

## 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, October 13, 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, October 13, 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 of July 14, 2015
- IV. Scheduled Business
  - A. Business from the Public
  - B. Committee Reports
    1. Ravinia Festival
      - a) End-of-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. Approval of 2016 Meeting Resolution
  - B. Next Meeting- March 8, 2016
- VI. Adjournment

Posted at City Hall before 5:00 p.m. on October 7, 2015

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

**MEETING DATE:** July 14, 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, Borden, Schmitz, Choos

Student Members Absent: Saltzberg

Members Absent: Minor, Sanders

Council Liaison Absent: 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  
– March 10, 2015**

Chair Newman asked for any corrections to the draft minutes.

With no corrections offered, Chair Newman asked for a motion of approval. Vice-chair Smith made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmitz. The motion was approved, unanimously.

**IV. SCHEDULED BUSINESS**

**A. Business from the Public**

Michael Cohen of 703 Ravinia Glen Place was present and spoke about improvements in west side traffic management, but said he thinks there is still some lack of coordination.

He noted that Ravinia personnel are often on the same streets as the police and some streets are left with no coverage.

Commissioner Schmitz explained the assignment and roles of the park and ride greeters and that he would check on the assignments for the west side streets. Mr. Cohn reported that he observed Ravinia personnel on Marion, Leslee and Stonegate, but not on Charal or Ravinia Glen. Commander Cameron spoke to the location and use of saw-horses and the different roles of civilian and police staff. He stated that the civilian personnel are assigned to deter cut-through traffic, but that only the police could direct traffic. Up to 2 hours prior to the show the police worked to minimize stacking on Green Bay Rd and only after the main lot opened and the waiting queue cleared did the police move to different traffic control positions.

Brett Tolpin of 283 Leslee Lane said that there are cars staging on Leslee Ln waiting for the west parking lot to open. He said that last Sunday night before the Fantasia program. He said the Ravinia personnel were not helping the situation of an SUV with boat trailer that was blocking access to Green Bay Rd. He felt the staff should be more engaged with the traffic and visitors they are assigned to manage.

Lawrence Dunlap of 221 Blackhawk commended the Commission for suggesting and implementing the \$100 ticket fine. He thinks it has been effective.

The Chairman called Other Business, item V. A. for discussion-- a complaint from resident Bob Solomon. Mr. Solomon explained that he had lived in his home at 265 Roger Williams Ave. for 45 years and that he recently has had great sound disturbance from the pop concerts at the Park. He has found his previous discussions with Ravinia Festival personnel fruitless. He has kept a list of the events when he has been disturbed by loudness of the music. He did not remember exactly who he had talked with but he was told that while the Park controls the lawn speaker volume, the stage sound level are whatever the musician's desire. He noted that on his list most recently he found the Steve Miller Band continuously loud. Vice-chair Smith noted that he lives closer to the Park than Mr. Solomon and that how much could be heard really depended on weather conditions. Mr. Schmitz explained that the Park has a self-imposed decibel limit that is written in the operating ordinance. He said that Ravinia always controls the lawn speakers to comply with this decibel limit, but that the musicians may exercise control over the Pavilion public address system. He said that a pop concert volume may meet the decibel limit continuously throughout a two-hour show, but that in a classical concert the decibel limit may only peak once or twice over several minutes, and that is probably the difference he is noticing. Mr. Schmitz noted the decibel limit has been the same for the last 18 years. Mr. Solomon said he is disturbed by the music volume when he is on the upper level of his home in the room facing southward, but when in the lower level of his home his is not disturbed. He feels that between 9:30 and 11:00pm there is no concern of the neighbors. Mr. Schmitz said the Ravinia Festival has always shown respect and concern for the residents who live around the Park and that the artists have a 10:30 stop curfew in their contracts. Commissioner Borden noted that she lives across the street from the park lawn and 10:30pm is the limit. She does hear trains after 10:30, but considers it a privilege to enjoy the music she hears from the lawn speakers. She said that 10:30pm is not midnight.

At 6:56 Commissioner Borden left the meeting.

Mr. Tolpin said he has noticed that there are more pop concerts earlier in the season and thought that the loss of trees due to emerald ash borer had something to do with sound being more noticeable.

