



LPAC Meeting – June 8, 2011

Minutes – draft

Presentation

K. C. Hoos of Windy City Surf presented his plan to install a 'Flowrider' (www.flowrider.com) wave machine at North Avenue Beach. This was a follow-up to his July 2010 presentation to LPAC and LPAC's ensuing letter to the 43rd Ward Alderman stating our lack of support for the project. (The letter can be found in the Archives at www.lpacchicago.org.)

The request is for a 5+ year permit at the site of the current roller hockey site. The facility could take 30 customers per hour at an estimated *maximum* fee of \$35 per person. Construction/installation would take about two months.

LPAC members questioned Mr. Hoos about a variety of concerns related to his proposal. The main ones are increasing the crowds at an already overcrowded beach and the impact of the bulky facilities on the openness of the park. Mr. Hoos was adamant that North Avenue Beach is the only lakefront location he would consider for his first installation.

Meeting

President Sheli Lulkin called the meeting to order.

The Secretary was out of town; Randi Doeker volunteered to take minutes. The Treasurer would not be at the meeting. He had advised Sheli that there was no significant changes to the finances.

A letter from the new 43rd Ward Alderman, Michele Smith, to the Park District was read. The Alderman advised CPD that she would not support any future events like the "Chill and Grill Festival" for Groves 2 and 3, which she described as inappropriate for the location. The group requested that Sheli send the Alderman a thank you letter, both for her concern about park events and for including LPAC in her letter.

Park Report

Jennifer Bice of Margate: Gearing up for summer camps; all classes are filled. Many Margate kids qualified for city-wide sports competitions. The parking lot now has a pay box but the pricing may change. Visitors are requested to check the box even if they think it is a free period.

Cindy Jahraus of LP Cultural Center and on behalf of regional manager Sandy Olson: Much of the ADA work has been nearly completed at the Cultural Center but there are concerns that a wheelchair cannot get through the front door. Cindy is arranging for this to be tested. The new elevator theoretically works but the vendor advised her that the keys won't be turned over until the vendor is paid by the park district. The LPCC will be losing 'rec leaders' in the coming months due to the individuals moving to new or full-time jobs.

The park district is working on the failing pumps at the Addison underpass. A new multi-level hydration station is now at 2600 N. Canon Drive. Marc Kramer requested that the running paths be restored with proper materials when construction has happened at any given site; historically chunky rocks have been used. Terry Leja reported extensive trash throughout the south end of the park and a lack of trash cans. Terry also expressed concerns about safety at the south end; Cindy will talk to the beat cops who regularly stop by the LPCC.

Randi Doeker reported on the main business at the Park Commissioners meeting. The commissioners okayed the sale of \$40million new bonds to cover capital projects for 2010 and 2011. They delayed approval of construction of an indoor running track at the Broadway Armory because no agreement has been reached with "partner" Loyola Univ. on payments. FOTP's Erma Tranter asked if the school's payment was going to actually be just a rental fee for the guaranteed usage times that the school was requested. (This project has great community support. It is the fine details on the funding that are in question.) Being the last meeting of Superintendent Tim Mitchell, many commissioners and citizens spoke about his personal and park successes, including the increase in park land by 1,000 acres.

Old/New Business

The LPAC members discussed at length the Flowrider project. The group voted unanimously (with one abstention) to continue our opposition to the project. The president will send a letter advising the new Alderman, with copies to CPD Acting Superintendent Mike Kelly, CPD Board President Bryan Traubert, the Chicago Planning Commission, Alderman Walter Burnett (Chair of the City Committee of Special Events & Cultural Affairs, which includes park activities) and FOTP's president Erma Tranter.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Randi Doeker