



**Board Minutes  
Of the Friends of Lafayette Park  
July 28, 2016**

**Attendees:** President Jeff Stoiber, Kimberly Cestari, Tad Stewart, Dennis Smyth, Steve Agostino and Paul Rosenbaum.

Also attending Jane Kratovil; and in the middle of the meeting, ANC Commissioner Peter Shapiro

**Minutes:** Minutes for the May 17, 2016, meeting were approved without revision.

**Treasurer's Report:** Regarding completing the installation of new benches, there is one bench left to install, which will be installed after the school construction project is completed and the ball fields are restored. The bench will be placed near the ball fields. The FOLP bank balance as of June 30, 2016, was \$8,233.80. This is after recent expenditures listed in the Treasurer's report, much for garden work, and after a \$2,000 donation for the David Povich bench recently installed.

Jane Kratovil will begin preparing a budget for FY2017, and asked if any major expenditures are expected for FY2017, such as purchasing additional park benches, landscaping or other major projects, particularly after the school construction and its impact on the park. Board members will let her know, but none were mentioned at the meeting. The board plans to continue to mail its traditional annual fundraising appeal in the late fall. However, if there is a major need in the park after the school construction, FOLP will consider doing a fundraising event for any specific need(s) that the city does not plan to address.

**"Friends" Group" Application Status:** Tad Stewart summarized his presentation to the ANC on July 11, 2016, regarding the FOLP's Friends Application to DPR and the comments at the meeting from the ANC. (DPR requires a letter of endorsement from the ANC for the friends application.) The comments from ANC commissioners included: they would like the FOLP to be "a more open" organization; hold more open meetings; change its by-laws to have "members" and that the "FOLP members" would vote for members of the FOLP board. ANC commissioners want FOLP to be "more representative of the community." ANC Commissioner Peter Shapiro offered to draft some changes to the FOLP by-laws covering what the ANC is looking for.

The board plans to consider these comments from the ANC, and wanted to review Mr. Shapiro's draft revisions.

ANC Commissioner Peter Shapiro then arrived at the FOLP board meeting, upon the board's invitation, to discuss the ANC comments. Jeff Stoiber recapped the FOLP history. Mr. Shapiro said the ANC wants the FOLP to restructure itself as a "more open and transparent" organization. He said the ANC wants the FOLP to be a membership organization and the members elect the board. The board and Mr. Shapiro then discussed how this might work, how it would be implemented, and the pro and cons of a "membership" organization. It was noted that the Friends Application is supposed to be completed within 90 days of beginning the process, which makes the deadline at the end of September. Mr. Shapiro told the board he could get an extension for FOLP from DPR if necessary. After the discussion ended, Mr. Shapiro left the meeting, agreeing to send in writing what he and the ANC are proposing regarding the by-laws.

The board then held a brief discussion following up Mr. Shapiro's comments, and discussed how "members" could be defined. The FOLP currently has several hundred neighborhood residents who support the FOLP each year by making the suggested donation of \$50 or more, some as much as \$500. It also was noted that the FOLP board is a working board – members take on various hands-on projects that benefit the park. Board members said they needed time to think about Mr. Shapiro's comments, think about proposed changes to the by-laws and wanted to see what Mr. Shapiro sends in writing. It was noted that several board members have been away on vacation and are not yet fully apprised of, and have not been able to discuss, the ANC comments.

**New Board Members:** The board has received requests from several members of the community interested in joining the FOLP board. It was noted that the board welcomes their interest and always can use additional help on projects. However, it was agreed, that since the FOLP may be in the process of revising its by-laws -- including the section on how new board members are named to the board -- that it would be prudent to postpone any action on naming new members until the by-laws are settled and the discussions with the ANC are complete. Those expressing an interest will be contacted to let them know the board will be making decisions on new board members after the discussions with the ANC are resolved.

**School and Park Renovation Projects:** Regarding the school renovation, most of the construction is nearing completion, and the temporary classrooms soon will be removed from the ball fields. The FOLP plans to closely monitor the city's restoration of the ball fields, the track and the park area surrounding the ball fields, as well as any other impact to the park the year-long construction project has had.

**Fall Clean-Up Day:** The board set Oct. 22, 2016, as the Lafayette Park fall clean-up day, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting was scheduled for Sept. 22, 2016.