

# SPAC

## Minutes of the Sauganash Park Advisory Council Meeting Thursday, July 16, 2009

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**Present:**

Mary Rodriguez, *President*  
MaryAnne Newman, *Secretary*  
Vicki Panoutsos, *Treasurer*

Michelle H. Baldwin,  
*Sauganash Park Supervisor*  
Colleen Gallagher,  
*Area 4 Manager, North Region*

Cathy Mullen

Robin Dawson, *representing*  
*'Sauganash Neighbors for a New Park'*

**Excused Absences:**

Connie Dare, *Vice President*  
Elizabeth McManus, *IT Coordinator*  
Erin Gauric

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### I. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

### I. Review and Approve May Minutes

Robin Dawson motioned to accept the March 26, 2009 SPAC minutes as published.  
Colleen Gallagher seconded. Motion passed.

### III. Update from Sauganash Neighbors for a New Playground

Robin Dawson, 'Sauganash Neighbors for a New Park' representative,  
reported the following:

#### **Fundraising**

The playground renovations are fully funded! State Representative John D'Amico put the remaining monies needed for the playground into his budget and it was approved.

Other fundraising in the works are as follows:

- Selling concessions at the September movie night.
- Bricks are still available.

#### **Playground Design**

Initial new playground designs look great. Michael Lange, Sauganash Park playground Project Manager, is working with the committee to finalize the plan.

The hope is to demo the old park this coming April and have a new park finished by July 2010. This timeline will be dependent on good weather.

### IV. Website update/Treasurer's Report

Looking for a \$10-15.00 donation per member given directly to Elizabeth to fund the SPAC website start-up costs of approximately \$80.00. We may also ask the 'Sauganash Neighbors for a New Park' if we can help with concessions at the September movie night in return for funding for our website.

The SPAC Treasurer will need to fill out a CPD Volunteer Application, as well as anyone collecting money for the *'Sauganash Neighbors for a New Park'*. You can find the application here: <http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/volunteer.home.cfm>. or simply go to [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com) and click on 'Volunteering.'

Per Michelle Baldwin, the lead time on the Volunteer Approval Process is three weeks.

No one has asked us to hold up any activities for this approval, they have simply requested that we start the process as directed.

Per Colleen Gallagher, when the Park District speaks of Sauganash Park being close to 'breaking even' because of high class participation they are only addressing employee salaries. All other expenses at the park (ie: heat, electricity, building & grounds maintenance, landscaping/lawn maintenance, janitorial/management salaries, etc.) are completely in excess of the funding brought in by park classes.

## **V. Preliminary 2010 Park District Budget Hearings**

The budget hearings have been moved up to Tuesday, July 21, at 6:00 P.M. at McFettridge Park. Michelle and Colleen would like us to send SPAC representatives to advocate for yoga classes, request fitness center status and request more music classes during the open discussion portion of the meeting.

## **VI. SPAC Partnerships with Sauganash Park**

## **VII. Supervisor's Update**

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

### **Fall 2009**

The Fall 2009 schedule has been submitted to the Park District but was not available for review. Program information is available for viewing online on Monday, August 3. Online registration begins on Monday, August 17 at 9 A.M. The program sessions runs the weeks of Monday, September 21 through Sunday, December 6.

Last fall there were 62 classes/programs at Sauganash Park posted online. This fall there are 80 posted.

### **Park Staff Reduction in Hours**

More than 300 signatures were collected to keep Valerie Cassidy at Sauganash Park on a full time basis. Petitions were circulated and submitted by more than one group. Unfortunately, the Chicago Park District budget cannot accommodate our request at this time. Valerie is now assigned to Olympia Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Valerie Cassidy's reduction in hours will be covered by the following means. Asher will handle Tuesday and Thursday afternoon courses. He was team teaching with Valerie in the past, now he will handle the courses on his own. Valerie will have a heavier course load during the time she is scheduled at Sauganash Park.

Michelle Baldwin is now full time at Sauganash Park. She is no longer splitting her time between other parks and Sauganash Park.

### **Workout Room**

The workout room is closed due to flood damage. No timeline was given on it's reopening.

### **Open Gym**

The gym will be open on Saturdays from 10:00 to 3:00 and on Sundays from 10:30 to 1:30 now through the second week in September. Parental supervision is required.

### **Family Fun Nights**

The three family fun nights are scheduled from 7 to 9 P.M. in the months of October, November and December. Specific dates were not available. The price per family will be 5.00 to 10.00 for each event, Michelle didn't remember.

Park District Supervisor, Gary Chico, wants to quantify how many people use the parks by requiring registration. This is done with prepaid, online registration.

### **Misc.**

#### **Garbage Can**

Michelle reports that a garbage can was placed by the north baseball diamond as requested but that it was continuously moved back by staff as it was emptied. Parents of children playing games at this diamond never saw a garbage can there.

#### **Sauganash Woman's Club**

Michelle reports that their approval to continue to use the park for meetings, events, etc. was progressing.

## **VIII. Additional discussion**

### **Movies in the Park**

Tuesday, September 1st, Coraline

The \$1,000.00 cost for this was sponsored by ESAA.

'Sauganash Neighbors for a New Park' will sell concessions at this events.

### **The Chicago Fire is coming to Horner Park in August**

This 4 hour event includes activities such as inflatables, a tasting station, soccer clinics, meet the players, etc. Flyers will be available at Sauganash Park.

### **Complaint Handling**

Please bring any concerns or complaints to Michelle Baldwin's attention immediately so she can address (and hopefully rectify them) as soon as possible.

The meeting ended at 8:37 PM.

**Next SPAC meeting: Thursday, September 17, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. at Sauganash Park**

# SPAC Action List

Things to address ASAP or before the next SPAC meeting.

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<b>Vicki Panoutsos</b>	Per our PAC bylaws, the SPAC Treasurer needs to fill out a CPD Volunteer Application (available online) if she is working with money. The PDF file of this form has been emailed to Vicki.
<b>Everyone</b>	CPD will have budget hearings in July. It was suggested again that we send a group of neighbors to lobby for our park.
<b>Everyone</b>	The SPAC is looking for a 10-15.00 donation per member, given directly to Elizabeth, to fund the SPAC website start-up costs of approximately 80.00.
<b>Elizabeth McManus</b>	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.

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## Future Action List

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

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<b>Michelle Baldwin</b>	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.
<b>Mary Rodriguez/TBD</b>	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.

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