

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

In accord with the Statutes of the State of Illinois and the Ordinances of the City of Highland Park, a meeting of the Ravinia Festival Community Relations Commission of the City of Highland Park is scheduled to be held at the hour of 6:30 P.M., on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 in the Highland Park City Hall, 1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois, during which meeting it is anticipated that there will be a discussion of the following agenda:

City of Highland Park
Ravinia Festival Community Relations Commission
Tuesday, March 10, 2015
City Hall, 1707 St. Johns Avenue
6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Approval of Minutes: October 14, 2014
- IV. Scheduled Business
 - A. Business from the Public
 - B. Committee Reports
 1. Ravinia Festival
 - a) Season Preview
 2. Transit
 3. Public Safety
 - a) Traffic Control Update
 - b) Crowd Control Update
 - c) Police Protection Update
 4. Parking Issues
- V. Other Business
 - A. Optional Open Meetings Act Training
- VI. Adjournment

Posted at City Hall before 5:00 p.m. on March 3, 2014

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
RAVINIA FESTIVAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS**

MEETING DATE: October 14, 2014

MEETING LOCATION: Pre-Session Room, City Hall 1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, IL

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 6:30 p.m. the Chairman called the meeting to order and asked the Staff Liaison to call the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chair Borden, Vice-Chair Newman, Minor, Smith, Sanders, Schmitz

Student Members Present: None (Ross-absent)

Members Absent: Choos

Council Liaison Present: Kaufman

The Staff Liaison declared that a quorum was present.

Staff Present: Commander Gerald (Jerry) Cameron, Lee Overholser, Linda Sloan- Interim Staff Liaison

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**A. MEETING OF THE RAVINIA FESTIVAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
– July 8, 2014**

Chair Borden ask for any corrections to the draft minutes.

Commissioner Newman noted that the minutes did not reflect that he abstained from the vote regarding a recommendation to increase the seasonal parking fine as displayed on the permit-only signage from 50 dollars to 100 dollars. Liaison Sloan explained that the minutes would be corrected to reflect Vice-chair Newman and Commissioner Minor as having voted “present” on this matter.

With no other comments on the minutes the chair declared them approved.

IV. SCHEDULED BUSINESS

A. Business from the Public

No one present rose to speak on any matter.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Ravinia Festival

Commissioner Schmitz gave the end-of-season update. He said the second half of the season was a busy one and that the first time Food Network concert event was successful and provided national exposure for the Ravinia Festival. He noted that the off-season events had started and include private events and the School District 112 fun run. Commissioner Schmitz Sanders provide an update on three of the new construction projects: widening of the south entrance drive, the new bus turnaround at the north gate, the Harza Building façade beautification. Councilman Kaufman asked about the planned water feature for the underpass. Mr. Schmitz explained that the feature was being redesigned to better fit the space and the revised design would be reviewed by the DRC.

Councilwoman Michelle Holleman, 782 Judson Ave., was present and asked about how the Green Bay Trail might be used to display a posters informing trail users of the construction projects underway along the Green Bay trail. Commissioner Schmitz agreed that this was a good idea and Commissioner Sanders recalled that an information poster was posted when the underpass was under construction.

Commissioner Minor reported on some news from the Festival. She told of Welz Kauffman and a violinist forthcoming visit to the Braeside School for a performance and discussion about music. She noted the current Bennett-Gordon Hall series which was well received and that packages affordable \$10 tickets with local restaurant dining packages. She also said that Welz Kauffman had scheduled a meeting with the Ravinia Team and City Manager to discuss options for the data/cell tower congestion and possible solutions. Nick Pulia and Welz are also working with the Highland Park High School on Focus on the Arts.

Vice-chair Newman asked of there had been an expansion of the Winter Schedule or was he perhaps just observing more marketing. Commissioner Schmitz replied that the number of concerts was the same. Commissioner Minor added that that is more marketing and that attendance for these events is improved and popularity has increased.

