

SPAC

Minutes of the Sauganash Park Advisory Council Meeting Thursday, January 21, 2010

Present:

Mary Rodriguez, *President*
Connie Dare, *Vice President*
MaryAnne Newman, *Secretary*
Vicki Panoutsos, *Treasurer*
Elizabeth McManus, *IT Coordinator*

Michelle H. Baldwin,
Sauganash Park Supervisor

Colleen Gallagher,
Area 4 Manager, North Region

Elaine Fitzgerald, *representing*
'Sauganash Community Association' and
"Sauganash Elementary Local School Council"

Erin Gauric
MaryBeth Jirgel
Don Kibort
Cathy Mullen
Mike Wojcik
Mary Jo Janezic
Dawn Papakyriacou
Gloria Anthis
Caroline Campani
Tara Welch
Jennifer Rupert
Excused Absences:
Cathy Mullen

I. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM.

II. Review and Approve Minutes

Amendments as follows:

Don Kibort's name does not have an 'L' in it.

There are 3 piano recitals per year.

Action list: Colleen Gallagher will put MaryBeth Jirgel in touch with the Independence Park Farmers Market Operators.

Mary Rodriguez motioned to accept the November 19, 2009 SPAC minutes as amended. Vicki Panoutsos seconded. Motion passed.

III. Piano Fundraising Initiative

Don Kibort is interested in heading up a SPAC subcommittee to raise funds for a new piano. He has \$4.00 in contributions already and is speaking to a lawyer about not-for-profit status. The SPAC will vote on this proposal at the March meeting.

Don Kibort would like his Piano Fundraising proposal to be distributed as part of the meeting minutes. He will email the electronic version of this document to MaryAnne Newman.

IV. SPAC Logo

Logo 3 was chosen with a line break alteration. MaryAnne Newman will make the alteration and send the finished logo to Elizabeth McManus for use on the website.

V. Updates

a. New Playground

Colleen Gallagher spoke with Sue Williamson about the fact that the park will be under construction during the 4th of July celebration. Elaine Fitzgerald reported that the SCA was investigating all of their options for the annual parade and party.

b. Park Partnerships

c. Farmers Market (2011)

MaryBeth Jirgel spoke at length with Pat Clark, who runs the Independence Park Farmer's Market. The CPD waved their 96,000.00 charges this past summer. Colleen Gallagher advised us not to expect any charges to be waved for Independence Park or Sauganash Park in the future.

MaryBeth is investigating the possibility of holding 1 or 2 market days in the fall of 2010 to 'test the waters.'

Colleen informed us that this would be a subcommittee of the PAC and would need to be in a park partnership. She told us we would be responsible for all of the garbage and security. Colleen advised us that we would not get any cost estimate whatsoever from the Park District in regards to what they would charge for the use of space.

d. Supervisor's Update

Michelle H. Baldwin, Sauganash Park Supervisor, reported the following:

The schedule has been submitted for the spring session.

Valerie Cassidy will be back to 4 days at Sauganash Park in the spring session, 5 days in the summer session and (hopefully) 5 days in the fall session. Many thanks to Michelle and Colleen's efforts on this, as well as the petitions circulated throughout the community last summer.

Michelle has rescheduled the January Soccer tournament to March 13-14 weekend. Signups were slim for the January event due to the late notice and poor publicity.

The CPD is trying to recapture teens. There is a Teen Dance on February 11th at Brands Park. There are 13-14 parks sending teens and staff to the event. Michelle is chaperoning. Interested 12 to 16-year-olds must sign up at Sauganash Park. \$5.00 fee.

VI. Upcoming events

a. Family Fun Nights

Family Fun Nights are scheduled for the third Friday of each month as follows: February 19, March 19, April 16, and May 21. Colleen advised that the PAC must be in a park partnership for these to occur. The PAC must get paperwork in ASAP. Michelle advised that there was no application to fill out but that the PAC must submit a letter to request this park partnership.

