**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**