Chair Newman asked if there were in fact more pop concerts. Commissioner Schmitz said the usual season was 50% of each type, but that this year it is actually 60% classical and 40% pop concerts.

Mr. Tolpin asked about any plans for replanting trees that have been removed, and if replanting is not planned, do the cleared areas allow for more parking. Commissioner Schmitz replied that approximately 50 trees have been removed due to emerald ash borer and there are 100 more trees yet to be removed due to the ash borer infestation. He said that the plan was not to replant trees, but to infill with understory plantings and then add trees to fill-in depending on the success of understory plant growth.

Mr. Solomon thanked the commission for listening to his concerns.

## B. Committee Reports

### 1. Ravinia Festival

Commissioner Schmitz gave the mid-season update. He said the wet weather in the early part of the season had been challenging. So far the Lady Gaga/Tony Bennett concert was the biggest show so far and operations held up well for that event. He reported on the Festival moving forward with the water feature planned for the pedestrian underpass; that work was delayed from last year's work plan for re-engineering and re-design. He thought that construction would begin at the end of the season, approximately in October. Chair Newman asked about the progress of the planned DAS antenna installation. Commissioner Schmitz reported that the plan for that system is scheduled to go back to the Plan and Design Commission in October.

### 2. Transit

Lee Overholser, Transit Coordinator discussed the shuttle bus operations thus far into the season. She said the new bus turn-around was working very well, as was the widened asphalt at the south gate which has allowed two-way traffic movement. She said the new radios were also helping with efficiency and that in general all was going well with bus operations.

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

Commander Cameron gave the public safety report. He said that with over 180,000 guests in the first 15 concerts, the traffic impacts have peaked 30-45 minutes prior to the west lot opening, which is relatively little traffic. So far there have been only 10 service calls, less than one per night. He said that the website and all printed hand-outs had been updated with the location of designated drop-off and restrictions on residential streets, but there continued to be violations: 48 drop-off violations and 7 driveway violations. With the new bus turnaround the exit time from the bus queue has reduced by 30 minutes. He also

reported that traffic control is now using new LED lighting instead of flares; the LEDs are more eco-friendly and has removed the potassium perchlorate hazard. Other citations for the season thus far: 180 parking, 92 permit parking (east/west or >500') and 88 other prohibited parking. He also noted that the park and ride queues are diminished and the bag check has moved back from the Green Bay Trail. There have been 4 paramedic calls, 1 domestic battery arrest and 5 minors cited for alcohol possession. He said there have been no post-concert complaints of unruly persons.

Chair Newman asked if the change in fines from \$50 to \$100 has had a notable effect on behavior. Commander Cameron said all of the changes to staffing, fines, and heavier enforcement have had an effect. He said even photo enforcement of parking violators has been effective in catching those who just move their cars 20' down the street.

## V. OTHER BUSINESS

### B. 2016 Draft Work Plan

Ms. Sloan asked the Commission to consider the draft budget work plan for 2016. Vice-chair Smith made a motion to approve the 2016 work plan as drafted. Commissioner Choos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmitz. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda S. Sloan  
Interim Staff Liaison to the Commission

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

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE RAVINIA FESTIVAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION  
ON \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

- WITHOUT CORRECTIONS

A RESOLUTION SETTING THE SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE  
RAVINIA FESTIVAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

WHEREAS, Act 120 of Chapter 5, Illinois Compiled Statutes, requires the Ravinia Festival Community Relations Commission to give public notice of its schedule of regular meetings at the beginning of each calendar or fiscal year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RAVINIA FESTIVAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

SECTION ONE: That the Ravinia Festival Community Relations Commission of the City of Highland Park, Lake County, Illinois adopts hereby the public notice of its regular meetings in the following form:

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Ravinia Festival Community Relations Commission of the City of Highland Park will convene at 6:30 P.M. at City Hall, 1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois, to conduct its regular meetings during calendar 2016 upon the following dates:

March 8th  
July 12th  
October 9th

SECTION TWO: That the Secretary of the Ravinia Festival Community Relations Commission of the City of Highland Park be and is directed hereby to post a copy of the Public Notice contained in this Resolution in the City Hall Administrative Offices and to supply copies of this Notice as and in the manner provided by law.

SECTION THREE: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Newman, Chair

ATTEST:

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Linda Sloan, Interim Secretary