**Membership Meeting Minutes**

**Lafayette Square Restoration Committee (LSRC)**

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

**(dba Lafayette Square Neighborhood Association)**

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

7:00 pm

SqWires Annex

* Call to order
* Approval of March 12, 2025 minutes
  + Motion to approve Chris Budde
  + Second by Matt Negri
* Welcome new residents
* Sharing of news
* Guest Speakers & Community Updates
  + Regular Speakers:
    - Cara Spencer

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

* + - Officer Rosa Rojas

314-444-2595

rrojas@slmpd.org

* + - Reign Harris

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

(314) 901-3615 (cell)

* Vehicles that were abandoned on streets have been picked up
* Contact Reign for issues with neighbors, trees, potholes, barking dogs, derelict vehicles, any related to improvements in the neighborhood
* Home on Nicholson has been boarded up several times and needs to be boarded up again
  + - Roxxanne Reed

rreed@slpl.org

314‑241‑2288 x3086

* Vince rec’d an update from Roxxanne and will post the updates on lafayettesquare.org
  + - Michael Bushur

[michael.bushur@lafayettepark.org](mailto:michael.bushur@lafayettepark.org)

(314) 949-2210

* Family fun day including fun for all ages

Sunday April 4/27 from noon to 4pm

* Kicking off Spring Membership Drive - goal is $50,000; nearly $40,000 was raised in 2024
  + Guest Speakers:
    - City Church: Pastor Mike Werkheiser

[mike@citychurchstl.org](mailto:mike@citychurchstl.org)

1908 Lafayette Ave

* Moved to the neighborhood in 2007
* Church is 16 years old but the building is an old building
  + current large project is a full renovation of the basement
* Good Friday 4/18 and 5:30
* Easter Sunday 10:15am
  + - 2025-2026 Directory: Donna Hagerty-Payne

[memberatlarge4@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:memberatlarge4@lafayettesquare.org)

* Use the QR codes posted throughout the neighborhood to have your information included (even if there’s been no change)
* Hoping for a new directory being available in July
* Arts Council
  + Arts Council is fundraising and looking for sponsors for Concerts in the Park - contact [acls@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:acls@lafayettesquare.org) or 314-772-4644 if you’re interested in donating (any amount) or becoming a sponsor
    - $500 gets your name/organization’s name on printed materials
  + First concert is 6/7
    - South Johnny Band
* Lafayette Prep
  + flier available for upcoming events, including field day
  + LPA is purchasing their building to ensure that they can stay in the neighborhood; working to raise the last $4000 to ensure that they have the $50k down payment needed for the purchase
  + 98% staff retention for next school year (one staff member not returning)
  + 98% student retention for next year - 5 families are moving
  + 98% of 8th graders were accepted by selective high schools for the next school year
* Lafayette Park UMC
  + Going to be on the house tour
  + Easter service at 9:30
  + Welcomes families to participate in neighborhood Easter egg hunt
* Moms in the Square
  + Christina Ryan is the organizer
  + Has a Facebook group
  + There is also a Dads in the Square
* Ladies Libation League
  + Meets monthly
  + Notices go out via email and on Facebook
* Officer and Committee Chair Reports:
  + President
    - [president@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:president@lafayettesquare.org)
  + Treasurer
    - [treasurer@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:treasurer@lafayettesquare.org)
    - Review of Vicini Proposal
      * Looked at developing the pocket park
      * Have a proposal from Vicini for limited outdoor use for additional seating
        + Corner space along the alley
        + Proposed to develop space a bit

