

**Date:** Wednesday, 13th May 2026, 18:52-20:49 GMT-05:00

**Attendees:** President LSNA

### **Meeting Summary**

The Lafayette Square Neighborhood Association May general meeting covered community safety, city services, neighborhood events, and operational updates. Officer Rojas reported crime statistics (two burglaries in the last 28 days, fewer incidents than last year) and encouraged use of the non-emergency line and the city website for reporting; discussion included car break-ins, avoiding leaving valuables in vehicles, and substation activity. City and Alderman staff provided updates on bus rapid transit proposals, potential changes to trash pickup (roll carts vs. alley dumpsters), zoning code updates, and several ongoing development projects (including updates and permitting status for multiple properties: LaSalle, Hickory, and 18th Street sites). Neighborhood groups presented event plans and volunteer needs: the Spring Home & Garden Tour (June 6–7), Arts Fair and concerts, park fundraisers (Cocktails on the Plaza), and a June 13 yard/garage sale. Association business included parkhouse lease progress, new membership chairs, volunteer recruitment, membership drive goals, safety funding needs for private patrols, and beautification projects (irrigation, median plantings). Several action items and follow-ups were assigned (pothole coordination with street department, property title and legal steps for nuisance properties, and continued outreach for zoning and trash feedback). The meeting concluded with announcements and a motion to adjourn.

### **Next Steps**

- Officer Rojas to increase overtime patrols and keep neighborhood posted about car break-in activity. [\(14:27\)](#)
- Residents to use the St. Louis non-emergency number (314-444-5555) or city website to report suspicious activity and non-emergencies to aid detectives. [\(13:32\)](#)
- Street department to meet with neighborhood next week to provide live updates and schedule for pothole repairs (neighborhood to continue pressing for fixes). [\(22:18\)](#)
- Preservation/Development follow-up: city staff to review engineering and permit status for 1930 LaSalle, 1929 Hickory, and 1101–1103 18th; neighborhood to await permit sign-off before work resumes. [\(89:38\)](#)
- Legal action process initiated for nuisance properties (titles ordered for 1730 Nicholson and 1713 Carol); attorney demand letter to be issued and owners given up to 60 days to respond. [\(86:31\)](#)

- Fundraising for safety: organizers to promote Cocktails on the Plaza and other events to fund private patrols; communications team to post campaign materials on neighborhood social channels. [\(73:34\)](#)
- Home & Garden Tour organizers to finalize volunteers and notify homeowners; volunteers receive tickets and will attend a thank-you dinner (Squires) after the tour. [\(51:41\)](#)
- Beautification committee to submit budget request (~\$25,000) for automated garden watering system to aldermanic office and to coordinate median planting this coming Saturday (Park Avenue between Dalvin and 18th). [\(67:39\)](#)
- Membership chairs to continue recruitment (goal: 50 new members for 350 total in 2026) and to staff outreach at events and Saturday mornings on Park Avenue. [\(63:17\)](#)

### **AI Insights**

The meeting was effective at covering a wide range of neighborhood priorities—safety, events, city services, development, and membership—with active participation from city officials and community chairs. Strengths: clear event planning with concrete volunteer asks, practical police guidance about reporting, and multiple named follow-ups (permits, potholes, funding).

Opportunities: tighten time management to reduce repetition, ensure key decisions (e.g., preservation outcomes, trash pickup policy) have explicit owners and target dates, and improve communications by promptly publishing summarized action requests and fundraising pitches to the neighborhood social channels to increase visibility and membership conversions.

