



September 12, 2012, 6:45 p.m.

XX Margate Park Fieldhouse

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

Lincoln Park Cultural Center

Submitted by Coleen Blake, Secretary

In attendance: Betsy Altman, Coleen Blake, George Blakemore, Randi Doeker, Chuck Eastwood, Ellen Isaacson, Robert Lerch, Sheli Lulkin, Jill Niland, Becky Rossof

### PRESENTATIONS (3)

#### 1. **NIKE** Alonso Williams and Nike Representatives

Nike representatives reported on the activities they had provided in Lincoln Park over the summer and how “we’ve brought Lincoln Park to life.” These activities included basketball skills clinics, free classes for adults 5 days/week in yoga, high intensity workouts such as plyometrics and jump rope, and a run club on Thursday evenings. There were also several pro basketball nights where NBA and overseas players came and reportedly filled the stands with spectators. Nike provided security for these events. The remodeled fieldhouse initially struggled to draw people, until directional signage was posted to alert people to its presence.

Council members had many questions and concerns. Sheli asked about the funds that were to be given to Lincoln Park and Alonso had no final numbers yet. The \$450,000 permit fee for the fieldhouse and basketball courts runs through October. The court will be reduced to its original size sometime in October with a new concrete surface. Alonso also stated that the lights and fence are temporary, but nonetheless, may be left in place. He said he’s not really sure what will be left behind, what will be relocated to another park, and what Nike will remove: “it’s all still up in the air.”

Several council members questioned why the basketball court was not available to the public as it had been in the past. Becky Rossof inquired about the hours that the field house and basketball court were available. In late June, they were available from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, but those hours were cut back to noon until 8:00 pm on Mon-Fri and 10:00 am until 6:00 pm on Sat and Sun. The court was not available to the public outside of these hours because Nike staff needed to be present when the court was used.

George Blakemore emphasized that this was public land and that the Park District is trying to solve its financial problems by raising \$450,000 with Nike at the expense of citizens who want to use the park and see green space. He stated that “never, never, never again should the Park District enter such an agreement where people have to get permission from a private entity to use a public park. This is ridiculous.”

Coleen Blake added that on her daily visits to the park throughout the summer she always observed the court covered with a tarp, surrounded by a fence, with a security guard present and no signs of welcome or information about how to use the court.

Alonso agreed that they should have done a better job to get the word out to the community that the court was available. The Nike rep said it had not occurred to them to post signs about who to contact to use the court.

#### 2. **WESTREC – Montrose boat storage** Scott Stevenson

Scott Stevenson told the council Montrose was chosen for boat storage because the parking lot is large, far from residences, and not used in the winter for anything other than storing salt to use on the streets. He also said that the Park District looked at the legal issues and decided that, because the use of the parking lot for boat storage is temporary and recreational, it could go forward. Boat storage at Montrose started two years ago with 50 boats in storage the first year. 105 boats were stored in the second year and 170 are projected for next year. Scott hopes to see a profit next year. The capacity of the parking lot is 300 boats. Storage runs from October 15 until May 15. Scott said that the only bottom painting performed at Montrose is applied by brush with a tarp underneath. No spray painting or sandblasting is allowed and there is no possibility of chemical runoff into the lake.

Numerous issues were raised by council members. Becky Rossof pointed out that using the parking lot for boat storage has created parking problems on warm spring and fall days. She added that the parking lot is not for boaters, but for the citizens of Chicago who come to the lake to cool off and enjoy some green space. Betsy Altman stated that LPAC and FOTP were against the use of the Montrose lot for boat storage because this area in Lincoln Park is supposed to be open space per the Caldwell design of the space. Both LPAC and FOTP recommended DuSable Harbor for boat storage, rather than usurping green park space. Chuck Eastwood questioned why this storage could not be done at 31<sup>st</sup> or DuSable. The response was that both locations are being used for boat storage and that when the Montrose facility is maxed out, boats will be sent to DuSable.

