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**LAFAYETTE SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**SqWires 7 PM**

**13 November 2024**

**Neighborhood Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER 7:00pm Chris Budde** [*president@lafayettesquare.org*](mailto:president@lafayettesquare.org)**Welcome New Residents**

**Approval of October 2024 minutes**

Motion to approve by Marlene Budde

Seconded by Monica Cross

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

**8th Ward Alderwoman Cara Spencer**

[spencerc@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:spencerc@stlouis-mo.gov)

* Lafayette Square featured in the StL Film Festival over the weekend
* Bill introduced to spend Rams settlement money
* StL is at the bottom of the list nationally in population growth
* Focused on making sure ARPA dollars are spent; we have spent a fraction of the money and it all has to be contracted to be spent by the end of 2024
  + Funds were allocated years ago in the BOA
  + Infrastructure
  + 911 center
  + Shoring up water department
* Question was raised about SLPS and specifically Vashon
  + The elected officials that answer re: SLPS is the school board

**POLICE REPORT-3rd District Officer Rojas, 314-444-2595**

[rrojas@slmpd.org](mailto:rrojas@slmpd.org)

* Not present
* Stats can be found here: <https://slmpd.org/stats/>

**SLDC Neighborhood Manager (DevelopStLouis.org) Lisa Otke**

* Not present

**Neighborhood Improvement Specialist Reign Harris**

[harrisre@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:harrisre@stlouis-mo.gov)

(314) 901-3615 (cell)

* Issue w/ people going in and out of the vacant property on Nicholson and a request has been made to board up the building

**NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION UPDATES**

**Barr Branch Library Roxxy Reed**

*rreed@slpl.org*

* Barr Library hired Brock Nicholson to fill our open Youth Services Specialist position. Brock starts next week and already has experience working at SLPL, coming from the youth services department at Schlafly Library. Brock starts on 11/19!
* All youth services programs will continue to be presented as per usual:
  + Teen Video Gaming on Tuesdays @4:30 pm
  + Lego Club on Thursdays @4:30 pm
  + Storytime on Friday mornings at 10:30
* **4,518** folks visited Barr Library in October, an 11% increase from September!
* We notarized **48** documents in September; please call ahead before visiting, and make sure to bring your unsigned documents and a photo ID.
* The Sci-Fi Swap Meet book club meets at Barr Library on the second Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m.
* NOVEL NEIGHBORS book club meets on the third Saturday of every month at 3:00 p.m. In October, there were 13 people in the group, which made for a great discussion.
* The meeting room is available for nonprofit groups, and you can reserve a room by visiting SLPL.org, scrolling to the bottom of the page, and clicking on “Meeting Rooms
* SLPL will be closed Thanksgiving day but will remain open on Friday, 11/29

**Lafayette Prep Academy (LPA) Dee Dee Arms, Director of**

**Development and Communications**Unable to attend

**Lafayette Park Conservancy (LPC) Michael Bushur, Executive Director**

[*Michael.Bushur@lafayettepark.org*](mailto:Michael.Bushur@lafayettepark.org)

* Replaced flagpole lights outside of Park House
* Have been working on tree plan for the year; master list totals about $115k; critical tree work is $65k but has been narrowed down to approx $30k in tree work/removal funded by grants, private funding, and requesting assistance from the Forestry Dept.
* Grotto clean out is delayed due to a sink hole opening on the east side of the pond; need a StL City engineer to look into things
  + Clean out should happen every 5-10 years but it’s been about 20 years - hoping to tackle this next year
* A second and larger sink hole opened up behind the gazebo where concerts are held

**Lafayette Square Arts Council Donna Korando**

[*acls@lafayettesquare.org*](mailto:acls@lafayettesquare.org)

* Will be participating in Light Up the Square

**NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS**

**Block Captain Updates Wayne White**

*wmw@studio2108.com*

* Block captains needed for:
  + 1600 Dolman
  + 2000-2100 Hickory
  + 2300 Hickory
  + 1600 Lafayette
  + 2050-2056 Lafayette
  + 1200-1300 Mississippi
  + 1600-1700 Mississippi
  + 1700 Missouri
  + 1700 Preston
  + 18th St from Park to Lafayette