put in seating and some landscaping

* + - * bring more life to the space and neighborhood
  + Membership
    - [membership@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:membership@lafayettesquare.org)
    - Join at: <https://lafayettesquare.org/community/lafayette-square-neighborhood-association/>
    - membership allows you to have voting rights in the LSNA
  + Fundraising
    - [fundraising@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:fundraising@lafayettesquare.org)
    - Spring Tour update
      * Spring House & Garden Tour, June 7 & 8 from 10-5
      * Member presale starts 4/10- 4/18 $35
      * $40 general tickets sales start 4/19
      * $50 day of ticket sales
        + not capping number of tickets sold!
  + Communications: Website upgrade
    - [communications@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:communications@lafayettesquare.org)
    - reviewing proposals for updating website
    - looking for feedback on what residents what from the site
  + Preservation: Mack Truck site plans
    - [preservation@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:preservation@lafayettesquare.org)
    - Proposal for the Mack Truck location of a mini storage facility
    - Preliminary sketches were shared
    - Plan is to have a special neighborhood meeting where the developers will present it and for residents to give feedback
    - Reign shared that the ownership group/developers would go to the city to request a hearing for a conditional use permit
      * Reign and alderperson would receive notice and ensure that the neighborhood is aware
      * meeting would be held via Zoom or in-person in City Hall
    - Out of state owner who lives in Atlanta and has never lived here
    - Have been several other proposals for things like a hotel and a market/grocery store that were more compatible with the vision for the neighborhood
    - Potentially devastating for a federally recognized historic district within the city
    - The owner has ignored the graffiti/busted windows; individual residents and Operation Brightside have been trying to manage the ongoing vandalism issues
    - Residents present at the meeting strongly voiced opposition to this proposal
    - Vince to draft a letter opposing this proposal
    - Lisa Otke - SLCD
      * has been aware of this plan and is not aware of anything definitive that says that this cannot be developed here
      * the city will look at neighborhood plan as well as strategic land use
      * zoned as industrial
      * city will also consider redevelopment plan
        + them asking for incentives, like tax abatement, would make a difference
      * special use district may come into play
      * will need zoning approval and preservation approval
    - Lisa and Reign both stressed the importance of neighborhood support
  + Safety
    - [safety@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:safety@lafayettesquare.org)
    - Helpful numbers:

Non-Emergency: 314-444-5555 or 314-231-1212

Parking Violations: 314-627-2232

Citizen Service Bureau: 314-622-4800

Operation Brightside: Graffiti issues [St. Louis Neighborhood Cleaning Programs](https://www.brightsidestl.org/what-we-do/cleaning/?gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIheHO7ca5jAMVwTYIBR27ZAV6EAAYASAAEgKdKPD_BwE)

Environmental Investigations: 314-444-5697 (Illegal Dumping)

* + Improvements
    - [improvements@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:improvements@lafayettesquare.org)
  + Business Affairs
    - [lsba@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:lsba@lafayettesquare.org)
* Other Reports:
  + Block Captains update: Wayne White
    - List of block captains and map of block captains can be found here: <https://lafayettesquare.org/board-meeting-minutes-copy/>
    - Block captains are needed for the following blocks:

1600 Dolman

2050 - 2056 Lafayette (2 condo buildings)

1700 Mississippi

1100 - 1300 Missouri

1700 Nicholson

* + Problem Properties update: Christina Ryan
    - [problemproperties@lafayettesquare.org](mailto:problemproperties@lafayettesquare.org)
    - Only addressing vacant properties that impact the quality of life for neighbors
    - Approx 12 properties on the list - all have been vacant for 2+ years - **none are occupied**
  + Beautification: Linda Weiner
* Upcoming Events
  + Board Meeting: 7:00 pm Tue. May 6th
  + General Meeting: 7:00 pm Wed. May 14th (SqWires Annex)
  + Cocktails on the Plaza: Wed. May 21st 5 pm to 7:30 pm
  + Neighborhood yard sale: Sat May 31st from 9-3
  + Spring House and Garden Tour (the “56th Annual”): Sat. June 7th & Sun. June 8th 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
  + First Concert in the Park: Sat. June 7th 6:00 pm
  + Block Captains Mtg: 6:00 pm Wed. June 11th (SqWires Annex)
  + Tour de Lafayette: Friday, August 29th 1:30 pm to 10:30 pm
  + Light Up the Square/Pet Parade, Sat. December 6th
  + Holiday Parlor Tour: Sun. December 14th (the ”48th Annual”)
* Announcements
  + Brad Liebman (GO! St. Louis Marathon April 26th)
    - Get out and support the runners by cheering them on when they’re running through our neighborhood!
    - Live music at the Fountain
    - Sqwires will be out with a tent
* Adjournment
  + Motion to adjourn by Linda Weiner; second by Brooke Gocken
* Post-Meeting Socializing