**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

* + - Officer Rosa Rojas

314-444-2595

rrojas@slmpd.org

* + - Reign Harris

 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

(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

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

* 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 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
	+ Treasurer
		- 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
		- Join at: <https://lafayettesquare.org/community/lafayette-square-neighborhood-association/>
		- membership allows you to have voting rights in the LSNA
	+ Fundraising
		- 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
		- reviewing proposals for updating website
		- looking for feedback on what residents what from the site
	+ Preservation: Mack Truck site plans
		- 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
		- 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
	+ Business Affairs
		- 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
		- 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