



**Board Minutes
Of the Friends of Lafayette Park
January 22, 2014**

Attendees: Jeff Stoiber, Tim McDonough, Kimberly Cestari, Paul Rosenbaum, Judy Goodman and Tad Stewart [Meeting held at Judy's house]

Minutes: Minutes for Nov. 12, 2013 meeting were approved.

New Board Member: The board unanimously approved David Madland as a new board member. It looks forward to his joining the board. The board also is looking for a new member who would be interested and have the skills for working on the web site.

Financial & Fundraising: Tim presented the Treasurer's report. He noted that FOLP had a balance of \$10,416 as of Dec. 31, 2013. Of that, \$555 is earmarked for the Rosenbaum Memorial. He said the results of the annual fund drive were successful, and donations were up \$1,200 over last year, or total of \$9,385. Mailed were 817 letters, and FOLP received 121 donations, with an average donation of \$78. The board discussed ordering 1, 2 or possibly 3, park benches from Victor Stanley, each cost about \$1,600. (FOLP has one bench planned for the Rosenbaum memorial; a second request has come in for a memorial for Smolka family; and a third for honoring Bill Mullan for his longtime service in volunteering for the garden.) Funds either have been and would be raised for these benches. If FOLP can get a break on pricing by ordering 3 benches, then FOLP will order 3 and collect the donations later. Otherwise it will wait for the donations to come in. The board also agreed to order new garbage can liners for the park's trash receptacles. These are 39-gallon plastic liners from Victor Stanley. Budget \$250 for this purchase. The question was raised if the board should revisit the dog waste container project, especially if the city is planning to do upgrades to the park. This was left an open question for further discussion.

DPR & DGS: Jeff summarized his and Dave Schauer's meeting with the new DPR director Shanklin. He said it was a very positive meeting and she was open to FOLP ideas and plans for improvements to the park.

The city also is planning to budget \$1 million for upgrades to Lafayette Park – as part of Mayor Gray's citywide plans to continue to upgrade city parks, focusing on each ward. The city's purpose is to upgrade playground equipment, but since Lafayette's playground equipment is relatively new, the

funds could be used for other upgrades. Some of the possible upgrades Jeff and Dave discussed with Director Shanklin included: installing artificial turf at the top of the hill; replace the walking path around the top field for better walking conditions; upgrade the lighting in the upper area; installing a synthetic track around the ball fields; bike racks; recycling receptacles; addressing erosion issues, and possibly other ideas. There would not be enough funds to install artificial turf for the ball fields, or to rehab the rec center.

The board agreed to get feedback from dog owners and Lafayette school parents on the possible upgrades, particularly artificial turf on the top of the hill. There also will be a public meeting to get community input.

Garden Group: Judy mentioned the group very much needs new, additional volunteers, perhaps retirees who might be interested. She said that without volunteers, FOLP would have to use paid help more often. Some of the volunteers are stepping down, or have less time and energy to work on gardening.

Tennis: Paul said the feedback he received on the softer tennis court surface is negative – that it can cause injuries as a person’s foot can stick and not glide and give. He said he felt there could be enough donations to FOLP to cover resurfacing costs (about \$16,000) if a special appeal were mailed out.

Spring Clean Up Day: The board set a tentative date for the spring clean up day as April 26th.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for March 18, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. Place TBD.