



MINUTES OF LINCOLN PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL JULY 9, 2008 MEETING

Soccer Field Presentation

Jack Guthman, lawyer from the firm of Shefsky & Frolich, representing the Chicago Park District came before the council with Bob Foster, Project Manager, to request support for the completion of the soccer facility on the North Meadow of the South Field. The Park District will be going before the Chicago Plan Commission on August 21 to request permission to complete this project.

Details: It would be an artificial turf field, 230' x 350' with bleachers seating 60, player benches, new lighting and a fence on 2 sides 4 ½' high. There will be an ADA accessible drinking fountain. There will be no score board or enclosed structure. This project has been approved by the Park District board and will use public funds to complete. No preference will be given to any group and access will be via the public permit procedure.

There were a number of questions:

- Will the Park District follow the decision of the Chicago Plan Commission? – He seemed to say it would.
- Were any other sites considered? – He didn't give any information on site selection.
- What is the total cost? – They didn't know, although the project is 60% completed.
- Is there a contractor selected? – Not at this time.
- What is the criteria for using the field? – Same way any other facility in the park is dealt with.
- Has any study been done on the health risks of artificial turf? – The Park District is working on an internal environmental review.
- Would this site have ever been considered without the Latin School's participation? – Can't speak to site selection but there is a need for more soccer fields and the Park District is building them elsewhere in the system.
- Has any traffic study been done? – Don't know if any specific study has been done, but the park is supposed to be busy in the summer.
- What specifically do you want LPAC to do? – That you would indicate a favorable response to the Chicago Park District.

Natural Resources

Adam Schwerner, Director of the Department of Natural Resources for the Park District gave an update and answered questions. As an overview – there are 183 full time staff in the landscape department, augmented by 400 to 500 junior laborers during the spring and summer. There are 38 full time foresters.

This staff is responsible for all 7,700 acres of the park system containing 250,000 trees. 80% of the time of the landscape crew is spent picking up trash. There is a plan to plant 1 million trees across the system every year. Last year saw particularly violent storms that downed trees in many parks. He seeks input on where the Council sees a need for more trees but he generally feels that Lincoln Park is over planted and in 15-20 years may need to remove trees that are crowding each other. An attendee asked about plans to improve the park along North Avenue east of Clark Street. This person offered to pay for replacing 12 benches. A progress meeting was promised with this person. The new fence that was installed along the Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary was discussed. The fence is made of recycled materials. An attendee felt unsafe because of this fence. Mr. Schwerner promised to look into putting more openings in this fence.

The meeting convened after the two presentations at about 7:55pm at the Notebaert Museum with President Vickie Matthews, presiding.

Report from Park Staff

Cindy Jahraus, Lincoln Park Cultural Center Supervisor, gave an activity report and noted that due to the space limitations of the facility, she has a 4-page waiting list for summer programming.

Area Manager Brian Loll was present and answered several questions about park operations.

- How much do private groups pay from their permit fees to local parks? – The revenue from permits go into the general fund and don't get specifically ear-marked for the park where the activities take place.
- Date for our area budget meeting? – Tuesday, July 22 at Loyola Park at 6pm.
- What is the status of our request to be updated regularly on the concessions program? – Will get back to us.

Zhanna Yermakov, Natural Areas Manager, reported on the plans for the natural area near Osterman Beach. This area has three endangered plants and they would like to expand this area. She says this is a precious resource and will be attractive to birds and butterflies. Sheli Lulkin voiced opposition to this plan and says this sort of area is home to rats which hide in the dune grass. She stated that her community will oppose further development of this project.

Agenda Approved

Lynn Krohn moved, Sheli Lulkin seconded approval of agenda. Passed unanimously.

Park Liaison Report

Randi Doecker attended the Board Commissioners meeting on July 9. She noted that Superintendent Mitchell proclaimed his policy regarding funding for local park improvements – that if a project is approved the Park District will provide one third, with one third to come from the community and one third from other government sources – e.g., aldermanic menu or state funds. Mr. Mitchell also announced that the Park District should be getting about 7.5% of all TIF funds collected (in 2006 over \$500 million was collected by the over 140 city Tax Increment Funding districts). The district is getting no where near that sort of income from the TIF program. Also representatives from the Gale Park Advisory Council protested the proposed turnover of their brand new field house to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago. The commissioners also approved the building of a senior center in Norwood Park.

