



*Founded 1999*

**Board Minutes  
Of the Friends of Lafayette Park  
November 7, 2017**

**Attendees:** Co-President Jeff Stoiber, Co-President Elizabeth Engel, Dennis Smyth, Tad Stewart, Keith Jones, Patty Myler, Judy Goodman and Paul Rosenbaum.

Also attending was Merrill Hare, long-time gardening volunteer for the FOLP

**Minutes:** Minutes for the September 18, 2017, FOLP board meeting were approved without revision.

**Approval of By-Laws:** The board unanimously approved the revised FOLP by-laws. The by-laws had been significantly revised following the merger in September of the FOLP with the Friends of Lafayette Recreation Center and Park (FoLRAP). (Jeff Stoiber and Keith Jones had drafted the revised by-laws for the board's review and approval.) The board agreed that any technical corrections could be done at a later date.

**Election of Officers:** The board elected officers, with each vote unanimous. The board will have co-officers for most positions, as follows:

Co-Presidents:	Jeff Stoiber and Elizabeth Engel
Vice President:	Patty Myler
Co-Secretary:	Tad Stewart and Anslie Stokes
Co-Treasurer:	Dennis Smyth and Keith Jones

The board will have no ex-officio officers.

The board praised Kimberly Cestari, who is stepping off the board, for her many years of service on the board. Her contributions to the FOLP have been significant, and she was praised for her strong dedication; many, many hours of volunteer time; and her overall contribution to the FOLP's many projects and its mission.

**"Friends" Certification from DC DPR:** The FOLP plans to submit its renewal application for official "Friends of the Park" designation with DPR. Some additional paperwork needs to be completed for the application before it can be submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dennis Smyth delivered the Treasurer's report, listing the recent expenses, the largest of which was maintenance of the gardens. The board agreed to have Jane Kratovil continue as the FOLP bookkeeper.

**Annual Fundraising:** The board agreed to mail the annual fundraising letter. (Donations are the FOLP's only source of revenue.) The board considered costs of the traditional color mailer versus other options such as just a letter or just an email. However, it was agreed to continue with the traditional mail piece, which is recognized in the neighborhood and has been very successful in past years. The mail piece will be revised and updated for this year, with a target mail date of early to mid-December.

**Rec Center Survey:** The FOLP plans to contact DPR about the survey it circulated regarding the plans to build a new rec center in Lafayette Park. The FOLP wants to get feedback from the community about the proposed plans.

**Miscellaneous Items Discussed:** The erosion problem: Solutions to this issue need to be examined in depth, and FOLP may consider hiring an engineer to study the issue. Safety in the park: FOLP wants to do what it can to ensure the park is safe, and will call on the police to patrol more regularly if necessary. Lighting inside the park: Lights over the paths are not on or not working; lighting is needed for safety. RFP for the Rec Center: The board would like to see the RFP for the rec center, which is currently not available. List of unfinished items following the Lafayette School construction: FOLP plans to follow up with the city and the school system on these items. Can the ANC, working with Councilman Brandon Todd, get these unfinished items addressed. The blue cones at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street entrance to the park are left in the street each day after school is closed, but should be put away each day.

**Fall Clean-Up Day:** The fall clean-up day, Oct. 28, 2017, had a strong turnout from the neighborhood, and included all ages. Families had fun participating in raking leaves, picking up trash and other light chores to enhance the park. It was beautiful weather that day.

The FOLP is planning to look into getting Scout Troops and other groups to participate. Each could take a corner of the gardens to adopt to work on.

**Garden Group:** The garden group continues to need volunteers, but volunteers are hard to find, necessitating additional work from a landscape contractor. The group plans to compile a list of garden work that needs to be done for each season of the year and devise a plan of who could do this work. The gardens need a solid base of regular hired labor to keep them in good shape. The board may form a committee to focus on what is the best strategy for getting support for the gardens, and to look into possibly applying for some grants (if any are potentially available for such work). It also will get pricing from landscaping crews. The board agreed that the gardens around the perimeter of the park and inside the park need to be one of the FOLP's primary objectives.

**Tennis:** The tennis courts still have cracks that have not been repaired and will only get worse over the winter. Nothing has been done despite bringing this to the attention of the city. The courts should be under warranty from the contractor for the park rehabilitation project, but the city is not pursuing it. Board members plan to follow up with the ANC and Brandon Todd's office.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting was scheduled for Jan. 10, 2018, at 8 p.m.