



CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
1150 HALF DAY ROAD
HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS 60035
847.432.0867 · Fax 847.432.0964

Date: December 6, 2011

To: Ravinia Festival Community Relations Commission Members

From: Barbara E. Cates, Planner (847-926-1611)

Re: *Upcoming Meeting, December 13, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.*

Review and Approval of Minutes: October 12, 2011

The minutes from the October 12th meeting are attached for review. If you have any corrections or amendments of content, please make note of them during the public meeting.

Approval of a Resolution Setting the 2012 Commission Meeting Dates

Per the discussion at the October 12th meeting, the attached Resolution setting the 2012 Commission meeting dates has been modified to include 3 regular Commission meeting dates: on March 13, July 10 and October 16, 2012. The Commission is being asked to consider and approve the Resolution at the upcoming meeting.

Police Protection Update Report-Traffic, Crowd & Parking Control

Several issues were raised at the October 12th Commission meeting regarding traffic, crowd and parking control. The Police Department recently met with the Mayor and Ravinia Festival staff to determine the best means to address resident concerns. At the upcoming meeting, Police Department staff will provide an update on the strategies that will be employed in the 2012 season.

Administrative Comments

On behalf of the Commission, I would like to thank outgoing Commissioners Dee Kahnweiler-Levenson and Michael Cohn for their many contributions during their respective terms. Your service is greatly appreciated.

SPECIAL MEETING
PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the Statutes of the State of Illinois and the Ordinances of the City of Highland Park, the next special 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, December 13th, in the Highland Park City Hall, 1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois, during which it is anticipated there will be a discussion of the following agenda:

CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK
RAVINIA FESTIVAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011
1707 ST. JOHNS AVENUE
HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS
6:30 P.M.

MEETING AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Review and Approval of Minutes: October 12, 2011

IV. Scheduled Business

- A. Approval of a Resolution Setting the 2012 Commission Meeting Dates
- B. Police Protection Update Report
 - 1. Traffic Control
 - 2. Crowd Control
 - 3. Parking Control

V. Other Business

- A. Administrative Comments

VI. Adjournment

Posted at City Hall before 5:00 p.m. on November 22, 2011

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

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 11, 2011

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Borden (6:33 p.m.), Cohn, Kahnweiler-Levenson, Romo, Sanders (7:00 p.m.), Schmitz and Kaufman

Members Absent: Froy

The Staff Liaison declared that a quorum was present.

Staff Present: Commander Gerald Cameron, Sergeant Chris O'Neill, Ravinia Supervisor Erwin Post and Staff Liaison Barbara Cates

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of the Ravinia Festival Community Relations Commission – April 12, 2011

Vice Chair Cohn moved approval of the minutes of a regular meeting of the Ravinia Festival Community Relations Commission held on April 12, 2011 as presented. Commissioner Kahnweiler-Levenson seconded the motion.

On a voice vote, the Chairman declared that the motion passed unanimously.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

A. BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

Chairman Romo welcomed Mayor Rotering to the meeting, and invited public comments.

Commissioner Borden entered the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Ramona Choos of 950 Green Bay Road discussed the need for additional lighting in the North (Opus) Parking Lot. Choos commended Ravinia Festival for providing golf cart transportation for the elderly and handicapped. Commissioner Schmitz reported that

Ravinia Festival is in the process of exploring the need for post-concert lighting throughout the property, and is giving serious consideration to the area described by Choos.

Ravinia Supervisor Erwin Post entered the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Vice Chair Cohn described lighting issues near the walkway alongside the drive aisle at the west of the property. Commissioner Schmitz reported that Ravinia Festival has budgeted to replace the lights.

Commissioner Kahnweiler-Levenson inquired about the proposed height of the lights to be installed in the North Parking Lot. Commissioner Schmitz indicated that the lights would be the same model used in the West Parking Lot, and will be shorter than the existing light poles. Schmitz reported that the existing light levels will not change.

Commissioner Borden noted that lights are a safety necessity, and that drop-offs near Lambert Tree Avenue and Ashland Avenue are becoming an issue and signage is needed.

Hilde Wheeler Carter of 459 Lambert Tree Avenue noted that the light specifications are appropriate, and expressed concern over 303 Taxi's operations and practices.

