

# SPAC

## Sauganash Park Advisory Council Meeting Thursday, March 26, 2009

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**Present:**

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

Chris Cole  
Maureen Pikarski  
Peggy Sue Riordan

Melissa McManamy, *representing*  
*'Sauganash Neighbors for a New Park'*

*Excused Absences:* none

Michelle H. Baldwin,  
*Sauganash Park Supervisor*

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### I. Welcome/Introductions

### II. Elections

Officers were elected as noted above. All ran unopposed.

### III. By-Laws

By-Laws were written, Connie Dare moved to accept them, Melissa McManamy seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

### IV. Membership Dues

Membership was set at a suggested donation of 10.00 per year. Organization memberships are welcome. Membership fees will fund the website and office related expenses. Vicki Pantousos will look into opening a bank account and establishing not-profit status. Parkways.org will be considered.

### V. Meeting Dates

It was determined that General meetings will be the third Thursday of every other month. This would put the next meeting on May 21st, but since that is Memorial Day weekend, we are postponing it one week to May 28th. The rest of the year's schedule will be: July 16, September 17, & November 19, 2009.

### VI. Park Update

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

#### **Spring classes start March 30th**

There is a waiting list three pages long for classes. Piano/Music and early childhood/sports classes are the most sought after. There is only room for 5 slots per half hour in piano. Michelle is looking at how/where she can fit in additional classes in the future. The CPD is analyzing class schedules across the region.

Michelle has put together a 4-week-long co-ed evening Volleyball Clinic for 10-12 year olds. It is 20.00 from April 30th to May 21st. Flyers are available at the park.

Michelle is exploring the possibility of walking groups during early childhood classes.

### **Family Nights**

Family nights are scheduled for Thursday nights, April 2, 9, 16 & 23 from 6-9pm.

This will feature an open gym. Families can bring board games and pizza, etc to enjoy in the Auditorium. If anyone would like to donate board games to the park it would be appreciated.

Friday nights have a year-round men's basketball league.

### **Summer classes**

Online viewing April 6, online registration April 20.

Day camp fees went up across the city. Ours will be \$350.00, which averages out to \$2.00 per hour. It will run from 9:30-3:30, June 22-July 31 and holds about 160 kids, ages 6-12. The ratio of adults to kids is 1/20. There will be a separate sports camp from 3:30 to 5:00pm.

100% of camp openings will be available for online sign-ups.

The 4-5 year old camps run the last three weeks of July. They are 100.00 and are Monday, Wednesday & Thursday mornings. This schedule is such because, in the past, many children were missing Fridays to go out of town for the weekend.

### **Tennis Camp in June**

1.5 hour classes, 3 weeks long, free.

2 different age groups, sign up will be on-line.

### **Sports Camps in August**

#### **Volleyball co-ed sports camp, 1 week for 50.00**

10-12am for 8-10 year-olds

1-3 pm for 10-13 year-olds

Taught by Michelle Baldwin

#### **Basketball co-ed sports camp, 1 week for 50.00**

Similar times and age groups as volleyball

#### **Flag Football co-ed sports camp, 1 week for 50.00**

Similar times as volleyball, just the 8-10 year-old age group

### **Movies in the park**

Thursday, June 18th, Hotel for Dogs

Thursday, September 3rd, title TBD

It was recommended that 'Sauganash Neighbors for a New Park' plan to sell concessions at these events as a fundraiser.

### **Fall 2009**

Fall 2009 schedule will be put together within the next month.

CPD will have budget hearings in September. It was suggested that we send a group of neighbors to lobby for our park.

### **Additional CPD information**

The CPD currently has a 28 million dollar budget shortfall. Some of this is due to money that did not come through from the state.

7.1% of our property taxes go to the Chicago Park District, but this includes funding Buckingham Fountain, the museums, etc.

Sauganash is one of the only parks that has 2 full time course instructors. Most parks share more (or all) personnel. We have more staff because Sauganash's courses fill up. Michelle is very attentive to this, she does not want to lose any staff.

The CPD is trying to standardize prices citywide for both class and park rental fees.

#### **Sauganash park currently charges:**

85.00 per hour to rent the auditorium

90.00 per hour to rent the gym

Non-profit groups are charged only half of these fees.

Groups can apply for a partnership with the CPD to reduce (or possibly eliminate?) these fees. The Sauganash Women's Association and the Fourth of July Parade Committee are currently applying for partnership status. Eligibility is decided by the Chicago Park District management, not Michelle Baldwin.

### **Cleanup/Gardening**

Earth day is Saturday, April 18th. Volunteer groups work from 9-12 to clean up the park and surrounding areas. We need to register with 'Friends of the Parks' to have supplies dropped off. Peggy Sue Riordan will handle this at fotp.org.

Clean 'n Green day is April 25th. Michelle Baldwin will be out of town.

Michelle loves to garden. She has many ideas for improving Sauganash Park as she did Edison Park. Peggy Sue Riordan will register as an eligible organization with Greencorps to receive free plant materials. The next Greencorp plant give away will be annuals at the end of June, and then perennials in the fall.

## **VII. Website**

Domain name will be sauganashpac.com. It will cost 8.00 per year for the domain name and 40.00 per year to host the site. Elizabeth will link to the CPD site, the Sauganash Neighbors for a New Park site and other relevant neighborhood web presence. Our email address will be contact@sauganashpac.com.

Michelle will take down the facebook page and eliminate the temporary email address she created for us to avoid confusion.

## **IX. Survey**

The board feels very strongly about the importance of surveying the residents who use the park to see how the park can better meet their needs. Connie Dare will look into Survey-monkey.com to handle this online.

## **X. Questions/Comments**

All discussions were covered in Park Update section.