2. Transit

Lee Overholser gave the update of PACE shuttle service: total season shuttle riders were 288,584 passengers among 60 events. She commented that even Art Show weekend when well. The new strategy of shuttling employee and opening more spaces in the in-park lots was also effective. Few complaints or concerns were registered. The transportation staff is positively excited about the improvements to the bus-turn around.

3. Public Safety- Traffic Control, Crowd Control, Police Protection and Parking Updates

Commander Cameron gave the year-end summary noting and adjusted staffing matrix and full staffing, even for Taste of HP & Art Fair; pre-concert early staffing on Green Bay Rd.

for large attendance nights with Ravinia Staff that overlaps with police staffing; use of civilian staff on Green Bay Rd. that transition to Lambert Tree Ave.; new pedestrian posts on Burton Av. and Blackstone Pl. to manage exiting pedestrian/vehicle traffic; better coordination with Botanic Garden events and related morning crowds; improved attention to illegal drop-off behavior with most violations at the North Priority Gate that requires shifting tactic; an additional post the Pavilion for large audiences; coordination with private security for alcohol on right-of-way violations; two disaster drills; a the count of incidents/arrests (10 EMS, 1 battery of an individual, 1 battery of police officer, 2 criminal trespass of refusing to leave, 4 possession of cannabis, 11 possession of alcohol by minor, 5 called-in parking complaints, wrote 95 east side parking violations & 135 west side parking violations, 113 no standing-stopping-parking or drop-off- 19 in private driveways.)

Chair Borden inquired as to if the Ravinia Festival receives many complaint calls during the season. Commissioner Cameron noted parking and traffic complaints to front desk just five. Commander Cameron added that most calls are relative to the 30 minutes to on-hour of peak pre-event traffic or illegal drop-off.

Chair Borden asked if there are many requests for extra parking passes on popular concert nights. Commander Cameron confirmed that the permit requests go up, but since the address of the permit holder is printed on the passes. This has resulted in more violations for permit users not within the allowable 500' of the resident permit holder's home.

Councilwoman Holleman complimented Ravinia Festival and the Police Department on having much better control with use of horse-barricades and that the neighborhood was appreciative.

Chair Borden commented on her time as chair and how rewarding it was to see changes, especially about parking, all due everyone's hard cooperative work.

Commissioner Sanders noted that the weather on performance days affects arrival behavior; on nice weather days the arrival of audience begins earlier and is more evenly spread-out, while on bad weather days the ticket holders arrive in a shorter time frame closer to the start of the show. She noted attendance was record-breaking for the least number of tickets used with 70% lawn-ticket no-shows for the Moody Blues due to bad weather.

Vice-chair Newman wondered if bump-up pricing on day of show helps the Park plan for crowd size. Pat Sanders stated that sales occur up to midnight before show-day with will-call. This seems sufficient for notice; and sometimes based on show and weather last-minutes sales are predictable.

Brian W. member of the public present, praised Ravinia staff for good traffic control.

Commander Cameron noted that the coincidence of HP Taste, Port Clinton Art Fair, and Train (a sold-out) show, and a reduction of 450 spaces due to the high school construction, occurred with traffic control and parking management without incident.

Chair Borden complimented the Police Department and Ravinia for handling this annual challenge so well.

Commissioner Smith wondered if staff had inventoried the permit-only signs and did all of them have the newer 3:00 pm time and the fine amount shown on the sign face.

Commander Cameron assured him that the Police Department checked and that the information is present, both adjusted start time and fine amounts.

D. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Approval of the 2015 Work Plan
- B. Approval of the 2015 Meeting Resolution

Councilman Kaufman echoed the cooperation and collaboration of the Police Department, transit, Ravinia Festival, and the example of public and private entities working together. He thanked Chairwoman Borden for her leadership.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve both the Work Plan and Meeting Resolution for 2015. Vice-chair Newman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned its meeting at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda S. Sloan
Interim Staff Liaison to the Commission

THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE COMPLETED AFTER THE MINUTES ARE APPROVED:

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE RAVINIA FESTIVAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
ON _____.

- WITH (or WITHOUT) CORRECTIONS