Treasurer's Report

The organization has \$1,182.51 available after commitments. This figure doesn't reflect an influx of dues from new members, which will be posted on the next report.

President's Report

The Framework Plan has been posted on the LPAC web site in 3 PDF files. We're working to get a cleaner copy scanned and posted. Lynn Krohn and Betsy Altman had prepared a letter stating LPAC's view on accessibility and sent it to the Tribune. This is to be posted to the LPAC web site.

New Business

Sheli Lulkin noted that two northern beaches have old blue mats to go to the water that had been used at North Avenue, which has a new and improved set of ramps.

Lynn Krohn passed out a number of materials from the Framework Plan (attached as appendix) regarding the placing of sports facilities in the park, including a copy of language from the Plan relating to ball fields that stated that the one field from the North Avenue area be re-located to Diversey.

In regard to the North Avenue Soccer Field, Tom Tresser made a motion, seconded by Ellen Issacson with a friendly amendment from Randi Doecker, seconded by Lynn Krohn:

"The Lincoln Park Advisory Council re-affirms the position it took on March 12, 2008 when it voted to oppose the construction of an artificial turf soccer facility on the North Meadow of the South Field of Lincoln Park. At this time we affirm our opposition to building an artificial turf soccer field on that site. The site should be returned to an open, grassy meadow."

The vote was 8 in favor, 6 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Lynn Krohn proposed a special meeting for August 13 to be used as a retreat and planning session. Ellen Issacson will inquire if Margate Park is available for this meeting. She passed out materials on "Task Force on LPAC as an organization" that contains information about the organization's mission (in Appendix materials).

Ellen Issacson passed out a "modest proposal" for mounting a membership drive (in Appendix materials). This will be discussed at the August meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

SPECIAL PLANNING MEETING: Wednesday, August 13, 6:45pm, Margate Field House.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, September 10, 6:45pm, Margate Field House.

Submitted by

Tom Tresser, LPAC Secretary, with corrections made by Betsy Altman, LPAC Treasurer

APPENDIX MATERIALS

A Modest Proposal to Generate New Members

As the Olympics continues to loom and because we are reexamining our mission, it seemed to the task force that we have many things that we haven't done in many years and that we need more "boots on the ground" to do some of these things. To that end we would like to experiment with a couple of membership drives that would entail setting up an information table at some heavily used areas, like North Avenue or Montrose, and present the face of LPAC to people. We would need a table, hopefully provided by the Park District, a sign to identify us, flyers with a brief mission statement and a membership sign-up form on the back and bodies for 3 – 4 hours to pass out these flyers and may talk about LPAC.

Discussion points:

Is this a good idea?

When should/could this happen?

Do we have enough bodies now?

Submitted by Ellen Isaacson

FRAMEWORK PLAN MATERIALS

POLICY GOALS FOR PARK FACILITIES

n Emphasize Lincoln Park as a place for people to enjoy historic character, recreation, leisure, athletics and culture.

n Respond to the diversity of uses and users while preserving the character of the lakefront, landscape, zoo, museums, fields and historic structures.

RESOURCES

- Assure that historic resources, including landscapes, are protected and rehabilitated in an appropriate manner, and treat features critical to historic character with utmost sensitivity.
- Recognize that while the park is an aggregate of significant improvements and extensions, it has always been one park with a whole and distinct identity with some consistent characteristics throughout.
 - Honor both the park's separate and unifying qualities.
 - Nominate Lincoln Park for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a complete historic district, and officially designate the park as a Chicago Park District Landmark.
 - Heighten public awareness by developing an interpretive program that may include lectures, historic maps and brochures and, history walks.
 - Use interpretative signage, public art, plantings and lighting around historic buildings, monuments and sculptures to increase visibility.

FACILITIES

• Improve the permit-granting process and standards for athletic fields, beaches, picnic groves and sound systems.

