



MINUTES OF LINCOLN PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL
JUNE 11, 2008 MEETING

Meeting convened at 6:50pm at the Margate Field House with new officers presiding: Vickie Matthews, President.

Lynn Krohn reviewed elements of the Lincoln Park Framework Plan and conducted an exercise that had small groups looking into the plan to solve some hypothetical policy issues. This was the second of three presentations on the plan. The first covered general background and the third will look at site specific reviews.

Background on the plan: it was paid for the Park District, took some five years to formulate and was published in 1995. Hundreds of people participated in the effort. It is a guide for the planning of the development of Lincoln Park. Lincoln Park is 6 ½ miles long, 1,200 acres.

It was pointed out that at least 20 specific improvements have occurred over the years in the park as a result of the plan and the Council's continued activism. Lynn offered to help put the plan on the Council's web site in PDF format.[NOTE – this has been done]

The agenda was moved and adopted. The minutes of the May meeting were approved (Sheli Lukin moved, Vickie Matthews seconds. Passed unanimously).

Report from Park staff

John Davidson, Margate Park Supervisor, gave his activity report and announced he would be leaving his post here to move to Wicker Park. The Council expressed its thanks and appreciation for his long and valued service.

Area Manager Brian Loll gave his report and offered to transmit the Council's concerns and requests to the proper park staff person. Specific issues he was asked to report back on:

- park survey using maps supplied by the CPD
- widening of bike paths
- traffic and bike accidents at Montrose and Belmont
- status of artificial turf in the park
- permitting of a noisy event held by "Self" Magazine at the North Pond
- supply the Council with a list of permits granted in Lincoln Park on a weekly basis
- the number of buoys at Ardmere Beach
- what is the number of trees to be planted in Lincoln Park in 2008, where?
- please advise us of the meetings of the Concession Committee or appropriate planning team
- have the Park District planning staff review the Lincoln Park Framework Plan

Park Liaison Report

Terry Leja attended the Board Commissioners meeting on June 11 at the Lincoln Park Zoo. There was an announcement of \$35 million in improvements to the system for disability access improvements. Also \$2.5 million was raised by the Parkways Foundation, which raises private sector and charitable donations for park-related improvements. The Park District is still working on a new set of council guidelines.

Treasurer's Report

The organization has \$1,954.42 in the General Fund, with \$1,182.51 available after commitments.

President's Report

We would like to re-start the function of a Program Director to plan presentations for the Council's meetings – a volunteer is sought. There was discussion of the mission and purpose of the organization. It was pointed out there was a retreat some 5 years ago and it might be wise to use the July meeting to look at these issues. Tom Tresser offered to circulate a publication from The Trust for Public Land, "The excellent City Park System." Tom, Lynn and Vice President Ellen Issacson were asked to suggest an agenda for the July 9 meeting.

New Business

Sheli Lukin moved, and Betsy Altman seconded a motion to send the following letter to Superintendent Tim Mitchell. Motion passed unanimously.

"The Lincoln Park Advisory Council has been on record for many years as advocating for making park facilities and especially comfort stations fully accessible to all citizens. It is therefore with great pleasure that we welcome the issuance of a \$35 million bond issue for this purpose.

The Lincoln Park Advisory Council also has had a policy of giving priority to the north end of Lincoln Park because of the continuous neglect of this area in park facilities and improvements. An example of this is the allocation of water accessibility mats to the various beaches. Because so many north lakefront buildings have elevators, there are many people who live there that need to use mats to access the water. However, priority is being given to the beaches at the south end of the park.

We ask that all Lincoln Park Beaches be treated equally.

We also request that all dog beaches be accessible so that persons with service dogs may use them.

We request that if an accessible comfort station is out of order, it be given priority for service. There are few alternatives for persons using these stations. Also, a system should be developed that allows for the posting of out-of-order signs that show where the nearest accessible station is. When possible, we would like to see these signs posted in a way that spares the person who wishes to use them a long walk.

Our preference is that the Chicago Park District make all restrooms along the accessible beach paths accessible.

We would also like the Park District Administration to consider using some of these funds to facilitate a fully accessible permanent beach house at Osterman Beach."

It was also suggested that the Council start to look at artificial turf in the park. No specific action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 9, 6:45pm, Notebaert Nature Museum.

Submitted by
Tom Tresser
Council Secretary