



Lincoln Park Advisory Council History

LPAC was formed in the mid-80s as a part of a city-wide effort to form park advisory councils. This effort followed a consent-decree ruling with the Chicago Park District. The Friends of the Park organization was a part of this effort. Friends of Lincoln Park, a board-driven organization that was formed in the early 80s, also took part in the formation of LPAC.

The bylaws of LPAC were written by founders, lead by lawyer Ellen Partridge. Under her tutelage, the organization was first designed and then the bylaws were codified to reflect that design. Ellen was adamant that the bylaws be written in "English" rather than "legalize. So LPAC has bylaws that are integral to its design, they are not an aside or out of a can as in so many organizations.

During the mid-80s, while LPAC was struggling to get up and running, Friends of Lincoln Park was actively persuading the Chicago Park District to do a long-range plan in our park. They involved LPAC in that effort. Once the long-range process got underway in the early 90s, many of LPAC's leaders became members of the Steering Committee for the Long Range Plan.

By the mid-90s, the long range plan, called the Framework Plan, was completed and LPAC's bylaws were revised. That revision accommodated transferring the intent of the steering committee to LPAC and facilitating the implementation of the framework plan. In the revised bylaws, LPAC's purposes were expanded; its process was modified to include a preliminary poll and a vote for the record. Also, our list of standing task forces was expanded and included among others a coordinating task force, designed as a means of working closely with the Chicago Park District.

By the late 90s much of the framework plan was implemented although the plan continues to be viable well beyond implementation because it provides guidelines. In addition to the implementation of the framework plan, LPAC involved itself directly in a quarter-of-a-million dollar grant from the Forest Service to work at the Montrose Point area. That project was successfully completed in 2002. As it moves beyond its current history and into the 21st century, LPAC will be assessing its roles, relationships, and operations so as to carry out its mission and purpose.

LPAC's bylaws may be found on the website. LPAC's archives are in the Special Collections Department of DePaul University.