Minutes
Lafayette Park 50 Board of Directors
Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Board present: Richard Stacy, Bill Dickens, Robert Sinclair, Paula Anderson, Jackie Bell, Betty Steehler, Christian and Michele Unvezagt, Charlie Brown
Location: Sala Thai Restaurant
Call to Order: 7:05 P.M.
Minutes by: Richard Stacy (written)/Larry Gant (transcribed)
Next Meeting: April 21, 2009 – 6:30 PM – Friends School (Library)

Proceedings:

Open Forum

- Dr. Larry Gant (via email message to LP50 listserv) **offered services of 20 MSW grad students** on April 6, 2009 from 1-7pm for any community/service project of interest to LP 50.

- Bob Sinclair reported on today's (1/14) **meeting of Riverfront Development** (3-5pm). Essentially, participants put together a wish list for future development along the river.

- Board member Bill Dickens (LaSalle) requested a **return of LP50 meetings to a monthly schedule.** Many meeting attendees endorsed and supported the request, citing a need to increase community engagement, focus and finish issues with monthly follow up, and (re)build committee structures.

- Member Betty Steehler (LaSalle) requested **the Board revive and publicize the website, creating a more interactive website.** Suggestions were made to post flyers about the website to encourage membership use of the website. Need to make the website interactive with community blog, coop-by-coop links; inclusion about LP50 activities in the Detroit Monitor and Metro Times.

- Member/resident Paula Anderson (Lafayette Towers West) **requested LP50 Board investigate two killings in 2008 at the Intus Club.** Bill Dickens knew one of the victims - security guard Delano. Bill Dickens also reported the **owner/manager of the Lafayette Plaza is willing to donate space for a micro or mini police station**. Members Betty Steehler, Christian and Michele Unverzat [LaSalle Cooperative] confirm reports of heavy noise from the nightclub, heavy traffic, trashed parking lot (Sunday Mornings). Other Board members (Jackie Bell) and resident Paula Anderson requested additional information; from what information was pieced together, the incident may have involved the expulsion of an inebriated club patron, his return with a weapon and subsequent assault on Intus security guard Delano. **This led to request of LP Board to convene a special meeting with Intus owner (LP resident?), formal meeting with Lafayette Plaza owner/management, investigation of liquor license complaints against Intus, with requested attendance from public officials from the offices of the Mayor and City Council.**

- **Shapero Hall appeal is January 30, 2009** before newly assigned Judge Thomas Murphy. **Current owner of Shapero Hall is submitting Brownfield application** to convert Shapero Hall to 182 apartment/conversions (size of apartments ranging from 300-1000 square feet). Concern is that

facility could become Section 8 subsidized housing (like Windsor towers). Member Betty Steehler will forward a copy of the Brownfield application to City of Detroit defense attorneys and LP50 attorney for evaluation and options.

- **Board member Jackie Bell (Nicolet)** cautioned that **LP50 should meet and negotiate reasonable use of Shapero Hall with the developer** (current owner of Nikki's Taverna and Bouzouki Bar). Other members (Sinclair and Steehler) and attendees noted a controversial history with the developer over several years.

- **Board member Jackie Bell (Nicolet)** reported that the **downtown Foodland needs upgrading**. Ideas included a survey for resident feedback with findings provided to the owner and an invitation to the owner to attend LP50 meetings. She also reported that the former Paris Café is to become HOBOs, providing lunch and dinner to the community.

- **Board member Bill Dickens request a 501c3 committee be formed to complete the application process for LP50's non profit status. This would allow LP50 to solicit funding to complete the Lafayette park charette process and prospective development.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.