- Establish priorities for granting permits, evaluating applicants based on past performance and flexibility regarding scheduling and location.
- For new permits, give priority to Chicago Park District teams followed by local schools, nonprofit local youth groups, nonprofit adult groups and for-profit organizations.

Maintain the current number of fields and courts designated for structured anti uses.

- To maximize use, provide lights for fields and courts to expand hours of use, coordinate activities with other institutions that have facilities (other parks, schools, churches) and seek areas for more fields and courts for structured, active uses outside Lincoln Park.
- Improve the quality of existing designated fields and tennis courts.
- Provide durable nonturf surfaces where appropriate.
 - Close fields periodically to allow them to regenerate. To preserve the fields, prohibit their use when weather conditions are unfavorable.
 - Use the security deposit check-off form for fields as a way to monitor damage and overuse of fields.
 - Cluster fields near fieldhouses and recreation centers to ensure better supervision.
 - Provide coordination for permit holders in a consistent manner, and post permit schedule near fields.
 - Meet with permit holders prior to each season to inform them of policies and to solicit comments and suggestions.

Improve food and/or recreational concession. for example:

- Renovate existing facility.
 - Expand or add new concession where needed to serve park users.

DESIGN GOALS FOR PARK FACILITIES



Improve facility.

for example:

- Renovate existing facility to improve services, programming or staffing.
- Expand existing facility to improve services, programming or staffing.
- Consolidate services, program-

- Build new facility such as beach

demand while at the same time.

relocate athletic field to better meet

- Limit use to protect the landscape.

South Athletic Fields



Integrate park facility into landscape.

for example:

- Modify perimeter of zoo, driving range, golf course, play lots and other landscape facilities to integrate the facility into the park.
- Move facility if necessary to integrate into landscape.

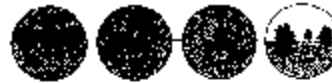
DESIGN GOALS FOR OPEN PARK SPACE



Improve landscape.

for example:

- Add planting on urban edge adjacent to neighborhood.
- Define open, grassy areas, meadows and athletic fields by adding perimeter planting.
- Improve landscape appearance along Lake Shore Drive by adding planting to frame and screen views from the drive and improve park appearance as viewed from the drive.



South Athletic Fields



Wilson-Lawrence is underused compared to nearby areas, despite a large parking lot that is rarely more than half-full. The underutilized area presents an opportunity to create an activity center for park's north end.

- Reduce the size of Wilson Avenue parking lot and use land for green space and/or park facility.
- Provide CTA bus stop, turnaround and necessary facilities near Wilson Avenue parking lot. Landscape lot and reconfigure as necessary.
- Remove one baseball diamond but retain four softball fields. Incorporate back stops into perimeter plantings. Add plantings around perimeter of fields to define open space.
- Limit use of underpass at Simonds Drive to pedestrians and bikes.
- Redesign bike path crossing at Lawrence and Wilson to reduce conflicts with vehicles.



TO FOSTER

Overuse has eroded many sections of meadows. Perimeter vegetation is sparse.

- Restore vegetation on perimeter of open spaces.
- Protect landscape by limiting athletic use in poor weather conditions.

Perimeter vegetation is sparse. The historically significant landscape of the central meadow is badly eroded due to overuse.

Add planting around perimeter of existing athletic fields in north meadow.

Restore perimeter planting at central meadow with original planting scheme.

Protect soil of the central meadow from overuse by designating meadow as non-permit area, limiting athletic use to primarily youth activities.

Incorporate relocated playlot into area south of central meadow.



Develop a gateway landscape.

for example:

- Add plantings at park entry to create a sense of arrival.
- Add planting to parcel adjacent to Lake Shore Drive access ramps.