Alonso said Scott will get back to the advisory council about the concerns over paint and parking.

**3. Friends of the Park - Fullerton concession – Tim Jeffries**

Tim Jeffries, FOTP director of planning and policy, reported on the Goose Island concession at Fullerton. The area has been cordoned off with a rope fence and it appears to people passing by that purchases at the concession must be made in order to sit in the area. Alonso said that purchases are not necessary, that anyone can go in and sit down to read a book or relax.

Betsy Altman objected to the location. She stated that the area is too busy and dangerous for a concession and that the concession could cause accidents. She recommended moving it to the old sanitarium building there. George Blakemore said that the Park District should not allow citizens to be intimidated by fences and ropes and subliminal restrictions. Tim reported that he had gone to the concession and sat in the area without making a purchase. He was asked if he wanted a drink, but he declined and was not asked to leave the area.

Alonso said he would look into moving the concession into the building.

Tim spoke to the council on the Montrose boat storage issue. FOTP is opposed to boat storage at Montrose and disagrees with Scott Stevenson and the Park District's legal analysis. The Park District Inspector General is looking into the matter. FOTP has met with the Park District's CFO regarding the lack of profitability at Montrose.

**LPAC Meeting**

**1. Call to Order and Adoption of Agenda**

The meeting was called to order at 8:42 PM. The Agenda was moved and seconded, and approved.

**2. Park District Staff presentations**

Sandra Olson Lakefront Director

Fall programs will start on 9/24. With the Chicago teachers strike, Margate and Lincoln Park Cultural Center are busy with children from ages 6 -12. Some younger and older children are included, too, on a case by case basis. The Greater Chicago Food Depository is providing some of the food, and children are bringing their lunches.

Cindy Jahraus will retire as of Jan. 1, 2013. The new art instructor will start at Lincoln Park Cultural Center on 9/24. She will be full-time and there will be stained glass classes and jewelry classes offered. Margate also has a new instructor and new classes, which are listed on the website. Lincoln Park is at full staff everywhere.

In response to questions from council members, Sandy reported that on-line registration went smoothly, that Park Kids numbers are down, and that she had a request for mulching trees. Council members also reported spotting a bonfire in the park built by homeless people and a huge homeless population in the park this summer, especially near the Saddle & Cycle Club.

**3. Park Liaison report**

New Park District Commissioner Erika R. Allen was introduced at today's Park District board meeting. She is director of Farms in the City. The Park District's programs for CPS students during the teachers strike is at 40% capacity. During People in the Parks, one citizen had strong criticism for the sculptures that have been popping up all over the park. The Museum of Contemporary Art did a presentation. 10% of their budget comes from the Park District. The museum has exhibits throughout the city, including a room of balloons at the Garfield Conservatory.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

April, May, June and July minutes were moved, seconded and approved.

**5. Treasurer's report**

Sheli called for a resolution removing Chuck Goes from the checking account that she can take to Broadway Bank. The resolution also adds Ellen Isaacson and Chuck Eastwood as signatories.

**6. President's report**

Ellen asked for suggestions for the budget hearing. Sheli stated that the lakefront path needs lights from Foster Ave north. Sandy and Coleen offered that Morrie Mages and Sunshine playlots need work. Sheli added that the playground west of Lake Shore Drive at Bryn Mawr needs repairs as well. Sheli asked for handicapped ramps to the restrooms at Osterman Beach.

**7. Old Business**

None

**8. New Business**

Jill reported on a meeting she attended regarding changes to the lakefront gravel path east of Waveland Golf Course. This path has been heavily damaged in recent years. Repairs to the path and rebuilding of the slope will begin next spring. Most of the work will be done from barges. The repairs are projected to last 60 years. The path will remain a gravel path.

**9. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 pm.

**2012**

**Future Meeting Locations**

**October** Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Mitch Murdock, Natural Areas Manager, Glenda Daniels, Openlands  
**November** Margate Fieldhouse