**General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**Lafayette Square Restoration Committee**

**(dba Lafayette Square Neighborhood Association)**

***The neighborhood association of Lafayette Square***

Wednesday, January 8, 2024

7:00 pm

SqWires Annex

* **Call to order** @7:02pm
* **Approval of December minutes**
  + Delayed until February due to website difficulties
* **Introduction of Board & Preservation Committee Members**
* **Overview of nature of meetings**
  + All members are welcome to attend
  + Usually held monthly but bylaws only require them to be held quarterly
  + October meeting is the Annual meeting
    - election of board members and preservation committee
  + Proposed annual budget for the next fiscal year must be submitted to the general membership for approval at first meeting of the year
* **Welcome new residents/ sharing of news**
* **Guest Speakers & Community Updates**
  + **Alderwoman Cara Spencer -** not able to be present
  + **Officer Rojas (Community Outreach Officer)**
    - 2 incidents in the past month (2 felony thefts - stolen care and Christmas gifts stolen from the backseat of a car)
  + **NIS Reign Harris**
    - Working on an address on Dolman where there has been a lot of drug activity
      * spoke to City Counselor today
      * address will be added to the nuisance task force to work to make it a nuisance property
      * also working to involve the drug task force
    - **Roxxanne Reed, Barr Branch**
      * facilitating MLK food drive through January 31
      * Open Tabletop Gaming program starting this Saturday (Second Saturday of every month)
      * Notary services available
      * Meeting rooms available for nonprofit groups
      * Youth services/programming continues
    - **LCP - not present**
    - **Arts Council - not present**
    - **Lafayette Prep - not present**
    - **AT Still University -** lot of great things happening; look for an article in the next Marquis
    - **Mom’s in the Square**
    - **Lafayette Square Ladies Libation League -** will be a meeting in January but date TBD
* **Officer and Committee Chair Reports**
  + President
    - Community. Restoration. Communication.
  + Treasurer
    - 2024 review
      * Budgeted a deficit of $40k
      * Had a net revenue of $56.7k
      * $298k COH
      * $217k King Endowment
        + 4% max annual withdrawal/year
        + Per endowment, 5 person committee to identify an opportunity that reflects the spirit of Jim King’s contribution to the neighborhood
    - Proposed 2025 Budget
      * Total revenue $242k
      * Total expenses $266k
      * Net revenue $18.k deficit
      * items of note
        + aggressive increase revenue (spring tour based on the success of the holiday tour)
        + increased spending in beautification, improvements/maintenance, community garden, legal, pocket park clean up, fountain plaza
      * Will be voted on in February meeting
  + Secretary
  + Membership
    - 2024 vs. 2025 memberships
      * Since June 2024, 29 new memberships
      * total 303 memberships (14% of residents are members)
      * 2025 goal is to get to 18 more memberships
  + Fundraising
    - Looking for committee members and volunteers for neighborhood events
  + Business Affairs
  + Preservation
    - Working to update historical code for the City
    - Problem properties
    - If you have a project, please go to the committee. The will help you walk through the project
  + Safety
    - Titan provided security in the neighborhood over the holidays
      * Thanksgiving - New Year’s Day
      * they were more mobile and visible through the business district this year
  + Improvements
    - Historic street sign project continues; 12 more to be done in 2025
    - Removed some dead and dying trees at Hickory and Jefferson
    - Going to be refreshing the curbs that have been damaged as well as the curb/mulch area near the Rutger Lofts
    - Alleyway mirror project continues
  + Communications
    - lots of work to be done including:
      * website revisions
      * more effective use of emails/texts to members
      * Informative and regular use of Facebook, Nextdoor
      * 175th anniversary of the dedication of Lafayette Park is in 2026
      * Publishing stories in Marquis
* **Other Reports**
  + Block Captains update
    - still looking for block captains
    - list of block captains will be added to the website
  + Problem Properties update
  + Beautification
* **Upcoming Events**
  + board mtg 2/4
  + general meeting 2/12
  + Spring House & Garden Tour 6/7-6/8
  + Cocktails in the Plaza a Wednesday in May
  + First Concert in the Park 6/7
  + Light Up the Square 12/6 (tentative)
  + Holiday Tour 12/14 (tentative)
* **Announcements**
* **Adjournment**
  + **Motion by Kim Winters**
  + **Second by Monica Cross**