

## **LP – 50**

### **July 30, 2008 Meeting Minutes @ Lafayette Tower West**

**Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM

**Agenda** - The agenda amended by adding Greening of Detroit guest report and then approved.

**Approval of Prior Minutes** - Minutes of the June 25, 2008 meeting were approved without adjustment.

**Fiduciary Report** - Ed Baldwin reported total funds of \$1,463 with \$469 as restricted leaving an available balance of \$903.

**New Board Update** – Ed Baldwin reported that bylaws have been adopted and directors are now signing them. A formal board meeting will be called in September.

**Greenway Garden Update** – The LP50 garden looks like it will be postponed until next year. We have not received approvals to use the space.

**Greening of Detroit Guests** - They reported that the EGS (Greening of Detroit) park would not be sold after all. Greening of Detroit is looking for volunteers to help with the upkeep of the park. They have summer volunteers but are asking LP50 to help with the upkeep. Dwight of Friends School volunteered some of his students to help. Their hope is better upkeep will lead to usage of the park eliminating some of the bad elements in the area.

Discussion followed regarding several projects by the Greening of Detroit and the City of Detroit.

**Tour Update** – No report

**Yard Sale** - About 55 persons signed up to be vendors at the sale. The full accounting is not complete but a net profit will be in the \$250 range. The project was deemed successful because the LP50 neighborhood had a chance to get together and have a good time.

**Security Update** - Ed Baldwin was contacted by the Second Baptist Church at 44 Monroe Street for help from LP50. The Church did outreach work at the Martin Luther King Apartments. One of their finds was that drug traffic and other crimes are rampant at the site. Most residents are frightened by the bad elements and do not know what to do.

The Church called a general meeting in their church hall, inviting the Sheriff and Chief of Police and several local political figures. Both the Sheriff and Chief of Police sent

representatives from their departments. Only one politician was present although one other sent a representative.

The results of the meeting were less than satisfactory. The Church was looking for some type of commitment to step up patrols in the area. This was refused by both police agencies stating that is not how they do business. They stated they were aware of the problems and were working on it.

The people in the Martin Luther King Apartments need our support. Members were asked to attend meetings showing support. Notices will be sent out to members regarding meeting times.

**Shapiro Hall Update** - The Zoning Board had denied the conversion of Shapiro Hall to a hotel. The owners may appeal to the Circuit Court. Discussion followed on the possibility of getting the zoning changed that would not allow a hotel. It appears we have won the battle but not the war. There most likely will be other efforts to gain a hotel at the site.

**Lafayette Park Discussion** – No report

**Next Meeting time and location** – Meeting will be at St. Joseph Church Hall on Jay Street across the street from the church. The meeting will be on September 24, 2008 at 6:30 PM.

**Other Items** – Dequindre Cut should open in mid September. Mid August is the “soft” opening of the supermarket in the Lafayette Park Shopping Center.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.