

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, July 14, 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, July 14, 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: March 10, 2015
- IV. Scheduled Business
 - A. Business from the Public
 - B. Committee Reports
 1. Ravinia Festival
 - a) Mid-season Update
 2. Transit
 3. Public Safety
 - a) Traffic Control Update
 - b) Crowd Control Update
 - c) Police Protection Update
 4. Parking Issues
- V. Other Business
 - A. Neighbor Complaint of Noise Level from Pop Concerts (re: 05/08/15)
 - B. 2016 Draft Work Plan
- VI. Adjournment

Posted at City Hall before 5:00 p.m. on July 2, 2015

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

MEETING DATE: March 10, 2015

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 Newman, Vice-Chair Smith (phone), Borden, Sanders, Schmitz

Student Members Present: Saltzberg

Members Absent: Choos, Minor

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
– October 14, 2014**

Chair Borden ask for any corrections to the draft minutes.

With no corrections offer Chair Newman asked for a motion of approval. Commissioner Borden made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Schmitz. The motion was approved, unanimously.

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 pre-season outlook and update on construction projects. He reported that the bus-turnaround is 80% completed with asphalt and striping, that the south entry access road widening is complete, and that the fabrication of the decorative metal panels for the Harza building has begun. He also reported on the water feature redesign which is delayed but scheduled for the fall. Commissioner Schmitz reported on the progress of seeking a distributed antenna system (DAS) to relieve cell phone congestion when the park which will have capacity for as many as 20,000 concurrent user of phone and data service, which new system will not be installed until after this summer's season and is dependent on carrier sign-up. Commissioner Sanders explained that the DAS system will require a building in the West Lot and that a site in the northwest corner had been selected for the building.

Chair Newman asked if there would be an antenna installed. Commissioner Schmitz described the series of small antenna on existing poles.

Mary Curran of Dell Lane explained that she and her neighbors no longer had a land line and had experienced inability to receive or make cell calls from 4:30pm until 10:30pm during concert events and wanted to know what the solution would be to this problem for this season.

Commissioner Schmitz responded that he is not specifically familiar with the construction process and the involvement of the project with a contractor leaves him uncertain as to time frames.

Ms. Curran complained that the situation had been frequent for her and neighbors in the last two years and that it is taking too long for the solution to be implemented. She wanted to know why the solution is so long is coming as the neighbors' ability to call for police and fire remain unanswered.

Liaison Sloan replied that the Festival had filed a special use permit application which is the first step in the permitting process and the public hearing is scheduled for April 7th.

Chair Newman commented that he lives adjacent to the park, and uses Verizon and he has not had any problems using his cell phone during concerts.

Ms. Curran had been on a train from the city and asked other riders if they had experience trouble, and they had. She said on a big night like Santana people have trouble using phone to meet up with friends. She thinks it has been a problem regardless of carrier. She asked for a temporary solution.

Commissioner Schmitz said the Festival could check with a contractor to see if COWS (cells on wheels) could be used in the meantime to help the neighborhood residents.

Ms. Curran asked that someone from the Festival contact her between now and the next meeting to let her know what is to be the interim solution.

Commissioner Schmitz said that it has taken some time to find the best technology to address the concentration of users. He is willing to ask the questions about temporary solutions. AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile have shown interested and these and other carriers can contract with Crown Castle.

Commander Cameron mentioned exploring whether a low cost pay-per-call land line option that Ms. Curran might be able obtain. Ms. Curran said the AT&T land line charge is \$70 per month; even \$20 month for vacation hold. Commander Cameron was willing to explore this option.

Commissioner Schmitz also mentioned some spring special events consistent with those held in previous years: Israel Solidarity Day on May 3rd and the high school graduations. Chair Newman asked about the Festival's procedure for security and checking bags at entry to the grounds. Commissioner Schmitz replied that the protocol is to stop and check every 20th guest entering; this will be the third year of this process. He said 3/4ths of the guests will stop voluntarily with almost zero resistance. Chair Newman asked if there is a restriction about doing the check on the Green Bay Trail. Commissioner Schmitz said that it is done on the plaza which technically is the Green Bay Trail; this is done purposely to be able to catch guests coming from all directions. Chair Newman asked what happens if someone is just walking on the trail. Commissioner Borden said one can just say they are a walker and the security does not demand. Commissioner Schmitz noted that as the bag checkers get more familiarized and trained the checks go more smoothly.

