



October 13, 2010, 6:45 p.m.

Margate Park Fieldhouse

XX Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

Submitted by Betsy Altman, Secretary

**DRAFT**

**Program** precedes the formal meeting

Urban Wildlife Institute, Lincoln Park Zoo.

Steve Thompson, Senior VP for Education at LPZ at the zoo for 20 years and Eric Lansdorf, executive director of the Urban Wildlife Institute for 18 months and at the zoo since 2003.

The zoo has the largest conservation programs in the country with a large research staff. They handle reintroduction programs in the US from science side, not so much the actual reintroduction. They work with governmental organizations and Chicago Wilderness, too. They found a raccoon on the 35<sup>th</sup> floor of a construction site on Michigan Avenue that, when chased, ran upstairs and not down. This and other issues, inspired thinking about wildlife in urban areas. They have core funding for seven or more years. UWI uses corporate R&D principles mixed with academic approaches that are practical in terms of completing reviews. They work to understand why the wildlife is attracted to sites and what to do about it.

150 motion triggered cameras are being placed in key areas of Chicago and the surrounding area to study animal behavior. CPD approved this recently, seemingly without public input. UrbanCoyote .com (is this url correct?) s a website for the study of urban coyotes. About 450 collars have been placed on animals in Cook County with an estimated 2,000 animals.

UWI manages the renovation of South Pond, too. The algae got a head start because the pond was filled in the spring with exceptionally high water quality. There are no aerators, but bubblers instead that provide oxygen in the water. Water plants grew very fast and prairie plants are growing on schedule. Birds are spending longer times in the pond. Native fish are growing and spawning well. The Education staff observed the pond this summer and is designing a curriculum for programs next year. Landscape netting will be removed and was put down to protect the water plants and because the project was delayed because of the nesting of the Black crowned night herons.

#### **LPAC Meeting**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:56 pm, and the Agenda was moved and seconded, approved.

**2. Park District staff presentations**

Sandra Olson, the new Lakefront Director

Cindy Jahraus, Cultural Center Manager

Jennifer Bice, Margate Manager

Sandra Olson was absent having had knee surgery.

Cindy reported difficulties with changes in street closing for the art fair and the horrible weather on Saturday. Everything was great on Sunday. Programs are well attended. Teens are doing a Halloween program. Lots of other activities are being held. In the winter, they are starting a home schooling program. More tots movements classes are being offered in the evening. North lakefront garbage truck has been broken so garbage pickup is 10 days late. Lights between North and Armitage in the park have been out for over a month. REMINDER: send an email to any park staff when you see a problem.

Jennifer reported that her programs are well attended with additional room for participants. Jennifer continues to try new classes, one of which is origami. It is a free class in November.

**3. Park Liaison report**

Randi reported on the meeting. The IT systems integration project that was tabled in September was approved. It is likely a \$3 million contract. Harbor improvements include 1,000 slips at 31<sup>st</sup> St with a harbor building and \$50 million of improvements at Diversey and Belmont (star docks are being removed and longer docks will be built). Additionally, permanent winter boat storage is being built for \$600,000 at Montrose. These projects were not brought to LPAC for review.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

September minutes were approved. The minutes are posted on LPAC's website.

**5. Treasurer's report**

Chuck Goes reported \$673.65 with additional checks to deposit for \$700 total. Chuck sent dues notices to people who are members and may have missed paying their dues. Moved, accepted and passed.

**6. Standing Task Force**

No report.

**7. President's report**

Sheli submitted ideas for the CPD budget. November meeting

**8. New Business**

Volunteer awards at Friends of the Parks. Jill suggested staff and natural area stewards who work in Lincoln Park.

Aldermanic elections. With five wards bordering LP, there are too many candidates to interview. A suggestion was made to create a questionnaire at the November meeting.

**Speakers for future meetings:**

Marc Kramer will contact the Chicago Area Runners Association in hopes they can send a rep to talk to us about their interest in park maintenance.

Ellen will contact Sandy to see if we can get Permits to come and discuss the process and the clean-up afterward.

**9. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

**November Program—Lou Vasta will present a proposal for horse polo for North Avenue Beach, an international event the last week of September 2011, Margate Park**

**December Program—No meeting, enjoy the holidays**

**January Program—Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**

**February Program—Margate Park**

**March Program—Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**

**April Program—Margate Park**

**May Program—tour of the board walk at the South Pond**