



MINUTES OF LINCOLN PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL October 8, 2008 MEETING

Program

Zhanna Yermakov, Natural Areas Manager, Chicago Park District, made a presentation to LPAC about a newly discovered and very rare natural area at North Avenue Beach that represents less than an acre of about 124 acres of this type of cultivation in the world. This area is unused, near the fishing pier. The area is usually quite wet and is well away from the volley ball courts. This area hosts endangered Sea Rocket and other plants on a federal endangered list that were once native to this area.

Zhanna asked for LPAC support to cultivate this area. It is likely that large open weave fences will be installed that allow dune sand to migrate but prevent dogs from trampling the plants. Zhanna mentioned natural areas that are emerging. One is at Kathy Osterman Beach and another is at Foster at the north end of the beach area. ASCO is against the natural area at Osterman Beach because that kind of landscape attracts rats.

Zhanna discussed the golf course turf at Marowitz Golf Course. She is working to reintroduce the natural prairie at the edge of the golf course, which requires killing the turf without using herbicides. She is experimenting with hot water, coconut oil and sugar.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Agenda Approved

The agenda was moved and seconded, approved without comment.

Report from Park Staff

No park district staff attended the meeting so no CPD presentations were made.

Park Liaison Report

The CPD Board meeting report discussed the cleaning contract at Soldier Field, that 20 people retired recently with 31-55 years of service to the District, that the Chicago Sports and Social Club made a \$47,000 donation to the Special Olympics, and that the soccer field in the South Fields will be up and playing by October 31, 2008. There was an update on artificial turf. CPD plans to spend \$2.8 million installing it. The research shared with the Board indicates that the lead levels are within tolerances allowed by the federal government, that hygiene issues come from the players not the turf, and that the added heat requires players to be aware and drink more water. The Council will continue to monitor information on the artificial turf.

Minutes

Minutes from July and September were deferred until the Secretary is in attendance. There are corrections to be made.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was approved.

Membership Task Force Report

The Membership Task Force reported that they met. They are developing a general letter of introduction to be sent to organizations in Lincoln Park and Condo Boards. An outreach was made to the Aldermanic offices for email addresses for the right contacts. The January LPAC meeting will host a forum on the potential hosting of the 2016 Olympics as they impact Lincoln Park (not on venues across the city). The May LPAC meeting will feature Julia Bachrach with a History of Lincoln Park. The group is testing how to do an updated survey of Lincoln Park with maps that will be useful to CPD personnel for follow-up.

Park District Budget Report

Park District Budget-no report

President's Report

Vickie sent a letter to the Mayor and copied all the Aldermen requesting that the open CPD Board seat be filled with someone with an urban forestry background or background in natural resources.

Vickie requested approval to join Friends of the Parks, which was granted.

LPAC granted Zhanna's request and sent a letter encouraging involving park stewards to cultivate this area and requested that signage be installed telling the public about the project.

New Business

Betsy mentioned that there is a petition for an official dog beach in Belmont Harbor. This group needs to present to LPAC before CPD approves their request. Betsy mentioned that this area is not groomed and is in poor condition despite families bringing children to play on the beach. The dog beach at Montrose also needs grooming.

Vickie invited Fred Hagedorn, volunteer parent with FC Drive, to make a presentation on temporary lighting for the Foster Avenue soccer fields for his travelling soccer teams of 400 children. They are in their second year and have grown from 12 teams to 31 teams. Normally, they practice at Montrose but the Chicago Social Club got a permit for that area, which has lights, for the fall. The players train from 4:30 to 6 and 6 to 7:30 pm every weekday afternoon. Fred requested LPAC support for the sort of lights used on road construction sites that extend 28 feet high. He said the positioning would be east and south and no light would shine west. The lights are needed until the first week in November. His organization agreed to pay for any damage to the grass and for all the rental fees and security. LPAC agreed to support this request (8 in favor; 5 against).

There was a discussion about not voting on Fred's request because some members felt that it sets a precedence for lighting that LPAC may not want to support in the future. 13 members voted, which is an excellent turn-out and the letter was to state clearly that the support was for the **fall of 2008 only**.

Discussion ensued on whether we should hear issues brought to us without a significant vetting period so people know the issues that will come before the meeting and can make a decision to attend the meetings based on their personal interests. This is an ongoing struggle at LPAC. Most members feel that we need to be flexible and hear people when they attend our meetings even with short notice, approve those things we can reasonably and work to make sure things work better in the future. The most consistent reason that requests come to LPAC with little advance notice is that staff at CPD change and new people do not know that LPAC approval is necessary.

A short discussion was held on the use of the list serve. Jill will look at other list serve guidelines and draft guidelines for LPAC. We have had members removing themselves from the list serve because of the tenor of the remarks that have been made in the last six months.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Betsy Altman
Treasurer
Secretary for the meeting

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 14, 6:45pm at The Peggy Notebart Nature Museum.