



Lafayette Square Neighborhood Association  
October 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

President Christina Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.  
Minutes from the September meeting were approved.

### Guest Speakers

**Circuit Attorney Office**—Gabe Gore, St. Louis Circuit Attorney, stated when he took the job, he had four main objectives. One was to return the department to be adequately staffed and to build a leadership team. Second was to build collaborative relationships. Third was to reduce the backlog of open cases and finally to focus on the future and vision of the department. Since he started, the office has grown by 23 lawyers and reduced the number of applications for warrants from 4500 to 2000. Mr Gore acknowledged the help of the US Attorney Office that took 20 murder cases, help from private practice attorneys, and the relentless, selfless staff that returned to the office to assist. Lastly, Mr. Gore stated his goal is to be the highest performing Prosecuting Attorney Office in the nation.

**8<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Report**—Cara Spencer was unable to attend, but Mr. Santiago, her Legislative Assistant, was present. He yielded his time but stayed after to answer questions.

**Police Report-3<sup>rd</sup> District**—The Officer had to step out and did not present.

**Candidate for Attorney General**—Representative Sarah Unsicker made her case on why to vote for her. She cited how our present politics are so divided, and she feels we aren't focused on taking care of real problems. She spoke of the importance of fighting crime at all levels and cited the importance of fighting the drug issues by prosecuting organized crime. She also spoke of making sure kids don't get lost in the state's Foster Care System and the importance of supporting family courts.

### Neighborhood Organization Updates

**Barr Branch Library**—Tiger Reed was not present but sent an update that Christina read aloud.

**Lafayette Prep Academy**—Christina read Dr. Ranney's update. She reminded everyone that school begins at 8:15 and ends at 3:30 but drop offs start at 8:00 and ends at 3:45. Athletic events can go until 7:00 and Parent Teacher Meetings are scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The students will have a costume parade at 3:10 pm on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Finally, the school is looking to fundraise in order to fund field trips. The cost of buses has significantly increased, and LPA aims to raise \$20,000 to cover 1 field trip per quarter for each grade. Know an individual or business that could help sponsor? Connect with us: [Deidra.Arms@lafayetteprep.org](mailto:Deidra.Arms@lafayetteprep.org)

**Lafayette Park Conservancy**—Michael Bushur, Executive Director, stated progress is being made on the playground, and it will be completed soon. He also asked that, if you feel the need to prune around the park, please contact him and he will direct appropriate action. Tickets for the Soirée for the Park on 10/13 are on sale for \$125 and are available on Lafayette Park Conservancy website.

**Lafayette Square Arts Council**—Not Present

**2024 Board Election**—Christina read the names of the candidates for the Board for 2024. They were approved unanimously. For the Preservation Committee, six candidates were running for three spots. The candidates finished with the following votes.

Michael Visintainer	109
Linda Pallman	100
Ron Gorman	90
Katarina Michalova	58
Matt Kerns	56
Marcus Kelley	53

Michael, Linda, and Ron have been elected to two-year terms.

**Treasurer’s Report**—Sarah Hurst stated we are in good shape financially. While we currently have a deficit in 2023, we have not yet hosted our largest fundraiser - the Holiday House Tour. Sarah also stated the Jim King Fund had climbed to \$186,000 which is an 8% increase from 2022.

**Business Affairs**—Bart Lissner let everyone know if people are festive they can let their Halloween Spirit out at Rose by Penno the Friday and Saturday before the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Fundraising**—Bev Murphy updated everyone on the Holiday House Tour which will be held on December 10 from 10:00 – 4:00. \$30 Presale tickets are now available but will be moving to \$35 soon. Christina stated the Masquerade Ball netted over \$6,500.

**Membership**—Megan Biegecki stated membership has climbed to over 250 members. Christina stated that 5% to 10% of neighborhood households in a neighborhood is normal. LSNA is now over 20% of households.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.