LaSalle Park Community Association Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 2024
7:00pm to 8:30pm

Meeting Information

In person: St. Louis Friends Meeting (Quakers)
1001 Park Ave, 63104

Minutes available at:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XHAafWQ-ZYTqkB0bw3lPOvEUIR72XOQzXW3SpRZEIFo/edit?usp=sharing

Zoom: No Zoom this month

Topic	Time Slot	Lead(s)
Meeting Kick-Off Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Review of Agenda	7:00-7:05	Vice President Holmes
Alderperson & Neighborhood Improvement Report	7:05-7:20	Cara Spencer & Qiana Baxton
Public Safety Report & Introduction of New Safety Officer	7:20-7:30	
Employment Connection Update	7:30-7:40	Sal Martinez
Financial Update	7:40-7:50	Treasurer Aerne
Report on 1000 Morrison Avenue	7:50-8:10	Ben West & Nathan Jackson
Report on Ward 8 meeting March 19	8:10-8:15	Vice President Mouton
2024 Events & Activities Planning	8:15-8:25	Treasurer & Vice President
Open Comments Session	8:25-8:30	
Meeting Wrap Up • Recap Next Steps/Agenda Topics for {date} meeting • Concluding Remarks	8:30	President

Minutes of the meeting of March 20, 2024

President Amanda Hill-Chasnoff opened the meeting at 7:06 pm; Board members introduced themselves and noted the unusually large crowd.

Qiana Baxton, STL Neighborhood Improvement Specialist, reported:

- Senior property Tax Freeze applications are open.
- She would like to create a thread for city events and information.
- She received a complaint re the dumpster at Park & Menard and is seeking more information.

President introduced the STL Police Department representatives on hand: Major Pierre Benoist, head of the Central Division; Captain Angela Dickerson, District 3 Safety Officer for neighborhoods in Ward 8; and Sergeant Sheila Phillips, aide to Capt. Dickerson. Captain Dickerson provided her email: amdickerson@slmpd.org and Sgt. Phillips provided her office phone: 314-444-2585.

- A homeless camp at Geyer St. was removed today. If there is a problem property, please let Capt. Dickerson know. Concerning camps on MODOT property, SLPD works on MODOT's schedule of availability to remove them. MODOT must install "No Trespassing" signs and then the PD can remove.
- LPCA Member-at-large: Large pile of trash by Turnverein from the camp on the hill overlooking Interstate 5 behind Lafayette Street. Who will remove it? Maj. Benoist says he sent outreach offices there today, the ball is rolling to get them removed. It is MODOT property, but the process has begun and City will arrange trash pick up.
- The monthly crime report for LaSalle Park had Zero homicides, assaults, residential robberies and larceny. Motor vehicle larcenies - 5; Package Thefts are rising city-wide. VP Holmes reported a package theft within the past hour, with home camera video. Where should that tape be sent? To Capt. Dickerson.
- Either Capt. Dickerson or Sgt. Phillips will try to attend each LPCA meeting.

Eighth Ward Alderperson Cara Spencer reported:

- The Board of Aldermen legislative session ends April 15.
- The current Homeless Shelter Bill from Ward 7 Alderperson Alisha Sonnier will be voted on. Spencer described it as having "much more notification of the area, but lower voting standards." It also includes a mandatory six-month review of any new shelter. Spencer is trying to pass legislation restricting tenting in city parks, within ___ feet of houses. She noted that shelters are very traumatic places and should only be an entry point to services. Police should not be tasked with the management of homeless

camps and vagrancies, but the city has failed to deal with the issue. She is pushing for a more robust method, noting “We’ve ignored this so long , some people have been on the streets so long that it’s becoming harder to rehouse them. President Hill-Chasnoff inquired about a rumor that a new shelter will open near St. Vincent de Paul; Spencer is unaware of it.

- Some bills are being developed regarding Surveillence and Police, but traffic and area camera use makes City residents very uneasy. Spencer is working on a bill to handle reckless driving, noting 5 pedestrian deaths in the City within 60 days. Now being stopped for reckless driving results in a ticket and then the driver is allowed to leave in the vehicle. Her approach is to immediately boot the car when stopped. It would become a “bookable offense.” Ben west asked when the boot would be used and Spencer siad the legislation is not yet fully developed.
- Gravois Road is “an extraordinarily dangerous road owned by MODOT.” It is being studied for major improvements but the first round of proposed changes is disappointing to her and the Public Safety Commission. Meanwhile, the Gravois/Russell bus stop has been chosen as a point of experiment.
- City 2024 Budget Process is beginning earlier at her request.
- The Metropolitan Sewer Districts “is a racket.” Other utilities are overseen by state level commissions; MSD is different from everywhere else, with oversight by the City mayor, County Supervisor and six appointees. She advocates for the state taking oversight. That said, the issues facing MSD require the bonds it seeks to pass on the vote April 2, require a Yes vote, as failure to approve will result in drastically higher immediate water bills for everyone.
- Spencer’s legislation on requiring licensing for open carry of a gun has created the <u>perception</u> that police can take possession of an open-carry weapon and led to fewer on the streets. She hopes the same for her reckless driving law.

