



February 12, 2014 6:45 p.m.

**Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**

**Submitted by Coleen Blake, Secretary**

**Board Members in attendance: Coleen Blake, George Blakemore, Randi Doeker, Ellen Isaacson, Lynn Krohn, Robert Lerch, Jill Niland, Becky Rossof**

**PRESENTATION Jason Steger Chicago Park District Department of Natural Resources**

The Park District will be removing trees in the area south of the boardwalk and north of the Ben Franklin statue. The trees are aging and have been dying over the last several years. The black-crowned night herons have been nesting in this area since 2008, starting with approximately 20 nesting pairs and growing to 250 nesting pairs last year. The heron have been nesting in up to four colonies: two inside the zoo, one east of the Chicago History Museum near the Lincoln Statue, and one in the trees scheduled for removal, located between South Pond and the Ben Franklin statue. Replanting will start in the spring. The new species has not yet been identified. The trees that will be removed are ash and linden. Six of the ash trees will remain as an intermediate step as 75% of the nesting black crowned night herons are in the ash trees.

Council members questioned whether a slower approach could be taken as compromised trees exist all over the park and still serve a purpose. Council members were told the ash trees will die in a few years and that in 2012 one tree fell over killing many nesting birds.

Council members asked that the park district representatives recommend to the revenue department that the annual Chipotle festival be directed to another location, as the large event, attended by thousands every September, will compromise the newly planted trees.

**LPAC Meeting**

**1. Call to Order and Adoption of Agenda**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00pm. . The agenda was moved, seconded and approved.

**2. Park District Staff presentations**

Lauren Quinn Cultural Center

Sunshine Playlot has been selected to receive a new playground. Construction will start in the spring. The teen group took a ski trip to Villa Olivia.

**3. Park Liaison report**

No report. The Park District met on Tuesday at Ping Tom Park.

**4. Minutes**

The October minutes were moved, seconded and approved.

**5. Treasurer's report**

New checks were received. There was a debit to the checking for those checks in the amount of \$20. The balance in the account is \$1722.19. Lynn and Ellen will meet after tonight's meeting to complete the necessary paperwork to get Lynn on the bank account.

**6. President's report**

George Blakemore suggested that LPAC invite the new president of Friends of the Parks to a future LPAC meeting.

Ellen reported that the redesign of the website has begun. Ellen attended the second meeting of the Park Users Task Force for the redesign of North Lake Shore Drive. The group is looking for information on bike accidents on the north lakefront path. The next meeting will summarize the prior meetings and come up with alternatives.

Jill attended meetings on the proposed changes to the Montrose Point natural areas. All stakeholders were invited to meetings held in December and January. The first public meeting was held in early February and approximately 40 people attended. The next meeting is scheduled for March and will be a stakeholders meeting. The final public meeting will be held in April.

**7. Old Business**

Council members discussed future meeting locations. The March meeting will be at the Cultural Center, April at Margate, and May at the Nature Museum. The council also discussed meeting in August, as required by the bylaws. Next month, Lynn will present a schedule for future meetings for review.

Meeting notifications were discussed. Upon joining or renewing membership there will be an option to select email or U.S. postal notification.

Becky suggested that council members receive advance notice and information on the programs preceding the monthly meetings. The information can be posted on the website and provided to council members through the Yahoo chat group.

**8. New Business**

Ellen will appoint a nominating task force in accordance with the by-laws.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

**2014 Future Meeting Locations**

**March Lincoln Park Cultural Center**

**April Margate**

**May Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**