

LP 50 Community Meeting Minutes - October 23, 2007

Paris Café

- I. **Welcome:** Dr. Gant welcomed everyone and introduced the purpose of the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves and where they lived in the neighborhood or their connection to the neighborhood.

- II. **What could LP 50 do in the future?:** Bill Dickens, from the LaSalle Co-op, spoke about the history of the Lafayette Park, its historic designer Mies, and how important it was to preserve this work of landscape architecture. Bill proposed that as a future project, we could explore the restoration of the park according to the original design. He suggested that we have a special meeting to view the video that was made about the park design and the original plans which he has obtained from Illinois Institute of Technology. In addition, it may be possible to work with the daughter of one of the landscape architects who worked with Mies—she is currently a landscape architecture student at U-M.

- III. **What has LP 50 accomplished in the past?** Ed Baldwin, Chateaufort Co-op, and Constance Bodurow, Joliet Co-op, reviewed the creation of LP50 and its accomplishments over the last 18 months. They explained that LP50 had been created specifically to honor the history and legacy of the Lafayette Park community. It originally had a Steering Committee and five committees primarily organized to put on two major events: the September Community Celebration and the October Groundbreaking Re-Enactment. The five committees were: Fundraising/PR, Events/Entertainment, Video/Documentation, History, Legacy. LP50 operated under a fiduciary agreement with Preservation Wayne. In addition to the major events, LP50 volunteers put on community tours to outsiders, collected oral histories, and created and sold LP50 merchandise. This year, LP50 focused on transitioning into a more structured form for future activities, and took on safety/security issues, community garden, and a community garage sale. In addition, members have worked to establish a relationship with the police and the Mayor's office, which has led to increased patrols and some park improvements. Constance distributed the LP50 Coordinator's report from 2006-2007.

- IV. **How could LP 50 take on new challenges?** Olga Savic, 1300 Lafayette East, described the mission and vision that has been proposed and the community board structure. Very simply, the community board requires one person elected/selected by each residential property. Co-ops and condos would allow their boards to select their representative, and rental properties would need either a tenant group to elect a representative or the management company would help select someone. There seemed to be agreement to include Hyde Park and Town Square Co-ops as well. In general the group was supportive of moving forward.

V. **How can you get involved?** Dick Stacy, 1300 Lafayette East, explained that we needed each board to select a representative, and for the tenants who were present to start thinking about how their rental community could seat a member on the board as well. Formal letters of appointment were due by December 21 to Dick at 1300 E. Lafayette, #1603. The board's first meeting would be the last week of January (on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday). Questions could be directed to Dick or Olga at rhstacy@umich.edu or olga_savic@yahoo.com.

VI. **Other LP 50 updates**

- **Safety/security report:** Stephen Webber was not able to be with us to report out on the progress of our work with the police. There has been a new website launched to help communicate security concerns.
- **Community garden report:** Terry Coleman updated everyone on the community garden (located at the Dequindre Cut across from Lafayette Towers). Lafayette Towers has been generous with the use of their water, and volunteers have been watering and tending the garden. Constance and Terry are going to hold a meeting soon to plan for next year. If anyone is interested, they can contact Terry at tecoleman@dwsd.org. Stephen will send a notice out too when they have set a date for the meeting.
- **Treasurer's report**—Ed reported that we didn't have any new expenses. LP50s balance was \$719.
- **Other business:** Dwight Wilson, headmaster of Friends School, spoke about the origin of Friends School in the neighborhood, literally as a place for the late Kathleen McCree Lewis to go to school because there was no school to accept her. Because Friends feels tied to the community, they are actively exploring ways that they can create some more community uses of the school, including community educational space and a meeting place for LP50.

[minutes prepared and submitted by Olga Savic, with tiny edits added by Larry Gant.]