**Problem Properties Update Christina Ryan**

[*pastpresident@lafayettesquare.org*](mailto:pastpresident@lafayettesquare.org)

* Properties involved in the lawsuit have been sold and sale has closed
  + New owner has began stabilization of properties and has an aggressive timeline to complete renovations
* This being addressed successfully frees up the path to begin working on additional problem properties in the neighborhood

**Holiday House Tour Bev Murphy**

*housetour*[*@lafayettesquare.org*](mailto:pastpresident@lafayettesquare.org)

* Sunday, December 15, 10am-4pm
* 11 houses on tour this year
* Looking for volunteers to docent for the Parlor Tour; volunteers get a ticket to the tour
  + You can find additional information on volunteering in the Lafayette Square Community Facebook group
  + <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/401899956072/false#/invitation>
* There will be trolley rides, a carriage through the park, and a holiday market at Fountain Plaza

**2025 Board Positions: Chris Budde**

* Communications Chair - only remaining vacant position

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Treasurer’s Report (Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct) Tatiana Clader**

[*treasurer@lafayettesquare.org*](mailto:treasurer@lafayettesquare.org)

**Business Affairs Bart Lissner**

[*lsba@lafayettesquare.org*](mailto:lsba@lafayettesquare.org)

* Working to revamp and revitalize business affairs let him know if you have ideas

**Fundraising Jill Peckinpaugh**

[*fundraising@lafayettesquare.org*](mailto:fundraising@lafayettesquare.org)

**Bev Murphy**

[*housetour@lafayettesquare.org*](mailto:housetour@lafayettesquare.org)

* Masquerade Ball
  + Was a moderate success, made just shy of $8k this year to fund events in the Square but do not anticipate holding this again in 2025
* Light Up the Square & Holiday Pet Parade - 12/7
  + <https://lafayettesquare.org/light-up-the-square-pet-parade/>
* Holiday House Tour 12/15

**Membership Kimberly Winters**

[*membership@lafayettesquare.org*](mailto:membership@lafayettesquare.org)

**Preservation Marsha Delcour**

[*preservation@lafayettesquare.org*](mailto:preservation@lafayettesquare.org)

**Communications Tim Strickfaden**

[*communications@lafayettesquare.org*](mailto:communications@lafayettesquare.org)

* Need volunteers for the merch table at Light Up the Square and House Tour
* New merch has been added (with a new design!)
* Still looking for a new Communications Chair

**Safety George Boulware**

[*safety@lafayettesquare.org*](mailto:safety@lafayettesquare.org)

* Keep an eye out for your neighbors, be aware, be a good neighbor
* If you see a package on your neighbor’s porch, reach out - maybe even bring it in

**Improvements/Maintenance Mitch Hunt/Matt Negri**

[*improvements@lafayettesquare.org*](mailto:improvements@lafayettesquare.org)[*maintenance@lafayettesquare.org*](mailto:maintenance@lafayettesquare.org)

* Great new improvements at th median at Jefferson and Lafayette
* Column that was hit on Lafayette near 44; we are aware of the damage and are working to get it repaired
* Historical signage is still moving forward

**Beautification Linda Weiner**

[*linderweiner@gmail.com*](mailto:linderweiner@gmail.com)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Upcoming Events:**

* Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 3, 7pm @ Park House
* Next General Meeting: Wednesday, December 11, 7pm @SqWires
* Light Up the Square/Pet Parade, Saturday 12/7
* Holiday House Tour, Sunday 12/15

**Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

* Light Up the Square Committee - contact [fundraising@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:fundraising@lafayettesquare.org)

**ADJOURN at 7:51pm**

**Motion to adjourn by Ty Lipe**

**Second by Monica Cross**

****LSNA Membership Sign Up