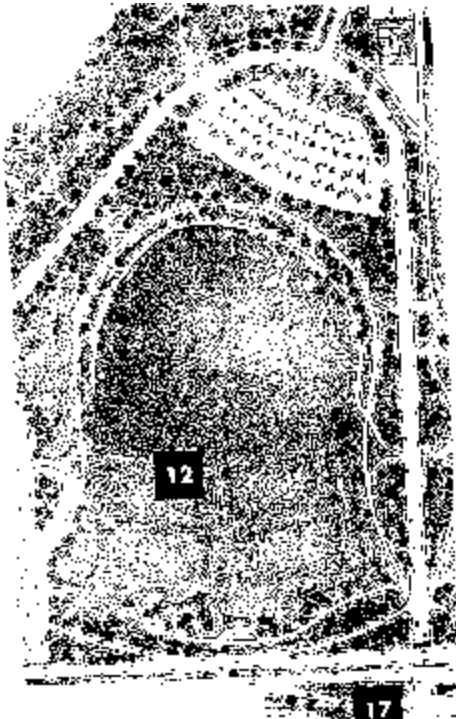
Reinforce and restore historically significant landscape. for example:

- Treat historically significant landscape in a manner consistent with original plans or historic use.
- Restore and protect overused open space by regulating use.



Add park open space. for example:

- Add planting when pavement structures are removed.
- Add planting when the Army C reconstruction of lakefront



connect paths to Cricket Hill and Montrose Harbor.

Cricket Hill is one of the most popular areas of the park. Heavy use of adjacent athletic fields has eroded much of grass to bare earth. Concession employees park under trees, causing damage and compaction. While there is a fair amount of planting along Lake Shore Drive, the remainder of the area is sparse and space is poorly defined.

- Protect soil from erosion and overuse by monitoring athletic-field activity more closely, limiting use in inclement weather and rotating fields to allow grass to rejuvenate.
- Define open spaces by adding planting to perimeters.
- Renovate toilet building near Lake Shore Drive and add food concession.
- Provide bypass for shared lakefront path around Cricket Hill to reduce congestion at Montrose Beach.
- Add planting to existing parking islands to reduce parking lot intrusion between Cricket Hill and Montrose Beach. Provide walkway through lot to

This popular driving range is surrounded by underutilized or poorly sited facilities, including an attractive 1916 Golf Shelter by Andrew Rebori, now used as a park maintenance center, and a miniature golf course and playground. The driving range and tennis courts are poorly integrated into the landscape. All circulation is limited to the west side. This area frequently floods.

- Improve circulation and landscape around perimeter of driving range, add path along east side of driving range, move fence so that it meanders with landscape, add planting to interior and exterior of fence to define driving range open space as a meadow, and create continuous visual link to open area to north.
- Designate path along the west edge of the driving range as the western by-pass for bikes from Barry Street underpass, continuing to North Avenue.
- Add one permit-only rugby/soccer/lacrosse field east of driving range using appropriate turf and lighting.
- Define open areas with perimeter planting.
- Improve landscape by correcting drainage problem for entire area, adding planting at tennis courts and Lake Shore Drive, defining edges of eroded paths and simplifying paths around Cafe on the Green concession.
- Improve areas adjacent to neighborhood by adding planting, benches and trash receptacles.
- Create a Lincoln Park Center by rehabilitating Rebori building and adding restaurant, park management office, public toilets, lifeguard office, recreational facilities and vehicular drop-off. Remove storage structures at driving range. Relocate maintenance shops into new centralized location outside the park. Redesign or relocate miniature golf course,
- Reconfigure Diversey Extension and its parking to adjacent park areas to expand open space north of harbor for picnicking and views.

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rand

Athletic fields are badly worn out from overuse and misuse. Perimeter planting is and the area is barren. LaSalle off-ramp loop isolates the fields. As southern-most major space, the area has potential to convey a sense of place and space.

Create grand entry meadow, providing perimeter planting to define open space.

Remove off-ramp loop by using a T intersection at LaSalle and Lake Shore Drive. Locate west bypass path along east edge of fields and direct to LaSalle pedestrian crossing. Incorporate recovered land into meadow space.

Revise layout of fields, tucking back stops and dirt fields into perimeter plantings. Relocate one soccer/rugby field to the Diversey Fields. Remove cinder track and reconfigure volleyball courts to add new softball diamond. Protect soil from erosion and compaction by controlling intensity of use. Designate area for use only if permit.

Restore and reprogram fieldhouse at South fields, adding showers, concessions and patio.

Improve lighting for ball fields and paths.

