



Minutes of the Sauganash Park Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday, March 25, 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

Cara Jones, *representing*
'Sauganash Neighbors for a New Park'

Sue Williamson, *representing*
'Sauganash Community Association'

Vicki Colla
Sandra Estrada
Erin Gavric
Ursula Hourihane
MaryBeth Jirgel
Don Kibort
Joan Lentino
Dan Luna
Cathy Mullen

Excused Absences:

none

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 PM.

I. Review and Approve Minutes

Mary Rodriguez motioned to accept the January 21, 2010 SPAC minutes as submitted. Elizabeth McManus seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Reports/updates:

a. Farmer's Market

MaryBeth Jirgel

MaryBeth may team up on this with someone from Edgebrook. They are exploring working with the Sauganash Chamber of Commerce at a different site to bypass the difficulties of working with the Chicago Park District

The first market is planned for mid to late September and the second around Halloween to gauge community response. They are considering featuring meat as well as produce.

b. SPAC Finances

Vicki Panoutsos, SPAC Treasurer

The SPAC Made 118.29 at the soccer tournament concession sales. The best sellers were skittles and fruit rollups.

Mary Rodriguez suggested buying lunch for the park staff to show SPAC appreciation for the work involved in throwing the tournament. Michelle Baldwin and Colleen Gallagher strongly asserted that this would be 'illegal.' They stood corrected to the fact that \$50.00 would be the maximum allowance that could be put toward this endeavor. The SPAC enthusiastically supported Mary's suggestion.

The SPAC plans to do more concession stand sales in the future at tournament & T-ball/softball games.

c. SPAC website

Elizabeth McManus, SPAC IT coordinator

Elizabeth said suggestions for improving the website are welcome.

d. CPD Partnership Requests

MaryAnne Newman, SPAC Secretary, reported the following:

1. Family Fun Night

The February 19th Family Fun Night was very warmly received by the community. It was extremely well attended, especially considering the fact that the SPAC did not receive CPD approval on the Partnership Agreement until 48 hours before the event.

Michelle Baldwin suggested that we create more structure with a schedule of planned activities throughout the night, and ask more of the fathers to join their children in the gym rather than visiting with each other.

Vicki Colla inquired about the intent of the event. Various SPAC members explained that the intent of the evening was exactly what was agreed to in the Family Fun Night Partnership, participants using the gym, without organized activities.

Future Family fun nights are scheduled for April 16, and May 21, continuing throughout the year on the third Friday of each month.

2. Craft Night

A Craft Night Partnership Proposal for a standing Monday evening BYO craft night in the auditorium was submitted on March 11, 2010. There has been no response to date.

Michelle advised that the floor in the auditorium will be repaired in May.

3. Neighborhood in Bloom

A Neighborhood in Bloom Partnership Proposal detailing a method in which local residents would be encouraged to contribute to the landscaping efforts Sauganash Park (via supplied plants and labor) was submitted on March 11, 2010. MaryAnne Newman worked closely with Sauganash Park Supervisor, Michelle Baldwin, to determine the details of the wants and needs of the park before the proposal was submitted. There has been no response to date.

Alderman Laurino's office has helped in securing hand trowels and watering cans from Greencorps Chicago to be used in this program.

Colleen Gallagher advised this evening the partnership was on the wrong form and could not be reviewed.

4. Big Band Partnership

Don Kibort informed the SPAC that the Big Band that practices in the auditorium on Wednesday nights has requested a Partnership with the CPD to use the room at no cost.

The CPD Partnership process

Submitted Partnership proposals flow thorough the CPD from Michelle Baldwin to Colleen Gallagher to Patrick Townsend and then to 'Park Services' for review and approval.

e. Sauganash Neighbors for a New Park

Cara Jones, Subcommittee Chairperson, reported the following:

The committee has everything they need except for the money promised by the State of Illinois. Cara has been told that the necessary bonds have been sold but that it “hasn’t hit the books yet.” We should have the money released to us as soon as that happens. In the past, the city would have moved ahead once the funding was promised, but not in this climate.

The project went out to bid last week. The bid process takes 3-4 weeks. Rough schedule: Demolition in May, Completion in August. Worst case scenario: the project is pushed back one year.

Vicki Colla adviser that projects like this are often bundled together when put out to bid. If our funding comes through, but other projects in the same bundle do not, it could adversely affect our timeline.

f. Sauganash Community Association

Sue Williamson, Sauganash Community Association President, reported the following:

The SCA is planning on holding the annual July fourth parade on Monday, July 5th.

They would like to sponsor a movie night at the park as part of their partnership. Sue requested a movie on July 2nd.

g. Sauganash Women’s Club

The Sauganash Women’s Club partnership is valid through June 2010

h. Park Supervisors Report

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

The schedule has been submitted for the summer session. There will be a football camp and a mini gymnastics camp. There will also be a moms and tots camp schedule from 1-2:30 pm for 18-36 month old kids. Various members of the SPAC pointed out that this was nap time for most children of this age. Michelle thought that the class would fill up anyway.

