update- New or renewed members will be receiving a “Proud LSNA” sticker in their mailboxes. A new membership tent/info booth will be present at events with a board member. The new directory will list incentives to renew/join membership.

Treasurer Update- The Mardi Gras hot dog stand profited \$253.67 and we hope to continue the tradition with the reusable signs. The small amount of left overs were donated to the police substation.

Business Affairs Update- Abbey is going to start doing quarterly meetings with the LSBA. The Business Affairs Committee has taken over the booking and cleaning of the Park House. There have been a few conflicts of meetings overlapping so it is being stressed to please coordinate with Abbey. New keys are going to be made to ensure the proper people have access.

Safety Update- Not present. Chouteau and Mississippi crosswalk has begun.

Capital Improvement Update- Joint project has been approved to redo the columns and tuckpointing at Waverly Place with a completion date of approximately Spring 2022. These funds are coming from maintenance and capital improvements budget. The fence will be considered on the 2023 budget. There has been no response from the City on when they are going to install the remainder of historic polls.

Communications Update- Not present. No new updates to report.

Preservation Update- Lafayette Reserves proposed pop up rooftop decks which were originally denied but an appeal was made and last night the Cultural Resources Board approved the pop up decks regardless of our opposition. Cultural Resources felt the contractor showed that you would have to be 60 feet away to see the pop up. There is a warehouse type of building on Hickory, West of Mississippi, and the MLS states “tear down” as an option but it needs to be made aware to realtor and buyer that tear down is not allowed. The face of the building can not be changed per our historic codes.

Fundraising Update- The Garden Tour & Antique Fair is our next big fundraiser on June 4th. This will be the first year we are organizing the Antique Fair ourselves. Bill Donohue ran the Antique Fair for the past 20 years. Next fundraiser will be the run/walk in the summer. Sponsorship efforts are different this year- just sending out one letter and the sponsors can choose which event they would like to sponsor verses sending them letters before each event. Discussions of giving Bill Donohue a brick for running the Antique Fair for 20 years.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next General Membership Meeting, March 9th in-person at Sqwires.

Kelly called for the meeting to be adjourned, 2nd by Sarah. All agreed and the meeting ended at 9:13 pm.