

**Lafayette Square Neighborhood Association Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**02 April 2024 7:00PM Park House - 2023 Lafayette
Expected Absences:** Ty, Jenn, Jill, Tom, Donna

**Present:** Chris Budde, Christina Ryan, Marsha Delcour, Tatiana Clader, Bart Lissner, Tim Strickfaden, George Boulware, Mitch Hunt, Mark Kapp

**Call to order and approval of March Minutes**: Moved/2nd - George/Mark

**Ongoing Business**

* Legal Action on Problem Properties (Christina) – LSNA submitted our interrogatory responses several months ago, and we received the property owners’ responses. In the response, the owners claim that they have made various improvements and that additional work will be done by the end of February and end of March, which didn’t happen. They also allude to how city officials have not enforced timelines and deadlines for renovations/improvements. We have a meeting scheduled with our attorney next week to discuss next steps.
* Membership Vacancy (Chris) – We still don’t have a chair. Christina will serve in an interim role, maintaining the account and sending messages as necessary. The ideal Membership Chair is someone who can speak positively about the LSNA’s mission and work, has customer service skills to address member/resident concerns regarding membership, has the ability to learn to use the membership software, and enjoys talking with people. On average, the time commitment is 30 minutes per week for the basic tasks; 4-6 hours/month for someone enthusiastic about member engagement and organizing member incentives.

**New Business**

* Bill Odell (Chris) – Suggests that the pocket park is a lot that the LSNA should NOT build on, but that a knowledgeable developer should build on. Bill shared a photograph of the original structure on the parcel and maps showing vacant properties in the neighborhood in the1980s. Over the years, many residents wanted to turn half of these properties into mini-parks (shared examples of LSNA/residents rejecting unwanted development). Bill advocates for building out the pocket park lot to fulfill the neighborhood’s master plan that calls for completing that corner. Advised Bill to reach out to the subcommittee working on the pocket park.
* Membership Tiers (Chris) – Currently have $35/60/150/250/500/1000 memberships. At election time, there was angst regarding how many votes each membership received. Chris suggests that we rename the first two membership levels: General becomes “Individual” and Renovationist becomes “Household;” the board approved. Question of whether “Household” includes adult children; the membership currently allows for two adult (18+) votes. Christina shared that, in the meantime and/or in addition to this change, it would be helpful to revise membership descriptions on the website to have more clarity. She also shared that our current software allows for two people to be listed on a membership but not two emails. Chris said he and Tim are looking into adding onto our software with Storypower; two emails would allow for member communications, voting links, etc. to be mailed out directly to all members.
* Fountain Plaza Lawn Care (Chris) – Bethany is cutting costs and no longer willing to mow at Fountain Plaza. Chris got an estimate of $800/month (!). Chris suggests we first try to find volunteers until we find a more reasonable bid. The board also suggested asking JaCo for a bid, which Chris will seek.
* Go STL Marathon (Chris) – April 27: Route change has the race going around the park. There will be one lane open for traffic throughout. The race begins at 7am, and LafSq is around the 10- and 11-mile markers. Map at: <https://www.gostlouis.org/stlmarathon/all-races> Tim will post in the neighborhood Facebook group regarding the race.

**Committee Updates**

* Treasurer (Tatiana) – In February, put $75K and $50K into 6-month and 9-month CD’s so that they are earning some interest. Income coming in from selling antique fair rentals (already at 30+) and garden beds. We need to pay the $1 lease on the Park House because the City has not yet turned over the lease from the LSNA to the LPC. We were nominated by Matthew Nugen and won a $3000 award from Peabody Political Action Committee.
* Communications (Tim) – Egg Hunt very successful. Will be pushing the Antique Fair next. Worked on the website so that Chris and Jenn also have knowledge for how to update the website as needed. Will be moving merchandise to the storage unit.
* Fundraising (Jill) – not in attendance.
* Business Affairs (Bart) – Working on Cocktails on the Plaza (May 29); many businesses have already signed on.
* Safety (George) – Met with Jim White (CWE Security Initiative non-profit organization) to inquire about how to potentially use Special Taxing District monies. Need volunteers to clean the police substation. Meeting coming up regarding traffic on Manchester up to 55. Concern regarding neighborhood Facebook group threads regarding package theft;knowing police wont’ come in time (if at all), some individuals chasing after the thief. Concern that could end up putting people in danger. Additional question of whether crime stats presented at meetings are accurate; comment that juveniles would not be included in those stats.
* Improvements (Mitch) – Waverly fence done after 2 years! Signed approval today for additional alley mirrors around the neighborhood. Getting bids for the next fencing project is Mississippi/44 - 30 feet on each side with a wrought iron fence. As spring kicks in, engaging JaCo and Pretty City for different projects.
* Membership (vacant) – Previously discussed.
* Preservation (Marsha) –
	+ A problem we have in the neighborhood is that some residents do work on the outside of their house, then apply for permits and “ask for forgiveness.” The Preservation Committee has decided not to support any of these that go against the code.
	+ The committee does give waivers for specific details that are not delineated in the code.
	+ The code is still being revised; most changes are grammatical. Major changes are relevant to new construction and the type of windows. There will come a time when the neighborhood will review the standards and express opinions; the neighborhood standards MUST FOLLOW city code. There will be multiple meetings to inform and collect feedback from residents; city representatives from CRO and/or PB will attend.
	+ At the neighborhood meetings, the committee will start a feature where the chair takes 5 minutes to talk about a point in the code (as it is now), particularly those that are seasonally related.

**Adjourned: 8:37**