The Sauganash Park Movie night is Friday, June 18th. Movie is TBD.

Valerie Cassidy will be back to 5 days in the summer session and 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 Baldwin and Colleen Gallagher advised that they are working with the CPD Marketing Department to create a survey on Survey Monkey.

III. Nominations and Elections

Cathy Mullen nominated all members of the SPAC to the offices they currently hold to keep continuity in building our still new Advisory Council. MaryBeth Jirgel Seconded.

No other nominations were submitted.

Elections were held, with all officers retaining their positions.

IV. Unfinished Business

a. Follow-up to Mrs. Gavric’s email on January 25, 2010

Erin Gavric suggested adding summer classes for 4-5 year olds. The only camp or class offered for these children from June, when Spring Session ends, through late Septem-

ber, 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.

She suggested putting them in the window of 5-7 weeks in August and September before Fall Session begins.

A second 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, classes could be added at this time. (To clarify, this was first requested in January of 2010.)

Michelle Baldwin told the SPAC she was 'still considering the suggestion' though earlier in the meeting she said the summer schedule had already been submitted.

Michelle also advised that many members of the park staff take vacation time and use their 8 furlough days in August.

b. Teen initiative

The CPD is trying to recapture teens. There was a Teen Dance on February 11th at Brands Park. There will be another teen dance at Sauganash Park on Friday, May 7th with a juice bar targeted at 12-16 year olds.

c. Vote on piano fundraising initiative

Don Kibort was appointed Chairperson of the Piano Fundraising SPAC Subcommittee.

c. Soccer Tournament

Cathy Mullen stepped in to rescue the March 13-14 Soccer tournament. Sign-ups were slim for the event due to poor publicity and an intentionally cumbersome registration process. With Cathy's help a successful tournament was held.

V. New Business

a. Friends of the Parks – March 27th meeting

Mary Rodriguez will be attending this meeting.

b. Earth Day – April 17th

The community Park Clean-up Day with Alderman Laurino

c. Friday Night Leagues

The SPAC requested (again) that Teen Dodgeball be put on the schedule on Friday evenings instead of Men's basketball. Men play basketball in the gym three evenings a week while teens are underserved in the Chicago Park District (see IVb). The SPAC pointed out that this programming change would better utilize the park's facilities, address the underserved teen demographic and bring more money in to the under-budgeted Chicago Park District.

Colleen Gallagher advised that we should 'put this topic on the agenda,' even though it has now been on the agenda and discussed at both the January 2010 SPAC meeting and the March 2010 SPAC meeting. The SPAC advised that we would like to see it on the park schedule, rather than on the SPAC agenda.

d. FOIA Requests

Colleen Gallagher is very concerned that the SPAC has made some Freedom of Information Act requests (FIOAs). She explained that the Chicago Park District had to send personnel out to Sauganash Park to help Michelle Baldwin determine: 1. How many people

were signed up for each Winter 2010 Session class, 2. How much money Sauganash park brought in for the Winter and Spring Session classes, 3. The zip codes of the children who were registered for last summer's Day Camp, and 4. Room rental records from Oct. 2009–Feb. 2010. Please note the some of these requests were filed more than once, as erroneous information was supplied.

Mary explained the reasons for making the FOIA requests were to know the base starting numbers. The SPAC intends to increase attendance and revenue over the next year, as some of the PAC ideas are implemented. Mary explained to Colleen that under Illinois law, citizens may review and obtain copies of public records.

Colleen Gallagher told the SPAC that if we keep filing FOIA requests it would affect programming in our park because Michelle Baldwin's time would be completely monopolized answering these (apparently) difficult questions. Colleen also asked if the SPAC wanted the distinction of being the only park on the north side to ever make a FOIA request?

Vicki Colla inquired as to why these questions needed to be a FOIA request. She wondered why Michelle wouldn't provide this information freely when asked by the SPAC. Colleen Gallagher and Michelle Baldwin stated that that this was not allowed as it was not public information. Vicki Colla said she would look into this matter. Colleen Gallagher also stated that that it would be illegal to release zip code information because of HIPAA regulations.

d. Graffiti in the Parks

This topic was tabled until the next meeting.

d. Community Garden

Sandra Estrada's & Justina (last name unknown)'s community garden was given full approval by Colleen Gallagher. A few moments later Colleen revised that approval to the ornamental portion of the garden only.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 PM.

Next SPAC meeting: Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 7:00p.m. at Sauganash Park

SPAC Action List

Things to address ASAP or before the next SPAC meeting.

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 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.

Michelle Baldwin
Colleen Gallagher Michelle and Colleen are working with the CPD Marketing Department to create a survey on Survey Monkey.

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.
