



**Board Minutes
Of the Friends of Lafayette Park
July 23, 2015**

Attendees: President Jeff Stoiber, Kristin Ortiz David Madland, Secretary Tad Stewart; and Dennis Smyth.

Minutes: Minutes for the June 11, 2015, meeting were approved without revision.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer submitted his report. The tax returns had been filed and insurance paid; and cost paid for another year of hosting the website. He included an update on the status of new park benches funded by donations. More donations are still needed to cover the cost of two benches, but donations are struggling. He suggested FOLP provide \$1,000 each toward the cost of three benches. Various groups or individuals are continuing to raise money toward the cost of the benches, however, with limited success.

Treasurer Position: Tim McDonough, board treasurer, also said he plans to step down from the board at the end of the year after many years of service. He will continue to assist with various treasurer or board responsibilities – working on the fall mailing campaign, filing the 2015 tax returns at the appropriate time and assisting with the transition to a new treasurer. Jeff Stoiber praised Tim's work highly and his devoted dedication to the park and the FOLP. The board will begin a search for a new treasurer, a person with a finance background and who can prepare the tax returns. Board members plan to contact anyone they feel may be interested.

"Friends Group" Status: The FOLP is in the process of updating and renewing its paperwork with DC as an official "Friends" group. However, the board discussed the idea that now may be the time to consider and examine alternative types of structures/organizations, such as a more informal non-profit ad hoc community park group to support various projects.

The board passed the resolution: "To grant authorization to the president, that, after pursuing avenues of remaining a Friends Group, if necessary, pursue the possibly of changing the organizational status of FOLP from a Friends Group sanctioned by DPR to an ad hoc park advocacy group."

Gardens: It was noted that the gardens, both around the perimeter of the park and within the park, were overgrown and needed weeding and tending. There were additional gardens created during the recent park renovation. More volunteers are needed to keep up with the larger amount of work; and FOLP may need to engage additional hourly labor for a limited number of hours to assist in maintaining the gardens – i.e., to keep them, if not perfect, in some semblance of order.

School Renovation Project: There was concern raised that the extensive school renovation project, and the installation of modular classrooms on the ball field, will have a huge impact on the condition of the park. FOLP plans to monitor the impact and then later try to coordinate with DGS to address any damage.

There was continued concern about a planned bio-retention field/pond to be constructed as part of the Lafayette School renovation project. More information is still needed, and an independent study was being done as to whether the pond is within legal guidelines. The pond would be in the southeast corner of the park/ball fields, below the hill, close to neighboring homes, and designed to collect rain water runoff from the school and park.

New Business: None.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for a date to be determined in September.