



Actions related to the Chicago Park District contract with the Latin School

September 13, 2006 LPAC Meeting: Park District COO Jim Chronis and Planning Director Gia Biagi presented a plan to install artificial turf in South Field for general purpose use. We were told the Park District would be paying for the cost of the turf through the fees that would come from the District's ability to permit the field for more hours. Chronis repeated many times it would be a CPD field paid for with CPD permit revenue. LPAC reluctantly agreed that artificial turf was acceptable for the muddy spot.

October 26, 2006: After the monthly meeting of the Park Commissioners, Randi Doeker emailed the LPAC board with the news that the Latin School was being included in the soccer field project. At the meeting Jim Chronis and Tim Mitchell were very vague about what the Latin School's role would be. They made it sound like a glorified donation to the Park District. Since LPAC had supported the installation of artificial turf at the site, it did not seem that much had really changed from that we had been told in September – except Latin School would help pay for it.

November 2006 – April 2007: LPAC (in communication with Alderman Vi Daley's office) assumed that there would be more information or a public meeting before any action was taken. No one was aware that a legal contract had been signed and Latin School was taking action.

May 2006: Crane's Chicago published an extensive article about the CPD-Latin School contract.

June 2006 LPAC meeting: The attendees discussed at length possible responses to the Park District's failure to fully advise LPAC and the public about the project.

July 2006 LPAC meeting: Alonzo Williams, the Lakefront manager, attempted to convince us that the Latin School contact was a good thing. We refused to discuss the subject with him. Separately the attendees came to the conclusion our only recourse would be a legal action and that is beyond our resources.

August 23, 2006: At the public meeting held at the Latin School, the LPAC president and other members spoke against the Latin School contract.

September 2006: An LPAC board member was part of a group led by Friends of the Parks that talked with Aldermen Vi Daley and Mary Ann Smith at City Hall. Vi told us that the City lawyers had said that there was nothing that they could do about the contract; the Park District had the legal authority to execute the contract.

October 2006 LPAC meeting: The attendees again discussed the contract terms to identify specific points of objection.

November 6 & 20, 2006: LPAC President attended two meetings organized by Alderman Daley to meet with the CPD and Latin School executives to discuss the contract.

November 2006 LPAC meeting: The group approved a letter (that was then mailed) to the Park District Commissioners reiterating our disapproval of the lack of a public process.

March 2007 LPAC meeting: The members voted to support the efforts to halt the soccer field construction until a full public process is carried out.

