



MINUTES OF LINCOLN PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 10, 2008 MEETING

Presentation from CDOT

Christopher Wuellner, Project Director and Kiersten Grove, Program Coordinator from the Chicago Department of Transportation gave a presentation on traffic programs being planned for North Avenue and Fullerton Avenue bridges on Lake Shore and access to Lincoln Park. Their presentation is available on the website as a separate PDF file.

The meeting convened after the presentation about 7:30 at Margate Park with President Vickie Matthews, presiding.

Agenda Approved

The agenda was moved and seconded, approved without comment.

Report from Park Staff

Cindy Jahraus (312-742-7726), Lincoln Park Cultural Center Supervisor, gave an activity report. The Art Fair is this weekend. More info: http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/news.detail/object_id/14adcd74-4133-4194-b095-f5e9f958d187.cfm.

Area Manager Brian Loll (312-742-0378) reported that the Park District is in the process of hiring a new Supervisor for Margate Park. Also, the Park is doing a sweep against homeless and trimming areas where folks have been hiding. Let him know if you see homeless people in the park – brian.loll@chicagoparkdistrict.com. He has people out on a daily basis inspecting facilities, including comfort stations, so let him know if facilities are unsightly or in poor condition. He asks if this council has any ongoing priorities regarding facilities or maintenance. One question was raised regarding whether the beaches can be open through September given the warmer weather. There was also a question on the concession committee and schedule – can we get updated information on this?

Park Liaison Report

Terri Leja reported on the special September 3 Park District board meeting. This meeting was called solely to decide on the Lincoln Park artificial turf soccer field project. Protect Our Parks had tried to get the court to cancel that meeting but the judge allowed it to take place. The soccer field project was re-affirmed and construction will resume shortly.

Terri reported on the regularly scheduled Park District board meeting of September 10. The District added 123 acres to the system but there was a question if this land is to be kept in a natural state. Also there was a report from the Army Corps of Engineers regarding a study on the breakwater by North Avenue as part of the Olympic planning process.

Minutes

Minutes from the July meeting were not approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Council's net assets as of August 31 were \$1,413.46.

Membership Task Force Report

Ellen Issacson, LPAC Vice President, chaired a membership task force meeting on August 13. This group identified several possible projects. They offered a draft of a mission statement for the Council: "Provide a forum to advocate for maintenance and improvement of quality usage of Lincoln Park." It is understood that a Bylaws Committee would have to move this proposed language forward for discussion and passage, the group discussed the Idea of a membership drive at the upcoming Lincoln Park Art Fair and other events. The group discussed the Idea of a park survey as a way to involve more people in park affairs. The group discussed the need for an Olympics Task Force. The minutes from this meeting are appended to the end of these minutes.

After some discussion, it was decided that at the October and November meetings there will be a presentation about Concessions and a presentation on Natural Resources. At the January 2009 meeting there will be a forum on the impact of the Olympics on the park with a speaker invited from the 2016 organizing committee and some scholar who can give another view point. Tom Tresser will take over as chair of the membership task force.

Park District Budget Report

Sheli Lulkin presented materials regarding the September 16 Park District budget meeting. These documents are available as a separate PDF file (4.5 MB). After some discussion, the following budget requests for Lincoln Park were approved:

- (1) More funds for landscaping in the park.
- (2) Increase funding for cultural programming.
- (3) Increase funding for beaches so they can be fully staffed on Labor Day.
- (4) Finish the bike path to the north boundary (currently stops at Foster).
- (5) Finish the fencing near Margate Park lot along the Drive.
- (6) Ask what effect the proposed layoff of 300 Park District staffers will have on the park.

President's Report

Vickie sent out a letter on the Council's position on the Lincoln Park soccer construction. This letter is posted on the Council's website. Vickie will sort out the programming planning for the October, November and January meetings.

New Business

A letter was proposed to the Park District regarding the vacancy on the board. We feel it will be advantageous that the next park District Commissioner have a solid background in park stewardship, the environment or nature conservation. Vickie will draft the letter. Lynn Krohn moves this as a formal action by the Council. Seconded by Sheli Lulkin. Passed unanimously. Vickie will send the final draft of this letter to Mayor Daley with copies to Tim Mitchell, Gery Chico, the 5 lake front aldermen and all the members of the City Council Park & Recreation Committee.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Tresser
LPAC Secretary

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 8, 6:45pm at the Nature Museum.

LPAC Task Force Meeting - 8/13/08 - Draft Minutes

Before the actual meeting began there was discussion about the Park District Board meeting regarding the park council guidelines which were approved but not available for examination. The Park District Board approved them anyway with no discussion among the Board members. Fourteen of the seventeen councils involved in the original process supported the new guidelines.

Agenda item 1: Mission Statement

It was agreed that at most it should be one or two sentences and probably added to the by-laws in article one before the purpose. After much brainstorming the following was proposed:

Provide a forum to advocate for maintenance and improvement of quality usage of Lincoln Park.

This implies that we would need to convene a by-law committee to review and propose amendments to the by-laws. Jill Nilland would volunteer to chair this committee with the understanding that this may take some time to accomplish. This would have to be approved by the Board and the membership based on the provisions of the by-laws.

Agenda item 2: Membership Drive

Should we be promoting ourselves to the condos along the park? Should we be using the aldermen as sources of information for approaching the boards?

We discussed having some information at the up and coming Lincoln Park Art Fair and Cindy said that they may be able to find some space on a table there. Suggestions for about 500 flyers printed two up double sided with some promotional verbiage on one side and the application on the other. These could be used on multiple occasions.

If we have an Olympics Update meeting at Peggy Notebart in January, we would want to encourage LPAC membership sign-ups then. Ellen will talk to Vickie regarding an Olympics Update panel discussion.

Agenda item 3: Park Survey

There is currently no formal process or forms that the Park District uses to regularly survey parks and parkland. We propose that teams be assembled and assignments be given splitting the park into survey sections. Not only would we review those things that were to be addressed in the plan but also the current state of things in each section of the park. We would not be able to cover everything just as the original Framework Plan did not cover everything but we need to do our best to provide focus points for the future. Results would have to be compiled and summarized.

Agenda item 4: Olympics

We would propose that an Olympics Sub-Committee be formed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Isaacson