Beverly Beck of 891 Stonegate Drive reported that patrons are arriving significantly earlier than in past years, and stacking has created congestion issues. Beck suggested that a plan should be implemented to address early arrivals. Beck also expressed concern over the ineffectiveness of the Ravinia employees posted on local streets and the general lack of civility from Ravinia Festival patrons.

Willy Carter of 459 Lambert Tree Avenue expressed concern over the number of drop-offs in neighborhood driveways.

Lawrence Dunlap of 221 Blackhawk Road noted that the placement of traffic signs creates turning issues.

Mayor Rotering acknowledged that there are a number of issues which need to be further discussed and addressed, including the egress from the North Parking Lot, before the beginning of the 2012 season. Mayor Rotering indicated that she had to leave for another meeting, and directed staff to schedule a "Special Commission Meeting" to: address local traffic concerns, explore possible uses of the 5% Ravinia Festival tax, and determine the need for the Commission to hold three meetings per year.

Chairman Romo discussed the 5% Ravinia Festival tax, and suggested that the Police determine the cost of a better plan in the hopes that the tax revenue could be redirected to the immediate Ravinia neighborhood. Romo suggested that the Police consider using the all-terrain vehicle patrol, as in past years.

Commander Cameron indicated that although the all-terrain vehicle is not being used, the same level of enforcement is provided by a Prius and 2 Smart Cars. The patrol units are directing early staging to the Metra parking lots, and staff is being positioned in problem areas to address early arrival issues.

Commissioner Borden indicated that she has noticed more public rudeness and disregard for Police presence. Borden and Commander Cameron discussed officer training for the Police positioned at Ravinia Festival.

Commissioner Kahnweiler-Levenson reported that no cones or Police had been present at Lake Cook Avenue one concert evening. Commissioner Schmitz responded that cones are only used if certain attendance thresholds are met.

Commander Cameron acknowledged that construction on Lake Cook Road had been problematic for the 2011 season. Cameron also discussed the impact of the Botanic Garden schedule and a serious car accident on Lake Cook Avenue.

Commissioner Sanders entered the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Sergeant Chris O'Neill described infrastructure upgrades on Lake Cook Road to provide better traffic management and acknowledged the many challenging aspects of the area because of its residential nature.

Scott Friedenber of 580 Rambler Lane noted that public urination on private lawns has become an issue, and observed that the popular bands and "big name" acts that normally fill stadiums are contributing to overcrowding and disorder in a smaller venue such as Ravinia Festival. Commissioner Sanders responded that capacity limits have been implemented in the last decade to address the issue. Friedenber surmised that the limits are still too high. Friedenber also thanked Ravinia Festival for implementing his suggestion to restrict aisle movement during shows.

Brett Tolpin of 283 Leslee Lane suggested that additional Police presence and resources are needed on popular concert nights.

Hilde Carter and Commissioner Sanders discussed changes in the music industry which have made it challenging to book big acts for multiple evenings to spread out the crowds.

Willy Carter and Commissioner Sanders discussed the volume of shows, and Commissioner Sanders noted that the sound was turned down for the second showing of the "Lord of the Rings" when it became evident that the "surround-sound" styling was too loud.

Commissioner Borden and Commissioner Sanders discussed the scheduled end times for the shows, and Commissioner Sanders reported that every effort is made to have the shows end by 10:30 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. at the very latest.

Lawrence Dunlap described the activity of snow trucks in the Western Parking Lot in the middle of the night, and expressed concern that some of the trucks were not from the City of Highland Park. Brett Tolpin echoed Mr. Dunlap's comments and noted his concern over environmental issues related to pollution from the deposition of salt and road debris. Sergeant O'Neill replied that he would communicate the concerns to the Department of Public Works.

Lawrence Dunlap thanked Commissioner Schmitz and the Police force for helping to address some of the issues that he had during the Festival season.

Brett Tolpin suggested that the “old” configuration should be used for traffic management. Commissioner Sanders replied that the “new” configuration was not used in the 2011 season, and that the same traffic management plan had been used for the past 2 years.

Scott Friedenbergh discussed an issue that he had with an ongoing car alarm and suggested that Ravinia Festival could have alleviated the problem by making a PA announcement to alert the owner of the vehicle. Commissioner Schmitz indicated that Ravinia Festival tries to accommodate such requests, but it is not always possible to make announcements for every issue.

