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**Board Minutes
Of the Friends of Lafayette Park
September 19, 2018**

Attendees: Co-President Jeff Stoiber, Co-President Elizabeth Engel, Dennis Smyth, Tad Stewart, Judy Goodman, and Patty Myler. And Jane Kratovil.

Tim Hannapel and Charles Cadwell, representing the Historic Chevy Chase-DC organization.

Presentation by: Tim Hannapel and Charles Cadwell (members of a working group formed by Historic Chevy Chase DC <http://www.historicchevychasedc.org/> to explore the feasibility of erecting interpretive historical signage in Lafayette Park.)

Mr. Hannapel said the historical group has research regarding a small community of African-American families whose homes were located where part of Lafayette Park is today -- off the Broad Branch Road side of the park. The land was purchased by the city in 1928 through eminent domain for the development of Lafayette Elementary School and Lafayette Park. The group is interested in erecting historical signs about this community and the acquisition of the land in 1928, signs similar to the DC Trail signs around the city. And the group wants the sign project included in the budget for the planned new rec center project.

The consensus of the FOLP board was that exterior signs, done appropriately, would in general make sense. Board members still wanted more information and details about the content and language in the signs as the project moves forward. However, the board passed a resolution of general support for the group's historical sign project:

Resolution: That the FOLP supports the concept of appropriate signage and graphics in the park to recognize the historical heritage of Lafayette Park.

Minutes: Minutes for the June 26, 2018, FOLP board meeting were approved without revision.

Treasurer's Report: Dennis Smyth submitted the Treasurer's report. He outlined recent expenses, which left about \$1,697 in the account for fall expenses. The Board again discussed needing to seek additional donations for the remainder of the year. Garden care and maintenance likely will cost more than that, plus other expenses FOLP will have, including the annual mailing.

Park Projects: The board discussed various projects the park needs. Of particular concern was getting lighting for safety and security concerns in the upper field and along the paths. There are now more incidents of kids at the park after dark, when park is supposed to be closed, and probably having parties. The police have increased their patrols of the park at night. Lights may discourage this activity. The punch list for the school renovation as it impacted the park is still not complete, and stormwater runoff and erosion are still a major concern in the park that need to be addressed at the same time the new rec center is constructed.

Garden Group: Yankee Clippers will be at the park on Oct. 20, holding a training session for 2 hours along the Broad Branch side of the park. There was concern by the board that without additional funds to maintain the gardens, the gardens along Broad Branch Road and in other areas of the park will be overtaken by weeds and lost. The board allocated \$1,000 of its remaining funds to address the garden needs.

Fall Clean-Up Day: The FOLP fall clean-up day for Lafayette Park is scheduled for Nov. 3, 2018. The board discussed the need for having available a liability waiver, following up on a request by a parent at the spring clean-up day.

New Business: Various FOLP board members plan to meet with Councilman Brandon Todd at a date TBD to discuss the needs in the park, work that was supposed to have been completed by now and is not; and generally push the FOLP agenda for the park.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for Nov. 14, at 7:30 p.m.