



Founded 1999

**Board Minutes
Of the Friends of Lafayette Park
June 26, 2018**

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

Minutes: Minutes for the April 24, 2018, FOLP board meeting were approved without revision.

Treasurer's Report: Dennis Smyth submitted the Treasurer's report. He outlined recent expenses, nearly all were for landscaping and gardening maintenance (which the city does not do). The expenses totaled almost \$6,000, leaving about \$2,777 in the account for summer and fall expenses. Board discussed needing to seek additional donations for the remainder of the year. Clearly there are not enough funds to cover the second half of the year. The board discussed soliciting corporate donations. However, previous attempts to solicit corporations or businesses were unsuccessful. The garden maintenance workload is far more than the small group of FOLP garden volunteers can handle. FOLP is using professional help.

Dennis and Keith Jones plan to set up the procedures at the bank so they can function as co-treasurers. It also is time to renew the insurance policy.

Rec Center Plans & Park Condition: The city is planning a public meeting July 11, 2018, at the Chevy Chase Community Center to update the community on the plans for a new rec center in Lafayette Park. FOLP board members plan to attend and relay comments the FOLP has received from community residents and at the FOLP's community meeting in the spring. There seems to be little interest in building a large rec center to replace the existing one on 33rd Street. However, much of the planning for the new rec center has been done quietly within the city departments, with little public input up to this point, the board feels. FOLP plans a strong presence at the July 11 meeting held by DPR park officials.

Board members noted that the gates on the tot lot are not secure for small children. The latches are low and young children can open the gate and exit. The city needs to address this issue as a safety issue.

With respect to ongoing issues in the park, FOLP board members plan to meet with Councilman Brandon Todd to seek his assistance in getting the city to address key issues at the park that have never been addressed. These include: serious erosion issues, particularly in heavy rains; new running track is already disintegrating; the new drainage system under the ball field is not working and field is soggy; installing lighting

along the paths; and completing the school renovation punch list.

Spring Clean-Up Day: The FOLP spring clean-up day for Lafayette Park was held April 28, 2018. There was an excellent turnout of all ages from the neighborhood. A new issue came up in that one parent wanted to drop off children and asked for a waiver. The FOLP plans to look into the legal issues of having participants sign waivers working at their own risk, and that children aged 14 and younger must have supervision.

In addition to the neighborhood volunteers, the city sent a landscaping contractor, whose crew helped with major clean-up areas.

New Business: A working group from an organization called Historic Chevy Chase DC approached the FOLP to determine if the FOLP would be interest in supporting and helping with a project to erect an interpretive historical sign in Lafayette Park. The sign would recount the history of several African-American families whose land, this historical group said, was purchased through eminent domain by the city in 1928 to create Lafayette School and the park. The FOLP board agreed it would meet with the group, but wants to hear more details before the FOLP would make a decision regarding assistance. The group would be invited to an FOLP board meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for Sept. 12, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.