

Lafayette Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA)

Board of Directors Meeting

May 5th, 2023

The Board met in person with the following members present: Christina Ryan, Tatiana Clader, Nicole Ewing, Mark Kapp, Chris Waldbuesser, Jill Peckinpaugh, Tom Murphy, Donna Hagerty-Payne, George Boulware, Beth Concepcion, Sara Hurst, Bart Lissner

**Meeting Minutes:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. Minutes for April were approved, motion by George 2nd by Tom.

**Ongoing Business**:

Fountain Plaza and Pocket Park Updates – Working with Mike Killeen on designing a sketch for the building that may serve as a neighborhood welcome center inside the park.

LSNA Policies and Procedures Subcommittee
- [By-Laws Update](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TPOmoZkf8EOIfcvvqqEhAUOpT1BDdwLM/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104280667521156478295&rtpof=true&sd=true) for Oct-Dec transition period: Article IV (3) and Article VIII (1)–**VOTE**

Motion to vote on this change was approved by Beth, 2nd by Jill. All in favor.

Legal Action on Problem Properties (1929 Hickory)- Christina working on drafting a letter to the city and using a sample letter from our archives to use as an outline and to reference specific language. Reaching out to other neighborhoods with support from Cara Spencer and the preservation committee on how they have handled such situations in the past.

Directory Feedback/Survey- Donna developing a survey to the general assembly about whether neighbors want a public directory distributed with names and address listed. Donna also engaging block captains to knock on doors and get opinions, door-to-door. Got approx. 125 responses. Hoping for another 100 responses before sharing survey results. Also tossing around the idea of having a community directory vs. a directory delivered by request.

**New Business**:

Brief Update on Meeting with Cara Spencer:

Christina and Mike met with Cara about priorities for the neighborhood.

 \*Playground- 240k was budgeted and 60 k from ward capital to replace the playground. It has been communicated that money in ward capital can’t be spent without a contract in place, and we didn’t have a contract in place for this specific improvement. There is an approved vendor in place for the playground, but the alderman needs to work with various city departments to solidify the plan for the playground. Kim Hagely communicated that the playground will be replaced and is working with various depts in the city to choose specific playground equipment to be purchased. It is estimated that the new playground will cost closer to 400k and the neighborhood will likely need to do some fundraising. The playground will be replaced but it may not happen in 2023.

\*Traffic calming- Cara checking into what funds were allocated to the study and thinks the city should have an investment plan to maintain streets.

\*Prob properties- check with the city on the history of outcomes for these kinds of properties in the past and is curious if local attorney can provide services as non-profit to assist with course of action.

Community outreach-Christina emailing groups of community leaders in other neighborhood associations in south city to create a group of leaders to meet 1 or twice a year.

Four Muddy Paws Mural- business doing tuck pointing that will affect the mural on the east side of the building. The board is considering getting quotes from artists to repaint the mural. Taking conversation to the general assembly and see if we can get a volunteer to head this initiative and involving the arts council to get support from them as well.

Board Recruiting, Meeting Locations, and General LSNA Board “Marketing”-

Many board members are moving off the board and we need replacements. Christina wants to start recruiting or inquiring neighbors in the general assembly to volunteer that may want to step up. In discussion, it was raised that the current board meetings are long, some members have concerns that board meetings are redundant, and discussed whether some committee conversations can happen via email. Nicole wants to bring new energy to the board meetings and suggested holding meetings at a local restaurant, everyone bringing a snack/drink to share at Park House, having regularly scheduled social hours for board members, etc. Tom suggested having a board of directors’ tent at summer concerts to engage neighbors in communicating with the board, meeting the members in person, promoting the work the board does for the neighborhood, etc.

Rethinking LSBA- 6 businesses that pay into the LSBA, and has become a way for business owners to make requests and voice concerns. Should we shift gears to offering our local business more for their LSBA membership? Bart wants to increase engagement by using block captains to work with fundraising and membership but give our businesses a more targeted service by being a part of the LSBA. Also, are we trying to recruit new/more businesses to the neighborhood, and how can we be the most helpful to those business owners. Should LSBA become its own committee as well?

**Committee Updates:**

Treasurer- 990 will be filed on time. Sara working with bookkeeper to reallocate where items purchased for the neighborhood are being placed in the budget. Sara is also concerned with high water bill when fountain isn’t on/running. Treasurer to communicate directly with fundraising chair for questions about purchases for specific events.

Communications- nothing to report

Preservation- nothing to report

Safety- additional pedestrian signs requested, 1736 Nicholson address there was a party while homeowners were away and there was a reported gun shooting. George also looking into re-energizing block captains and how we can use them to increase safety and engagement.

Business Affairs Update- updates given above in Rethinking LSBA

Membership- nothing to report

Fundraising- everything on track for garden tour

Capital Improvements- nothing to report

**Announcements:**

**Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

Cocktails on the Plaza- May 17th

LSNA/LPC/Arts Council social- May 18th

Next Board Meeting: June 6, 2023

Christina called for the meeting to be adjourned, Motion by ????? by 2nd by ?????.  All agreed and the meeting ended at 8:46 PM.

**May gen assembly mtg:** May 10, 2023 @7pm at Sqwires.

**Next Board Meeting(s)** June 6th at Park House