### **Topics & Highlights**

#### **1. Safety & Police Report**

1. Officer [@President LSNA](#) reported two burglaries in the last 28 days and noted a reduction from six incidents the prior year. [\(14:15\)](#)
2. Reminder to use the St. Louis non-emergency number (314-444-5555) and the city website (residents → community service) for suspicious but non-emergency reports to assist detectives. [\(13:32\)](#)
3. Advice to residents: do not leave valuables visible in cars; out-of-state plates draw attention from criminals; officers will increase overtime patrols and substation visits. [\(15:54\)](#)
4. Neighborhood-funded private patrols discussed (Cocktails on the Plaza fundraising) with goal to cover patrol costs (~\$36,000/yr) and extend patrol nights when funded. [\(73:34\)](#)

5. Encouragement to email officer contacts for follow-up; officer emphasizes logging incidents (even non-actionable) to build detective leads. [\(20:23\)](#)

## 2. City Services & Infrastructure

1. Alderman staff updated on bus rapid transit proposals that would border Lafayette Square and requested public comment; maps and links available through the alderman's newsletter and office. [\(27:27\)](#)
2. Discussion of possible trash pickup changes: exploring roll cart system vs. alley dumpsters; feedback being collected by neighborhood type rather than per-street. [\(29:00\)](#)
3. Street department scheduled to meet with the neighborhood next week to provide real-time updates and schedule for pothole repairs; neighborhood pressing for timely fixes. [\(22:18\)](#)
4. Water shutoff incidents discussed; residents urged that advance notice from water division would allow neighborhood-wide communications via social media. [\(23:33\)](#)

## 3. Development & Preservation

1. Updates on three stalled properties: 1930 LaSalle engineering plans submitted and awaiting final sign-off; work to resume after permits are cleared. [\(89:38\)](#)
2. 1101–1103 18th duplex: plans nearly complete; anticipated permit submission for new construction behind that building. [\(90:39\)](#)
3. 1929 Hickory collapsed building: engineering complete but adjacent-lot basement requirements complicate restoration; potential teardown and two new homes proposed pending neighborhood and city approvals. [\(91:15\)](#)
4. Clarification that zoning code update is city-wide and different from prior neighborhood-specific plan; residents urged to submit feedback during the city's zoning process. [\(32:02\)](#)

## 4. Neighborhood Events & Fundraising

1. Spring Home & Garden Tour scheduled June 6–7: 11 homes, 4 gardens; volunteer slots open; volunteers receive tickets and a thank-you dinner (Squires) after the tour. [\(51:41\)](#)

2. Arts fair, concerts, and Shakespeare in the Park planned (Arts Fair June 6–7; first concert night following June 6); festival and fundraising events highlighted to drive safety funding. [\(46:31\)](#)
3. Cocktails on the Plaza fundraiser described as direct funding source for safety patrols; goal to sell several hundred tickets to cover multiple months of patrols. [\(73:34\)](#)
4. June 13 neighborhood yard/garage sale and other community events (park conservancy talks, tree plantings) with requests for volunteers and membership support. [\(25:44\)](#)

#### **5. Association Operations & Membership**

1. Parkhouse lease won by the association; lease review and insurance checks in progress and first Friday night social planned for May 29 at the Parkhouse. [\(47:36\)](#)
2. New membership co-chairs ([@President LSNA](#) introduced) aiming for 50 new members (350 total) and 15% resident membership rate in 2026; outreach at Park Avenue Saturdays. [\(62:52\)](#)
3. Open board positions remain (member-at-large slot); reminder to use tax-exempt certificate for purchases made on behalf of neighborhood and restoration committee. [\(48:52\)](#)
4. Communications: updated annual directory QR code circulated; requests to post safety and fundraising information to Facebook neighborhood groups to boost awareness. [\(66:00\)](#)

#### **6. Beautification & Park Conservancy**

1. Locke Park Conservancy reported removal of 11 dying trees, planting of 25 trees, upcoming grants with Missouri Dept. of Conservation, and programming (history talks, 120th anniversary reception June 6). [\(43:24\)](#)
2. Beautification committee secured a contractor and budget proposal for automated watering at the community garden (~\$25,000) and will submit funding request to aldermanic office. [\(67:39\)](#)
3. Volunteer planting scheduled for the Park Avenue median (between Dalvin and 18th) on the coming Saturday 9–11 AM. [\(68:40\)](#)

4. Conservancy planning fall festival and September fundraising; membership drives in spring and fall to support park upkeep. [\(44:45\)](#)