



Minutes of the Sauganash Park Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday, May 20, 2010

Present:

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

Elaine Fitzgerald

Ashor Samano

Excused Absences:

Cathy Mullen

Colleen Gallagher,
Area 4 Manager, North Region
Cara Jones, *representing*
'Sauganash Neighbors for a New Park'
Sue Williamson, *representing*
'Sauganash Community Association'

Meeting called to order at 7:06PM.

I. Election Results

Elections were held at the March meeting, with all officers retaining their positions.

II. Review and Approve Minutes

The minutes from the March SPAC meeting were accepted without comment.

III. Reports/updates:

a. SPAC Finances

Vicki Panoutsos, SPAC Treasurer, reported the following:

\$156.86 was spent stocking the SPAC concession stands to be operated during T-ball/softball/baseball games. These will be operated with the help of 7th and 8th graders fulfilling their school service hours requirements.

b. Piano Fundraising Committee

No report

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. Craft Night Partnership

The Craft Night Partnership Proposal was approved with modifications.

Craft Night will be held two Monday evenings a month from 5:30 to 8:30 PM in the Sauganash Park Auditorium or Craft room. Crafters may sew, knit, scrapbook, stamp or do whatever creative activity they enjoy in the company of other crafters. They will provide all needed materials themselves. All Craft Night participants will be 18 or over, or accompanied by a parent. Craft Night is targeted to draw in neighborhood adult & senior women, demographics currently underserved by Sauganash Park.

2. Game Night Partnership

A Game Night Partnership Proposal was submitted on May 13, 2010.

Game Night participants would use the auditorium, supplying their own board games and/or cards. Game nights are scheduled the fourth Friday of each month beginning in June 2010 from 6-9 PM.

There has been no response to date. Patrick Townsend will do his best to make sure we have a response in early June, so we can organize this event in a timely manner.

3. Neighborhood in Bloom Partnership

This program has been dropped due to the withdrawal of cooperation from the Sauganash Park personnel.

Alderman Laurino's office helped in securing hand trowels and watering cans from Greencorps Chicago to be used in this program. She also sent a check for \$50.00 to support our efforts.

The SPAC will considered transferring these garden tools to the Community Garden program, with Greencorps Chicago's approval, but it appears that this program has also been altered from its original scope and purpose.

The SPAC expresses regret that there were two groups of community members eager to take on Sauganash Park landscaping projects at no cost to the Chicago Park District, but their efforts have been prevented due to the slow response and lack of cooperation from Park District personnel.

The check will be returned to Alderman Laurino's office with an explanation as to why it is no longer needed as well as our thanks for her generous support.

4. Big Band Partnership

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. It was submitted on March 25, 2010. There has been no response to date.

e. Sauganash Neighbors for a New Park

Cara Jones, Subcommittee Chairperson, reported the following:

Rough schedule: Demolition in late May or early June, Completion in 90-120 days, weather dependent. Construction equipment will be stored behind the building. The rims will be removed from the outdoor basketball nets to allow equipment access to the playground.

Colleen Gallagher advised that this project has been bundled together with the Eugene Field Park playground.

f. Sauganash Community Association

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

The SCA is holding the annual July fourth parade on Sunday, July 4th. They may push the parade start time back one hour to 10:30 to accommodate those who attend church services.

The SCA is sponsoring a movie night at the park on Saturday, July 31st. The movie will be "Something's Got to Give," rated PG13. The SCA invited the SPAC to run a concession stand during the movie. [FYI: The movie was changed to Monsters Vs. Aliens sometime after the meeting.]

g. Other community representatives

The Sauganash School addition will begin as soon as classes end this June. Construction fencing has already been installed.

h. Park Supervisors Report

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

No report.

Michelle previously informed SPAC members that the Sauganash Park Movie night was changed to Saturday, June 19th. The movie is "Planet 51." The May Teen Dance was moved to a night in June.

IV. Unfinished Business

None.

V. New Business

a. Graffiti and Vandalism Prevention

There has been a recent increase in vandalism at Sauganash Park. It is believed that gang members from outside the area are frequenting the park and causing damage.

Security camera

Cara Jones has been assured by Alderman Laurino's office that a park security camera can be installed if it has the approval of the area residents. The SPAC gave Cara it's full approval to proceed. Sue Williamson will determine the SCA position on this matter.

Tennis courts

One of the two tennis courts had a padlock installed recently. Area residents expressed surprise and disappointment to having their access restricted. CPD staff explained it was done to prevent dog feces left on the courts, skateboarding on the courts and as a reaction to vandalism in our park. The lock has since been cut and removed without the knowledge or approval of the CPD.

Colleen Gallagher advises that new locks will be installed on both tennis courts. She states that this is being done to all tennis courts throughout the North Region area. She maintains that CPD staff will be available to unlock the courts on demand any time the park is open, and that advance arrangements can be made for Sundays when the park is closed.

The SPAC prefers that the tennis courts be open and unlocked from 8AM to 8PM on a daily basis. We understand that this should not be a problem Monday through Saturday morning, when the park is staffed. We hope that accommodations can be made on Saturday evenings and Sundays, to ensure that area residents have full use of the park facilities that their property taxes help support.

'Curb Your Dog' signage

Colleen will order signage if specific requests are made with regard to signage location.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Next meeting Thursday, July 15 at 7:00PM 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 email 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.

Many The SPAC will operate concession stands during summer T-ball and baseball games, as well as movie nights.

MaryAnne Newman The new Craft Night partnership will be promoted via flyers, signage and email.

MaryAnne Newman The check and gardening tools, supplied by Alderman Laurino and Greencorps Chicago, for our Neighborhood in Bloom program will be returned or redispersed per their wishes. Thank you notes will be sent as well.

Mary Rodriguez Lunch will be provided to the Sauganash Park staff to show SPAC appreciation of all that they do for our community.

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 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.