Chair Newman said he noticed an update on the Festival's website about parking in the residential neighborhoods. Mr. Nick Pullia noted that the Festival is in full support of the increased fines for violations.

2. Transit

Lee Overholser, transit coordinator discussed the preparations for the season. The process of recalling bus operators had begun; PACE was getting the shuttle busses ready. She said the Gypsy Kings would be the first bus event and that she expected a super busy season. The bus turn-around and improved south entrance are expected to be improvements that will allow better shuttle service.

Commissioner Schmitz reported that there is a new radio system to be supplied to the shuttle drivers; he had already met with Lee and PACE about this and feels confident the system will work and be an improvement for safety and emergencies.

Ms. Curran asked why shuttle buses idle through the time of the entire show. She said she witnessed this last year when the Jens Jensen movie was played in Jens Jensen park.

Lee Overholser explained the staging of the busses before, during and after the shows and that starting and stopping the bus engines risks a no-start, which is a big problem that may require towing, and is especially difficult if busses do not start when waiting on the Green Bay Trail. She said that they try to have the busses wait in locations away from people, but they have to be available throughout the show as people do continuously come and go throughout the show.

Ms. Curran wanted to know if the busses will stack and wait in the bus turnaround. Ms. Overholser replied that, yes, busses will continue to wait in the turnaround. Ms. Curran then asked if there were another event planned for Jens Jensen park, is there some way that the busses could be relocated during that event. Ms. Overholser said that the distribution of busses has to remain balanced with the demand of users and there is only so much adjustment that can be made.

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

Commander Cameron gave the public safety report. He said that planning for the current season began at the end of the last season. He summarized the notable changes for the season:

- Adjustments to relocate manpower to the north and south gates
- A forthcoming meeting to work on details for bag check
- The changed fee schedule to increase parking violation fines to \$100
- Updated mailer insert explaining increased parking violation fine, guest permit fines, and reverse phone alerts

Nick Pullia offered to Commander Cameron that if he passed on some of the mailer insert language Nick would add it to the Ravinia Festival newsletter.

Commissioner Borden asked about scheduled street repairs on Ashland, Grove and Woodland, and what effect the construction might have on managing the traffic.

Commissioner Schmitz said that if there is added discouragement for guests to use these streets that would be consistent with the traffic management plan, as use of these streets is discouraged anyway.

Commander Cameron said that adjustments for construction have been made in the past and that he expects they will be able to be made for this season.

D. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Curran ask why neighbors who live on Dell, St. Johns, Haven Wood cannot cut through the park on the walkway instead of having to walk in a loop around the park. She said the neighbors are stopped by Ravinia Staff and are told not to be there with liability cited as a reason. She thought that neighbors, bikes and kids should be allowed to walk through the park when the gates are open.

Commissioner Schmitz said that the gates to the park are not open for public entry in the off-season, rather they are open for service workers doing off-season projects and students who attend classes.

Ms. Curran said that in the summer she is never stopped. Commissioner Schmitz said that in the summer it is more difficult to discern who's who with more activity in the park. Ms. Curran suggested a sign be posted about who can enter the park; she thought the neighbors

forfeit a lot and that they would be happy if they could just walk through, instead of around the park.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Borden. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 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 _____, 2015.

- WITHOUT CORRECTIONS

DRAFT

From: [Robert S. Solomon](#)
To: [Sloan, Linda](#)
Subject: Ravinia evening non-classical concerts
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2015 11:23:14 AM

Dear Ms. Sloan:

As I indicated when we spoke a few weeks ago, I live at 265 Roger Williams Ave., find the volume and termination time of the non-classical evening performances at Ravinia extremely annoying and intrusive and would like to speak on this matter at the July 14 meeting of the Ravinia Festival Communications Board.

Please place me on the agenda for the meeting, which I understand is scheduled to start at 6:30 pm.

I welcome any suggestions you may have, but in any case would appreciate your confirming that I will be on the agenda and indicating where the meeting will be held.

Many thanks.

Bob Solomon
solly265@comcast.net,

