

Lafayette Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA)

Board of Directors Meeting

February 28th, 2023

The Board met in person with the following members present: Christina Ryan, Tatiana Clader, Sarah Hurst, Nicole Ewing, Mark Kapp, Chris Waldbuesser, Megan Biegacki, Matt Negri, George Boulware, Chris Budde, Donna Hagerty-Payne, Jill Peckinpaugh

**Meeting Minutes:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. Minutes for February were approved, motion by Megan, 2nd by Sarah.

**Guest Presenter:** Community Garden Pergola- Phil Lamczyk

Annual Comm Garden Membership meeting is Sunday, April 16th @ the Park House. Dave Visintainer & Diana Gray will be taking over Community Garden. Pergola replacement in Community Garden original constructed in 1997, is up for reconstruction in 2006/27. Phil provided dimensions and new estimate of approx. $5,500. Asking for budget planning for pergola and inquiring about labor costs, as well as potential mural repainting on the east side of Four Muddy Paws. Sarah suggests approaching the budget of these items at the end of 2024. Chris W. suggests making a note of this for future budgetary items.

**Ongoing Business**:

Park House Management: Christina & Daniel Walsh moved to the neighborhood approx. 5 years ago and have worked in F&B for 20 years. They took over the Franklin House in Soulard and want to be engaged in the neighborhood. Their goal is to increase revenue to upkeep the Park House. They listed the Park House on The Knot and have had several inquiries. Looking to make connections and sell potential 90-minute slots for potential wedding parties, etc. Working with vendors to stage for a photo shoot and invite the neighborhood to see what they can offer in terms of hosting. They do all their own catering and have licenses to sell liquor. They will offer catering and can host small neighborhood events and will split revenue with the LSNA. Parkhouse@lafayettesquare email address has been created and Christina is sharing with various committees as well as LPC to keep an update on events happening at the Park House. They will share open house date at the Park House soon.

LSNA Policies and Procedures Subcommittee: Electronic voting option for elections. Announce slate of new board in Sept neighborhood meeting, electronic voting open 5 days before the Oct meeting and closes at the Oct neighborhood meeting. Electronic voting sent via email with QR code to take voters to online ballot.

[LSNA Board and Preservation Committee Election](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pSnz48_tJbwHu8Yw4nNbp-2zyHnAdU-DenyH4PVTveo/edit?usp=sharing)

Christina: Discussion of “lame duck” session: Christina suggests amending by-laws to adda provision to add a “transition period” to the bylaws for new officers to take over fully in January after elections instead of taking office immediately after the election neighborhood meeting. Vote motioned by Christina with unanimous vote to amend bylaws to add electronic voting.

Update on LPC/Park House Relationship: LSNA requested timeline at last meeting to continue exploring possibility of sharing responsibility es of Park House with LPC. Sarah suggests Both organizations go through parkhouse@Lafayettesquare calendar to schedule meeting. Sarah also inquires on the $1,500 payment from LPC.

[Memo of Understanding](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tWgmt0V3TWrOM2IEd0iDwrjykQmhuieT/view?usp=share_link):

Fountain Plaza and Pocket Park dates: Matt updates with 8 members on subcommittee and interview 3 firms for developing pocket park. Developing a 5 year strategic plan. Plan includes clear cutting and landscaping as well as adding irrigation. Adding a building structure with 2 floors to the east side of the pocket park to offer meeting space. Looking at donor recognition areas, adding tables and umbrellas, adding trees, and spaces for people to gather, possibly a restroom for events or meeting, or possibly an information office within the building structure. Looking into donors and naming rights for structure. Fountain in Park Plaza- Matt met with pump shop and pump needs replacement.

**New Business**:

2023 Donations:

\* Approved: City League - $250

\* Organizations we have supported previously: [Lift for Life Academy](https://www.liftforlifeacademy.org/) (request received), [UMC Preschool](https://lp-umc.org/preschool/) (request received), [Lafayette Prep Academy](https://lafayetteprep.org/), [South City YMCA Annual Campaign](https://gwrymca.org/donate011)

\* New Ideas: [Lifewise STL](https://www.lifewisestl.org/), [Carol House Quick Fix](https://stlspayneuter.org/), , [Beyond Housing](https://beyondhousing.org/)

 Lifewise offers financial fluency and support for low-income families. Carol House offers free/reduced spray & neuter services, low ost preventative care for pets in the city limits, Beyond Housing supports families looking for mortgages, credit recovery, & financial literacy. George motions to give $250 to each of the 8 proposed organizations, and reserving $500 from the board charity fund to use later in the year. 2nd by Nicole, all in favor.

Acknowledging Jack Coatar & Christine Ingrassia: Christine Ingrassia officially resigning to take a position with Megan Green, the president of the board of alderman. Board decided to donate a large brick to both Christine and Jack.

Traffic Improvements Update: Christina and George on Zoom call with city reps for walk around the park for potential traffic improvements including traffic improvements with some bump-outs, adding crosswalks, and adding median in front of LPA. Neighborhood not getting traffic improvements and being asked to create new ward funding to pay for improvements.

Resident Concern re: Directory: Looking to be a true liaison between the board and the neighborhood. Neighbors as asking about adding neighbor’s names back into the directory. Sarah mentions that keeping an updated and reliable directory is extremely difficult to upkeep. Megan and Nicole suggest to develop a survey monkey and/or Facebook poll to send to residents to gauge interest in listing names and addresses to directory. Donna willing to spearhead neighborhood interest.

**Committee Updates:**

**Communications-** Committee met on Feb 9th and audited the website for improvements and wants to streamline navigation online. Merch for sale at Sqwires via Square and researching cost effective options to take sales online. Looking at upgrading brand standard.

 **Preservation-** Committee met last week, neighbors inquiring letters of support for new windows, garage doors. German House being developed by Hyatt hotel brand. Request by Killen studios for Mac truck building at 2300 Chouteau but owner isn’t willing to sell. Preservation not offering letter of support to Kileen Studios.

**Safety-** Are cameras at substation working and recording? Proposal from Mitch on maintenance to install mirrors in alleys at approx. $300 each, 7 different locations.

**Business Affairs Update-** Not in attendance

 **Membership-** Nothing new to report. Megan inquiring on who to contact to get new playground equipment.

**Treasurer-** new bookkeeper Barry, which is an independent contractor and not an employee of Blue Summit. Blue Summit first invoice is $2,200, and board is grossly under budgeted for the year. Working on reconciliations for months prior. Board discussing re-budgeting for accounting but need to inquire about amount of time to catch up on financials. Unsure of how much time is needed to catch up and get a month of reg billing. Sarah requesting vote to move from Commerce to Modern Dollar. Motion made by Mark, 2nd by Megan to move from Commerce to Modern Dollar. Sarah visited Together Credit Union to move accounts to them. Board can hold several debit cards tied to same account for various committees and purchases. Sarah suggesting moving bank balance to money market to gain interest. Matt motions to move checking and saving commerce to Together Credit Union. All in favor.

**Fundraising-** need gardens for garden tour, needing volunteers for garden tour, need lead on Holiday House Tour.

**Capital Improvements-** Not in attendance.

**Announcements:**

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Christina called for the meeting to be adjourned, 2nd by Matt.  All agreed and the meeting ended at 9:14PM.

**March gen assembly mtg** March 8, 2023 @7pm at Sqwires.

**Next Board Meeting(s)** April 4, @2200 LaSalle

Egg Hunt in the Park April 8th