Sal Martinez of Employment Connection reported:

- The Violence Prevention Program at Clinton-Peabody has been closed; EC hopes to reopen it as a satellite employment program office. There is a proposal to do so, with first round approval. The SLHA would contract with EC to conduct the program.
- A promising new program offering training in Green Jobs is opening in April.

- The WIOA Workforce free entry training program is offering paid internships. Ben West asked if LP letters of support would help, and if there are any plans for programs for children and young teens. Martinez said yes, and yes, look at EC's Dutchtown programming; he is seeking partnership with Gene Slay Boys & Girls Club in Soulard.

Paul Werner, Director of Operations, St. Louis Housing Authority, reported:

- Re LaSalle Park Village and complaints of the free-running dog, SLHA is working with that family. Legally, he can't comment or provide specifics about various complaints. Issues can be brought to Lucius Bennett, Director of Property Management. Currently, staff at LaSalle Park Villages include the On Site Property Manager, Assistant Manager, two maintenance workers and two groundskeepers.
- President asked for help with trash from the dumpsters on 10th Street traveling to the east side of 10th Street; Werner said the maintenance and ground workers should be helping with that. VP recommended bars to weight down the lids on the dumpsters. Martinez asked if a Peabody-LaSalle Park clean-up day is possible. VP noted that May 23 is Purina Cares Day in LaSalle Park.
- Meg Holmes asked for an explanation of police at SLHA properties, particularly LaSalle Park Villages, and District police. Capt. Dickerson said
    1. Call 911 for crimes;
    2. Email her for stray dogs, homeless camps; Maj. Benoist said she covers District 3 and SLHA patrols; the police assigned to SLHA are 2 cops per patrol who cover 3 or 4 other housing complexes at the same time.
- If residents see "stuff," the most helpful thing for SLHA is to provide a specific address of the incident or problem.
- Re security cameras, SLHA finds funding, installs cameras and turns operation over to SLPD.

Lisa Otke of the STL Development Corp. reported:

- SLDC's 3 main pillars are Empowerment, Development and Transformation.
- LaSalle Park is within her "near south neighborhoods" assigned region.
- She is working on a Town Hall planned for April 1. free
- A free-to- city-residents electronic recycling event will take place April 27 at 1640 S> Kingshighway.

President gave Treasurer's Report - *see attached.*

VP reported that Mardi Gras Inc. says it will "make us whole"re the lack of traffic to our drinks booth. A 10th Street resident said he appreciated being able to park near his home and not encounter people or their ruder leavings on his lawn.

2024 Events Plan:

- Purina Cares Day is May 23 AND NEEDS LP VOLUNTEERS. Purina is donating $2500 to be used for materials and tools.
- Bingo Night dates coming soon.
- Two Music on the Mall events; hoping to attract involvement of neighborhood musicians.
- Three Kickball events for community building with local youth, especially LP Village residents.
- RAC grant application by Meg Holmes submitted; Proposal includes LP resident artist Zach Chasnoff and muralist Samay Sudis to paint a mural on the MODOT wall along St. Vincent de Paul church parking area.

Marty Joe Murray reported:

- Democratic primary is next Saturday, March 23. He is running for Mo House 78th District, which seat is currently vacant.
- He is on the Board for Sts. Peter & Paul Community Services; they are seeking space for a shelter with "wraparound services" in North City.

Ben West reported:

- Nathan Jackson, local historian, did not make the meeting to provide history on LaSalle Park homes.
- The LPCA court case on 1000 Morrison has received a 3-month continuance, pushing the case into June.
- Neighbors are empowered to board up any open door or window they see.
- Orange tabby Tiny is seeking a home, back up for adoption at Stray Paws.

President called for event volunteers, reminded people of the dues and for LPCA, and adjourned the meeting. Next meeting is Wednesday, April 17 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen Finngan, Secretary