



**Board Minutes
Of the Friends of Lafayette Park
Sept. 29, 2016**

Attendees: President Jeff Stoiber, Kimberly Cestari, Tad Stewart, David Madland, Judy Goodman and Paul Rosenbaum.

Also attending Katie Rehwaldt, of DC DPR.

DPR and “Friends” Group Application: Katie Rehwaldt, with DPR, discussed the “Friends” application process and noted that DPR is currently modifying the process and she suggested that FOLP wait to submit its “Friends” application until the new procedures are in place, which should be after the first of the year or mid-winter. DPR is working on a “Best Practices” handbook outlining recommendations how “Friends” groups should operate. She noted, however, that a government entity cannot tell a non-profit organization how to operate, but the handbook would be suggested best practices.

She recommended the FOLP submit its “Friends” application to DPR in the spring once the new procedures are in place. She said it is unclear just what a “Friends” group gets in return from the DPR for being a “Friends” group. She said there is no automatic consultation to “Friends” groups regarding any projects in the park, and any input from friends groups may or may not be acted on. She noted that DPR has final authority over any city park.

Minutes: Minutes for the July 28, 2016, meeting were approved without revision.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Dennis Smyth was unable to attend the meeting and is submitting a written report to the board. It was noted that the new benches were installed except for one, which is being held until the ballfield renovation is complete. (The bench will be installed near the ballfield.)

New Board Members: The board had 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, since the FOLP may be revising its by-laws, and now the DPR is revising its “Friends” application procedure, each person interested in serving on the board was notified that the decision would be postponed.

DGS and School Renovation: It was noted that there has been no final storm water containment plan. Park neighbors had been concerned that under the original planning,

the storm water may be directed to 33rd Street and impact the homes. That plan has been revised to keep water onsite, but no final plan has been released. David Madland is tracking the status of this plan.

DGS and Councilman Brandon Todd are going to look at the lighting issue in the park, aware that park neighbors are sensitive to bright lights. No activity has occurred at this point.

Fall Clean-Up Day: The park clean-up day is scheduled for Oct. 22, and board members was asked to make a list of clean-up projects the community could work on, such as raking leaves, weeding the gardens, picking up litter.

Garden Group: Two volunteer groups plan to come to the park to learn what is needed to maintain the plantings and gardens around the park perimeter. It is hoped that this would increase the number of volunteers working on the gardens. FOLP needs additional volunteers for this work.

Tennis: The fall tennis program is under full swing and getting a good attendance, Paul Rosenbaum said.

New Business: Casey Trees had a tree-planting plan for the park at one point. That plan needs to be revised and re-submitted to DPR. Casey Trees will be contacted to check on the status of their plan.

It also was suggested that a sun tarp over part of the playground may be helpful to provide shade during the hot summer sun. This will be suggested to DPR.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for Nov. 17, 2016.