

SPAC

Minutes of the Sauganash Park Advisory Council Meeting Thursday, May 28, 2009

Present:

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

Michelle H. Baldwin,
Sauganash Park Supervisor

Renée Bennett
Erin Gauric
Cathy Mullen

Joan Lentino, *representing*
'The Sauganash Woman's Club'

Sue Williamson, *representing*
'Sauganash Community Association'

Karen Fallows, *representing*
'Sauganash Neighbors for a New Park'

Excused Absences: none

I. Welcome/Introductions

Michelle Baldwin, Sauganash Park Supervisor, made note that some of the times, dates and pricing of the proposed summer schedule changed slightly between the March SPAC meeting and the official schedule posting.

Cathy Mullen motioned to accept the March 26, 2009 SPAC minutes as amended.
Connie Dare seconded. Motion passed.

II. Update from Sauganash Neighbors for a New Playground

Karen Fallows, 'Sauganash Neighbors for a New Park' representative, reported the following:

Playground Design

'Sauganash Neighbors for a New Park' recently held an open meeting to discuss possibilities for the new playground design. Michael Lange, Sauganash park playground project manager, was present. The group favored a spider type climbing structure that is distinct from the standard issue park designs.

There will be two different play areas. One geared towards 2-5 year-olds, the other toward 5-12 year-olds. The playground will also include some swings.

There will be a June meeting at which Michael Lange will present the initial ideas designed to fit the existing space at Sauganash Park.

Fundraising

State Representative John D'Amico has put the remaining 75,000.00 needed for the playground into his budget. It is awaiting state approval.

The group is also exploring grants and corporate donations.

Other fundraising in the works are as follows:

- Selling concessions at both movie nights.
- Another Wee Hairy Beasties/Concert in the Park event like last year's. Scheduling conflicts with the band still need to be resolved.

III. Family Fun Nights – April 2009/Fall 2009

There wasn't a big turnout for the April Family Fun nights but there was clearly interest shown. The group felt the low turnout in April was due to the event being scheduled on a school night. Michelle will be putting more nights on the calendar in the fall. She is considering scheduling one a month on Friday nights.

Families will need to register on-line in advance for Family Fun Night and pay a fee. "Nothing is free [at the Chicago Park District] anymore."

Park Clean-Up Days– April 18 & 25, 2009

Both the park and neighborhood clean up days had a nice turnout of about 20 people volunteering their time.

Michelle Baldwin was informed that the park needs a garbage can near the north baseball diamond, "Diamond 2," to address litter issues during and after ball games.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Parkways.org cannot assist us with banking our monies because we do not have a specific goal for the funds.

The IRS recommended a non-interest bearing account.

Michele Baldwin stated that the SPAC Treasurer will need to fill out a CPD Volunteer Application. This will include being fingerprinted and having a background check.

Michelle will look into whether anyone else on the SPAC board will need to do this and find out the lead time on the Volunteer Approval Process.

V. Website update/email distribution list

SPAC needs to develop an email distribution list. Currently we are using Cathy Mullen's Soccer Camp email list, forwarding email on to friends who may not be on the list.

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

Michelle cannot supply us with email addresses due to CPD confidentiality procedures, but she will send an email to all of the people that sign-up for Sauganash Park classes detailing how to subscribe to the SPAC email list.

The Sauganash Community Association and the ESAA will be asked to do the same.

VI. Supervisor's Update

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

Personnel Change

Valerie Cassidy

Full time Sauganash Park teacher, Valerie Cassidy, will be split between two parks starting this fall. She will be posted at Olympia Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Michelle stated that "Olympia Park has no-one there." She also said that there is a CPD hiring freeze on, (since February according to the Chicago Tribune). Michelle says that people all around the city have been promoted out of these types of positions.

The SPAC asked Michelle what could be done to support her desire to keep Valerie full time at Sauganash Park. Michelle reported that she was aware of a petition circulated to try and keep Valerie at Sauganash Park full time. Michelle also suggested contacting her boss, Colleen Gallagher, by email at colleen.gallagher@chicagoparkdistrict.com, or by phone (773-478-2031) to register any concerns about losing Valerie Cassidy's services.

Michelle Baldwin

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

Spring Volleyball Clinic for 10-12 year olds

This new event went over really well. 25 kids signed up. Thanks Michelle!

Summer classes

Most of the summer classes filled immediately. A few sports camps have a couple of spots still available, as does the Day Camp for 6-12 year-olds.

Michelle Baldwin plans to offer open gym time during the summer. The schedule for this is still TBD.

Movies in the Park

Thursday, June 18th; Hotel for Dogs
The cost for this was covered by the city.

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 these events.

Fall 2009

The Fall 2009 schedule will be put together in early June.

Michelle says her boss, Colleen Gallagher, is pushing for a yoga class.

Michelle will 'probably' teach a volleyball class herself in an after school time slot on Tuesday afternoons.

Michelle will try to add classes or up the number of students in existing classes.

Michelle is looking into art or scrapbooking classes, and a Senior Club that might include: cards, knitting clubs, book clubs, etc. She will need to decide how to structure payment for this. When she started Senior Clubs in the past at other parks, it was free. Now Michelle will need to charge for these services.

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

VII. Review survey results

Michelle was surprised at the criticism of the Day Camp, since surveys submitted by those who participated last year didn't mention any of these concerns. The feedback at that time was very positive.

Michelle is considering adding art or yoga or other classes as detailed above, but had no details as of yet.

VIII. Review upcoming calendar

- Open gym times during break weeks
- Open gym in summer
- Fall schedule

These topics were discussed under Michelle H. Baldwin's 'Supervisor's Update' but no specific information was available at this time.

Next SPAC meeting: Thursday, July 16, 2009 at 7:00p.m. at Sauganash Park

SPAC Action List

Things to address ASAP or before the next SPAC meeting.

Everyone	Michelle suggested contacting her boss, Colleen Gallagher, by phone (773-478-2031) or email (colleen.gallagher@chicagoparkdistrict.com) to register any concerns about losing Valerie Cassidy's full time position at our park.
Michelle Baldwin	The park needs a garbage can near the north baseball diamond, "Diamond 2," to address litter issues during and after ball games.
Vicki Pantousos	Per our PAC bylaws, the SPAC Treasurer needs to fill out a CPD Volunteer Application (available online) if she is working with money.
Michelle Baldwin	Michelle will look into whether anyone else on the SPAC board will need to fill out a CPD Volunteer Application.
Michelle Baldwin	Michelle will find out the lead time on the Volunteer Approval Process.
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	Michelle Baldwin plans to offer open gym time during the summer. The schedule for this is still TBD.

Future Action List

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

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