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**Board Minutes
Of the Friends of Lafayette Park
January 10, 2018**

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

Also attending was Jane Kratovil, FOLP bookkeeper.

Minutes: Minutes for the November 7, 2017, FOLP board meeting were approved without revision.

Misc. Business: Jane Kratovil, FOLP bookkeeper, advised that the board cannot have co-treasurers, as voted on at the November 2017 meeting. There must be a single treasurer responsible for the finances. Dennis Smyth and Keith Jones will decide who will be the treasurer and assistant treasurer.

“Friends” Application to DC DPR: Regarding the renewal application for official “Friends” status from DPR, the final pieces of the application’s supporting documents still outstanding are the ANC letter of support and the DC Clean Hands certificate. Those will be obtained soon and the application will be submitted to DPR relatively soon thereafter.

Treasurer’s Report: Dennis Smyth delivered the Treasurer’s report, listing the recent expenses, as well as donations. The FOLP annual campaign is still in process, and he noted the response so far has been strong. To date about 25% of donors have used the new *PayPal* function on the FOLP website. “Thank you’s” have been mailed to donors.

Park and Rec Center Plans: The board discussed scheduling a community meeting at the Chevy Chase community center to obtain community feedback and input on the city’s plans to expand and rebuild the Lafayette Park rec center into a much larger rec center, as well as get neighborhood input on a number of other issues, including an effort by some to have lighting installed on the tennis courts and basketball court. Many in the neighborhood may not be aware of the city’s plans for the rec center or the effort to get lights installed. The FOLP wants to get community input on these two potential projects, as well as regarding the serious erosion and other issues. Several dates for a meeting were suggested for late January. The meeting would be announced on the Chevy Chase listserv, at Lafayette Park and by other means. The ANC representative, Councilman Brandon Todd, and a representative from DPR would be invited.

Spring Clean-Up Day: The FOLP spring clean-up day for Lafayette Park was scheduled for April 28, 2018.

Garden Group: The board agreed that the gardens in Lafayette Park need extensive work to be properly maintained, and the work necessary is beyond the capabilities of the small group of dedicated volunteers. And recruiting new volunteers has been difficult. The FOLP wants to get bids from contractors, and find out what the costs would be to hire landscape companies on a short-term, limited basis. The board agreed that one of the signature accomplishments of the FOLP has been the creation, expansion and maintenance of the gardens along the perimeter of the park and inside the park. The city did not create the gardens, nor does it maintain them.

The board unanimously passed a motion to create a committee to explore the costs of working with contractors and to define the scope of work needed. Named to the committee were: Patty Myler (as chairman of the committee), Judy Goodman, Merrill Hare (longtime garden volunteer), Jeff Stoiber, Elizabeth Engel and Laura Phinizy. The committee would set a date soon to meet and begin the process, and work toward a goal of implementing a maintenance plan beginning in April

Tennis: Paul said the tennis courts still have cracks and are getting worse. The city is not taking any action to contact the contractor that resurfaced the courts to fix its work, or taking any action itself to repair the courts. On a separate issue, he said many of the tennis players have told him they would support installing lights on the tennis courts – which has become a controversial neighborhood issue.

The board discussed a need for softer lighting in the park for safety reasons, but noted that many in the neighborhood strongly oppose lights on the tennis courts and basketball court. The park traditionally has closed at dark. This issue will be addressed at the community meeting the FOLP is planning for late January.

Board Membership: Paul Rosenbaum, who operates a tennis program and business in the park, decided to step off the board, and tendered a letter of resignation to the board. He said he plans to remain a “friend” of the FOLP and active in the park, but no longer a board member.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for Feb. 27, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.