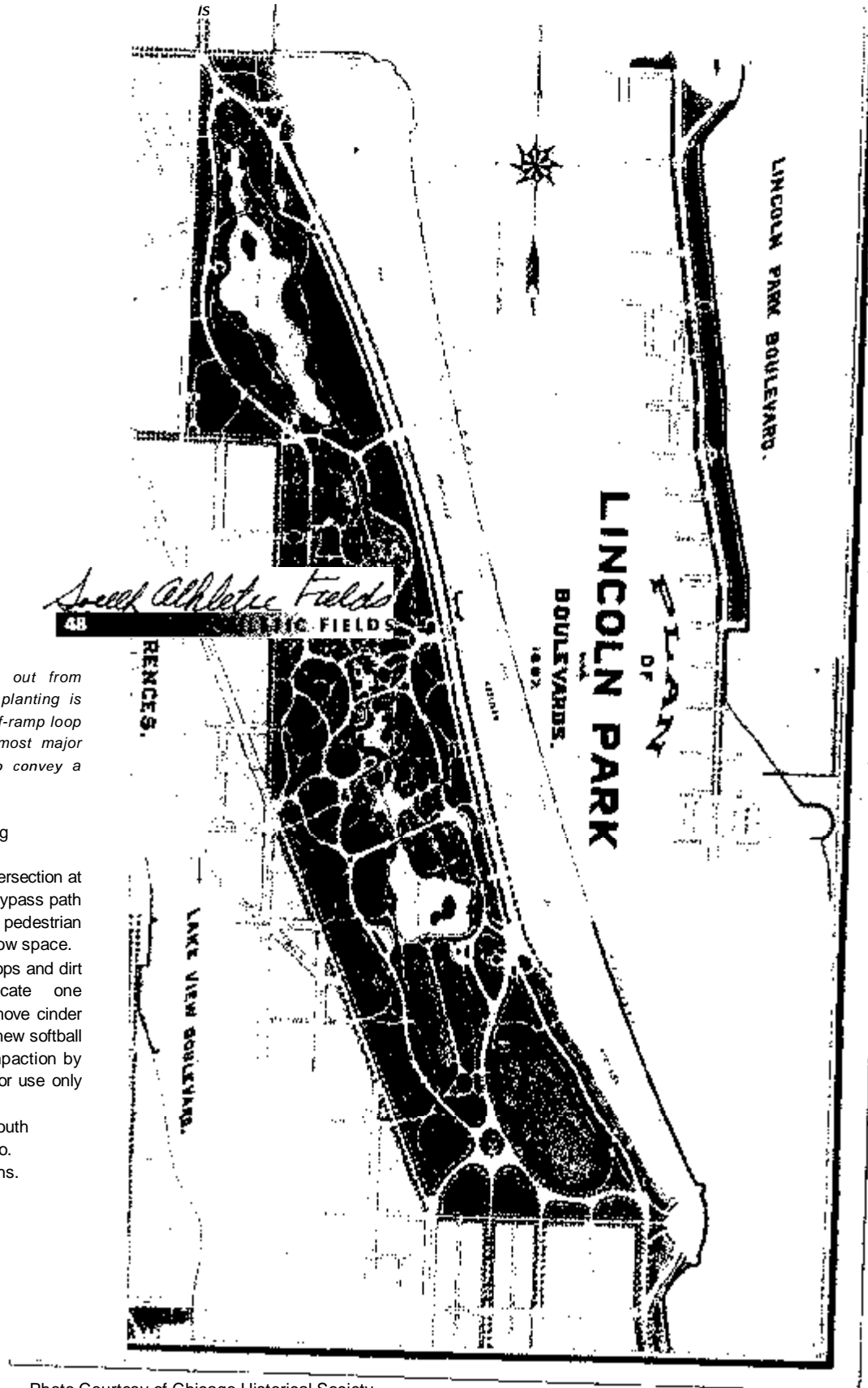
