



**Board Minutes
Of the Friends of Lafayette Park
September 24, 2015**

Attendees: President Jeff Stoiber, Treasurer Tim McDonough, Kimberly Cestari, Tad Stewart, David Madland, Judy Goodman, Paul Rosenbaum and Dennis Smyth.

Minutes: Minutes for the July 23, 2015, meeting were approved without revision.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer submitted his report. Tim McDonough suggested FOLP order the bench organized from donors for the Smolka family. FOLP would cover \$1,000 of the cost.

The board discussed who would become the next treasurer after Tim steps down at the end of the year, after many years of service. Dennis Smyth plans to try to find a volunteer interested in and with a finance background to be the next treasurer – and by end of October if possible. Board members also plan to contact anyone they feel may be interested. Tim discussed the many details of what information and knowledge will need to be passed to a successor and how best to ensure a smooth transition.

"Friends Group" Status: The FOLP is in the process of updating and renewing its paperwork with DC as an official "Friends" group. Answers to the Friends application questions are being drafted.

School Renovation Project: FOLP plans to continue to monitor the impact of the school renovation project on the park and then later try to coordinate with DGS to address any damage. There is continued concern about a planned bio-retention field/pond that may be constructed as part of the Lafayette School renovation project. (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.) A storm-water analysis was to be conducted and the study supposed to be presented at a public meeting in the fall.

DGS: FOLP plans to stay in contact with DGS regarding some outstanding issues from the park renovation project completed in 2015. These issues include potential damage to the cherry trees at the entrance from 33rd Street and their roots; installing pervious pavement on the paths rather than

asphalt; improving the lighting; fixing the bottom of large slide to replace the landing piece that was removed; and addressing the water overflow and drainage from the tot lot water park area.

Clean-up Day: A date for the FOLP fall park clean-up day was discussed – either Nov. 14 or 21. TBD later.

Gardens: One of FOLP’s most steadfast and loyal volunteers for many years in coordinating the planting initiatives in the park and hands-on maintaining the gardens, Merrill Hare, said she plans to “retire.” The board discussed how best to honor her numerous years of volunteer service – such as by planting a tree in her honor, placing a plaque in the gardens or having a small sculpture. Board was leaning toward having a plaque in her honor.

The berm in the park near the playground equipment has become overgrown and needs to be cut back and weeded. It also was noted that the new watering system installed during the park renovation is not working. It was suggested FOLP hire some additional hourly labor for a limited number of hours to work on the berm and gardens. It also was discussed that the gardens, both around the perimeter of the park and within the park, became overgrown during the summer and needed weeding and tending.

Tennis: Paul said cracks are forming in the new surfaces of the tennis courts. He has sent photos to DGS, and said the city needs to discuss this situation with the contractor before the cracks get worse, and prior to the winter.

New Business: A new dog owners’ listserv and website is being created by one of the dog owners in the park. FOLP discussed how best to coordinate efforts and be helpful.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m.