Ellen Goldsher of 422 Sheridan Road inquired about the construction schedule for the North Parking Lot improvements. Commissioner Sanders reported on the improvements and indicated that construction is scheduled to be complete by early December 2011.

Ellen Goldsher also requested that Ravinia Festival monitor the volume of off-season events, particularly in the winter when sound easily travels to nearby neighbors. Commissioner Sanders noted that the premises are vacated by midnight, and that Ravinia Festival staff walks the perimeter of the property throughout evenings of special events to ensure that noise levels are not too loud. Lawrence Dunlap and Sergeant O’Neill discussed the City’s noise regulations.

Vice Chair Cohn noted that traffic on Green Bay Road is an issue on big concert evenings, and additional Police presence is needed; Cohn observed that barricades keep people at bay. Commissioner Sanders noted that additional Police were brought in for big nights, and that Ravinia Festival did not want to open the gates early to encourage vehicle staging.

Ramona Choos suggested that directional signage should be used to guide traffic near the Botanic Garden and on Clavey Road, where backups are becoming an issue.

Commissioner Borden discussed the dangers of the crosswalk at St. Johns Avenue and Lambert Tree Avenue. Commissioners Kahnweiler-Levenson and Sanders discussed the potential of using the City-owned right-of-way near St. Johns Avenue as a dedicated area for drop-offs.

Chairman Romo asked if the alternate traffic management plan would have alleviated some of the issues. Commissioner Sanders replied that the alternate plan would not have addressed the issues. Romo requested inviting 303 Taxi to the upcoming Special Meeting.

Ellen Goldsher observed that large Ravinia Festival events take place during other popular City events, which compounds parking issues. Commissioner Sanders noted that the onus is on Ravinia Festival to provide traffic control on big nights with scheduling conflicts. Sergeant O’Neill noted that there is a large level of communication and coordination between the City and Ravinia Festival.

Councilman Kaufman inquired if anything could be done to keep traffic moving, such as distributing handouts or parking maps. Commander Cameron noted that signage was provided, and that traffic control makes every effort to communicate with cars; however,

there is a “lemming effect” with the use of side streets and empty lots. Commissioner Borden and Sergeant O’Neill discussed how ticketing had been a positive deterrent to unwanted parking activity.

Vice Chair Cohn encouraged the Police Department to think about what should be done if extra funds are made available through the reallocation of the 5% Ravinia Festival tax.

Commissioner Borden noted that a mobile officer does deter people from temporarily parking on Lambert Tree Avenue to listen to music.

Staff Liaison Cates reported that she will work with Commissioners to set a date for a “Special Commission Meeting”, to be held in the coming weeks, and the agenda will be posted online as soon as a meeting date is set.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Ravinia Festival

Commissioner Sanders reported an update on this Item. Sanders noted that Ravinia Festival experienced a 30-second power outage during a show, but was able to recover due to configuration of power. Sanders reported that the “Lord of the Rings” event had introduced a new audience to Ravinia Festival, the big name acts had been spread over the entire summer season, and the underpass has improved safety concerns. Sanders also showed a preliminary schematic for proposed improvements at the Lambert Tree Avenue entry.

2. Transit

Ravinia Supervisor Post reported an update on this Item and noted that approximately 296,000 riders used the transportation system during the season, with minimal issues or complaints.

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

Commander Cameron and Sergeant O’Neill reported an update on this Item, noting that patrols had been increased within the Festival grounds and the number of incidents is down.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Romo noted that a Resolution to approve the 2012 Commission meeting dates would be considered at the Commission’s upcoming Special Meeting, to allow for a third regular meeting if necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Borden moved to adjourn. Commissioner Kahnweiler-Levenson seconded the motion.

On a voice vote, the Chairman declared that the motion passed unanimously.

The Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara E. Cates
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 NO CORRECTIONS _____
- WITH CORRECTIONS _____
(SEE MINUTES OF [_____] MEETING FOR 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 2012 upon the following dates:

March 13
July 10
October 16

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: December 13, 2011

APPROVED: December 13, 2011

Mark Romo, Chair

ATTEST:

Barbara E. Cates, Secretary