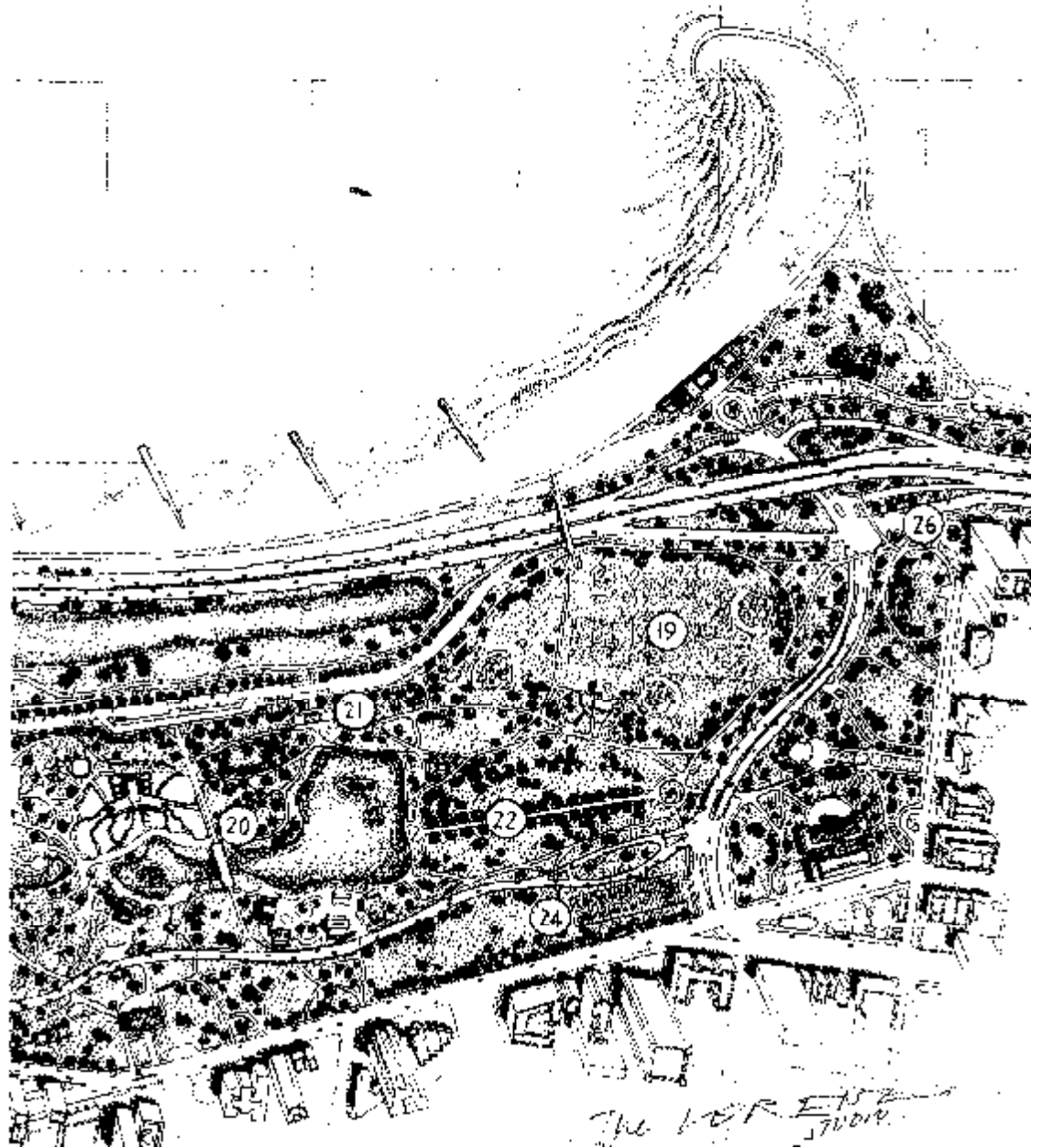


