



**Board Minutes
Of the Friends of Lafayette Park
January 17, 2013**

Attendees: Jeff Stoiber, Tim McDonough, Kimberly Cestari, Steve Agostino, and Tad Stewart [Meeting held at Tim's house.]

Minutes: Minutes for the November 15, 2012, meeting were approved.

Financial & Fundraising: Tim presented his Treasurer's report. He noted that FOLP has a working balance of \$9,241.33.

He reported the results of the annual fundraising mailer. For the fall campaign, about 750 pieces were mailed at a cost of \$1,574. It generated \$8,150 in donations as of Jan. 15, 2013. This amount is down slightly from the previous year, which raised a little more than \$9,000. However, this year, some of the "lost" donors resurfaced.

There was some discussion about posting on the FOLP website the general percentages of how the FOLP uses the donated funds. Tim said FOLP spends about 10% on running/managing the organization; 24% on fundraising; and 64% spend on the park. Tim suggested he compare how these percentages compare with other nonprofits before posting this information on the website.

He said that unless there is a big project at the park, community support generally stays at this level. Once Phase 2 of the master plan begins to move forward, community involvement and donations likely would increase, he said.

The board felt it was important to capture the names and contact information of everyone who participates in the clean-up days.

There was a discussion regarding the DCPS planned renovation of Lafayette School in 2014. If DCPS is planning to renovate the school, would the city have funds to make some improvements in the park at the same time. The board plans to pursue that idea.

Dog Waste Project: There was a lengthy discussion about whether to move forward with a proposal to install specialized dog waste containers in the park. The service Doody Calls would install the containers (at a cost) and empty them once a week (at a regular fee).

Tim had run numbers on the cost. To install two of the strongest and best receptacles, the cost would be about \$900. The pickup charge is \$12 per unit per pickup. If picked up once a week, the annual cost would be \$1,248 for the pick-up service. He suggested FOLP budget another \$572 annually to include plastic bags at the receptacles; and \$100-\$200 for signs to put on current trash bins telling dog owners to use the dog waste receptacles. So, the initial startup would cost about \$1,100; and then the annual cost would run about \$1,820.

Steve Agostino, who had first raised this possibility and had researched Doody Calls, provided additional details regarding the service and the different types of containers FOLP could purchase. One of the goals would be to steer dog waste away from the trash containers near where children are playing or near the Gazebo.

In addition to the cost issue, however, the board discussed related elements to this project. These included: would DPR allow such receptacles, and would the containers appear to the community to be a first step toward an official dog park at Lafayette Park. Dog issues are a delicate community issue and the board feels the FOLP should not appear to be taking a position on this issue.

The board decided to solicit community feedback on the poop containers prior to making a decision. It was suggested that a flyer be drawn up to pass around to dog owners and others asking their opinion, and perhaps send an email to the FOLP list soliciting feedback. It also was suggested that perhaps dog owners might be willing to contribute to help cover the cost of the receptacles.

Erosion: It was noted that the new plantings in front of Lafayette School will help with the erosion problem, but not solve it entirely. It was hoped that the city or school would maintain those plantings.

It was suggested that recycling bins be placed in the park, near the school, for bottles.

Casey Trees: Casey Trees said it will plant trees around the park on April 27. Kimberly, who had been working with Casey Trees to have trees planted in the park, will guide Casey as to where to plant the trees. FOLP will need to provide the lunches for the Casey volunteers, around 30 lunches.

Spring Clean-Up Day: The date for the spring clean-up was set for the same day as the Casey Tree plantings, April 27, 9 a.m. to noon.

New Business: None brought up.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for March 21, 2013, at Steve's house, 6201 30th St., NW, at 7:30 p.m.