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**Board Minutes
Of the Friends of Lafayette Park
March 19, 2019**

Attendees: Co-President Jeff Stoiber, Co-President Elizabeth Engel (by phone), Dennis Smyth, Tad Stewart, Judy Goodman, Keith Jones and Patty Myler.

Minutes: Minutes for the January 22, 2019, FOLP board meeting were approved without revision.

Park Issues: The board discussed several issues concerning the park: Activity at night in the park has increased when the park is technically closed, possibly teenagers and others gathering for a party; the board will contact the police about doing patrols at night. Trash trucks are arriving at the school well before the allowed 7 a.m. start time, often coming to empty the dumpsters between 5-6 a.m., making a huge amount of noise in the neighborhood. Meanwhile, DC DPR is not picking up the trash from the trash receptacles around the park on a timely basis and trash is spilling out around the receptacles.

Treasurer's Report: Dennis Smyth submitted the Treasurer's report. Some additional donations came in since the first of the year as part of the year-end campaign. However, he said the FOLP is low on funds to cover all the landscaping work needed and the mulch in the spring. He suggested a notice on the Chevy Chase listserv asking for donations. The board agreed to use whatever funds the FOLP has, that won't be needed for basic expenses, for maintaining the gardens. The treasurer will work out a budget for 2019. The FOLP had about \$6,000 in the bank at the end of January, not enough to cover landscaping expenses for the year. One of the board members will donate some roses from her garden for the Broad Branch Road section of the park gardens.

Spring Clean-Up Day: The board set April 13, 2019, for the Lafayette Park spring clean-up day.

Unfinished School Renovation Work in Park & DGS: The board discussed the situation with DC DGS about completing the items in the park never completed following the major renovation of Lafayette School. In May 2017, a representative from DGS came to the park and, with the help of the FOLP, compiled a punch list of items that needed to be completed. Since then nothing has been done. There has been turnover as director of DGS, and while each new director promised the list would finally get done, nothing has. The board discussed how to get the city, and DGS in particular, to complete a long punch list of unfinished items. The board felt if more people contacted DGS, it may help. Also, a community meeting is set for April 9 for DPR and DGS to present more information about the design of a new rec center. Issues the FOLP wants to bring up as

urgent needs related to this project are stormwater management and preventing further erosion in the park; and ambient lighting on the paths for safety.

Historic Information & Name Change: The historic group, Historic Chevy Chase DC -- which gave a presentation to the FOLP board in September 2018 regarding the history of Lafayette Park and the group's desire to have the city erect historical markers describing a small community of African-American families whose homes were located in what is today part of Lafayette Park -- wants to advocate changing the name of Lafayette Park. In reference to the name of the families who once lived there, the group wants the city to rename the park Lafayette-Pointer Park. The group is asking for FOLP's support in this name change. The group is also circulating petitions around the community to support the name change. The board, after some discussion, voted to support the historic group's efforts to change the name of the park.

The board adopted the following resolution:

The board of the Friends of Lafayette Park (FOLP), having reviewed the early history of the area that became Lafayette Park, as outlined in an historical article provided by Historic Chevy Chase, and having reviewed the group's proposal to rename the park the "Lafayette-Pointer Park" to reflect the name of the families who once lived there, the board of the FOLP resolved to support including "Pointer" in the name of Lafayette Park.

New Business: None

Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for a date TBD in June 2019, at 7:30 p.m.