Photo Courtesy of Chicago Historical Society



MATERIALS RELATING TO STRATEGIC PLANNING AND MISSION

To: All Lincoln Park Advisory Council members
From: Task Force on LPAC as an organization
Re: Finding LPAC
Date: July 9, 2008

It is time for the board and the members of LPAC to review and reassess its reason for existence. The Lincoln Park Framework Plan states (page 5) that "the Lincoln Park Advisory Council serves as the primary forum for reviewing Lincoln Park issues, meets regularly at locations throughout the park and welcomes your participation."

The Framework Plan further spells out the behaviors of a successful process in which both Park District and community work together in partnership. The ability to actively reach out and communicate to park users is a key behavior. (See those behaviors attached)

The Lincoln Park Advisory Council amended its existing bylaws in 1994 to take the Framework Plan into account and lists among its purposes: "to monitor the implementation of the Lincoln Park Framework Plan." (See all of LPAC's purposes attached.)

In 1991, the framework planners proposed a park ethic as they began their work. (See that park ethic attached)

Words, words, words. These are many beautiful words and we get lost in them. We need a clearer concept of our organization and what it is designed to do. Please study the attached behaviors, purposes and park ethic. Think about what is and what could be. Figuring out who we are comes first and then comes figuring out how we can be better, how we can do a better job will follow. So try to boil your ideas about LPAC down into a single sentence, a mission statement so to speak.

Given the ideas in the framework plan, our stated purposes, and a park ethic, consider the role of LPAC. Try to describe in one sentence the mission of the Lincoln Park Advisory Council. Please bring that sentence to the next meeting.

LINCOLN PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL BYLAWS
as amended 10/12/94 & 4/12/95

ARTICLE ONE: GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE ONE, Section One – Purpose

The purpose of the Lincoln Park Advisor Council herein called the Council is: to provide a forum to discuss Lincoln Park concerns and issues, to strive for consensus about Lincoln Park concerns and issues,

- to advise, to make recommendations to, and to work with the Chicago Park District, to encourage maintenance and improvement of environmental conditions in Lincoln Park,
- to encourage participation of a diversity of organized and non-organized park users, to encourage long-range planning,
- to monitor the implementation of the Lincoln Park Framework Plan.

And... to communicate regularly by means of publications and programs with members, users, and other interested parties about Lincoln Park concerns and issues

MANAGEMENT IMPEDIMENTS

The Chicago Park District is the principal steward of Chicago's parks, charged with their protection, maintenance and enhancement. This includes equitable distribution of programs, property, staff and other resources throughout the system.

Those who gain most from park district services are the people who use the parks, local residents and interest groups that make up a park's community. This broad constituency wishes to contribute to park district decision-making and to become a partner, participating in stewardship alongside the park district.

At Lincoln Park, however, there have been three major impediments to achieving exemplary stewardship, fairness and partnership. They are lack of communication, lack of coordination and lack of consensus. These impediments have had serious impacts, since Lincoln Park is one of the most heavily used in the Chicago park system, subject to competing and conflicting demands by many interest groups. Further, as one of the largest parks in the system—spanning six miles of lakefront—with a federal boulevard running through its entire length, the park is governed not by one but by an array of federal, state, city and park district departments. This variety of demands and the array of governmental jurisdictions make communicating, coordinating and developing consensus critical to Lincoln Park's management.

PRECEDENTS FOR COMMUNICATING, COORDINATING AND CONSENSUS

By completing this plan, the community and the Chicago Park District have demonstrated their ability to work together in partnership to improve communication, coordination and consensus. For the park to flourish in the 21st Century, both the community and the park district must rededicate themselves to building upon the precedents set by this successful process.

These precedents are as follows:

PARK DISTRICT HAS

- provided the community with a substantive opportunity to participate in park decisions by providing timely notice of proposals for action and reasonable opportunity to become informed and be heard.
- solicited community input from people who could be affected by park decisions, as well as groups interested in the park, before making any significant decisions about Lincoln Park.
- required the Lincoln Park staff to be actively engaged with the community, which has included attendance at community meetings where park issues have been discussed and timely dissemination of information on operations, events, programs, projects and budgets.



- improved communication, consultation and decision-making with each other, with government agencies that have jurisdiction in Lincoln Park and with organizations or institutions that operate within the park.
- regularly reviewed issues and evaluated programs, projects and proposals pertaining to Lincoln Park.

THE COMMUNITY HAS

- communicated with the range of park users about Lincoln Park activities and issues..
- worked to develop consensus among the various interest groups.
- actively reached out to under-represented constituencies and to park users that would be directly affected by an action.

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