MaryAnne Newman suggested that the hours be extended to 6-9 pm in the hope that families with young children would come earlier and leave earlier, freeing up gym space for the older children.

Mary Rodriguez suggested moving the young children with scooters or ride-on toys to the auditorium to avoid over-crowding in the gym. Michelle Baldwin was concerned about damaging the floors in the auditorium.

b. Open Gym during school holidays & breaks

The park will have shortened hours over the upcoming school holidays.

c. Citywide Tournaments

VII. New Business

Dodgeball

Approximately 30 local teens are traveling to Niles to play in a Saturday evening dodgeball tournament sponsored by the Niles Park District. They are paying 50.00 per person for an 8 week session. The suggestion was made to recapture this lost money (\$1,500.00 total) for the Chicago Park District by creating a dodgeball tournament in Sauganash park. This would also support the Park Districts goal of 'recapturing teens.'

Currently the park is closed on Saturday at 4:00 pm. Michelle says she doesn't have the staff to keep the park open later. Friday evenings the gym is used for either men's basketball or Family Fun Night.

A suggestion was made to use the gym on Fridays during 'break weeks' without scheduled classes.

If the PAC were to sponsor this type of event chaperones would be required that would need volunteer forms on file with the park district.

Teen Game Night

Since the gym is not available for teens on Fridays and Saturdays, a suggestion was made to hold teen game nights in the auditorium on select Friday evenings. Colleen advised that the PAC could submit a partnership proposal for this event, It would require adult supervision.

Summer Programs

The only camp or class offered for younger children from June, when Spring Session ends, through late September, when Fall Session begins, is Jay's three day a week camp for 4-5 year olds. This lasts for only three weeks (9 days total). Given that the playground will be unavailable the entire summer, a gap exists for this age group.

There is a window of 5-7 weeks in August and September before Fall Session begins.

Colleen advised that junior counselors are no longer available beyond the 6 week camp session. Michelle stated that the week long session of volleyball, basketball, and flag football for older children would be offered again in August as they were a big success.

A request was made for camps or classes be offered for the younger age group, post day camp which usually ends the first week of August. The volleyball, basketball, and flag football camps are not full day camps, could classes could be added at that time?

Ideas Going Forward

Colleen said she would bring in examples of things that other more seasoned PACs have accomplished at the next meeting. She then revised this statement, instructing the SPAC to attend other parks PAC meetings to gather ideas. Michelle and Colleen recommended Horner, Hamlin, Field, Wells and Independence Parks as having very good Park Advisory Committees (PACs).

The meeting ended at 9:11 PM.

Next SPAC meeting: Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. at Sauganash Park

SPAC Action List

Things to address ASAP or before the next SPAC meeting.

Michelle H. Baldwin Michelle will provide information to the community about the March 13th-14th soccer tournament weekend.

Michelle H. Baldwin Michelle will put together a room usage schedule for the various park facilities so that the possibility of open gym time, etc on school holidays can be investigated.

Elizabeth McManus Elizabeth has the money for a website and will start the process by designing the web page.

Elizabeth will develop a mailing list as part of the SPAC website. All emails sent by the SPAC will contain a notice at the bottom of the email detailing how to unsubscribe from the list.

MaryAnne Newman MaryAnne will send the finished logo to Elizabeth McManus for use on the website.

Mary Rodriguez Mary will submit a letter to request park partnership to continue the Family Fun Night.

Don Kibort Don Kibort will email the electronic version of his Piano Fundraising proposal to MaryAnne Newman to be distributed as part of the SPAC meeting minutes.

Future Action List

Things on the radar, but we are not ready to move on them yet.

Michelle Baldwin Michelle will send out an email to her list of all of the people that sign-up for Sauganash Park classes detailing how to subscribe to the SPAC email list.

Mary Rodriguez/TBD The Sauganash Community Association and the ESAA will be asked to send an email to their lists detailing how to subscribe to the SPAC email list.
