

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 8, 2013 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 8, 2013
City Hall, 1707 St. Johns Avenue
6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Approval of Minutes: July 9, 2013
- IV. Scheduled Business
 - A. Business from the Public
 - B. Committee Reports
 1. Ravinia Festival
 2. Transit
 3. Public Safety
 - a) Traffic Control Update
 - b) Crowd Control Update
 - c) Police Protection Update
 4. Parking Issues
- V. Other Business
 - A. 2014 Calendar Year Budget
- VI. Adjournment

Posted at City Hall before 5:00 p.m. on September 19, 2013

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

MEETING DATE: July 9, 2013

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chair Borden, Vice-Chair Newman, Choos, Smith, Sanders, Schmitz, Kaufman; and Deer, Student Member

Members Absent: Karmin, Froy

The Staff Liaison declared that a quorum was present.

Staff Present: Police Sergeant Chris O'Neill, Commander Gerald (Jerry) Cameron, and Chief Paul Shafer; Transportation Supervisor Erwin Post and Lee Overholser, and Andrea West Staff Liaison

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**A. MEETING OF THE RAVINIA FESTIVAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION
on MARCH 12th 2013**

Chair Borden provided edits in writing to Staff prior to the meeting, a redline copy of these changes have been provided for the Commission's approval this evening.

Commissioner Choos moved approval of the minutes of a special meeting of the Ravinia Festival Community Relations Commission held on October 16th 2013 as presented. Commissioner Newman seconded the motion.

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

IV. SCHEDULED BUSINESS

A. Business from the Public

Michael Cohen – resident of 703 Ravinia Glen Place – Mr. Cohen stated that he was pleased with many of the changes to the management of traffic by the Ravinia staff and City staff, and wished to appear and say 'thank you' to the Commission for their parts in the planning efforts.

Commissioner Sanders noted the challenge of the issues faced and the importance of the participation of the City and Ravinia Staff.

B. Committee Reports

1. Ravinia Festival

Commissioner Sanders noted that the season has been extremely rainy and cool, but all of the parking lots with storm retention systems have been functioning properly making the situation better.

Ravinia has voluntarily cut back on number of tickets sold by computer, down from 14,500 to 12,500. This number is a “sweet spot” and has made the traffic and event operation more efficient.

The parks first site-wide lighting improvement was started this season, including pedestrian pathway lighting for safety. The Harza Building was improved as part of the 25th anniversary of the structure, including exterior lighting and signage to make it look more like an operating theater. A new electronic ticket kiosk and lighting were added at the South Gate entrance.

On the day of concerts only donor passes are accepted with restrictions. When a show is sold out no tickets are available onsite. The price of lawn tickets is raised \$5 on the day of the concert encouraging people to purchase those sooner, thus allowing Ravinia to better prepare for the crowd.

2. Transit

Highland Park Transit Coordinator Erwin Post stated that the bus system has moved nearly 100,000 people so far this season; overall transpiration is going well. The buses are taken care of by public works, and their dedication to keeping things running is important. The season has been one of the safest so far; accidents have been minimal because of more training, veteran drivers, and assistance from the police. Ravinia’s reduction in ticket sales and sell-outs has helped also. Overall, they could hit 300,000 passengers this season.

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

Chief Paul Shafer stated that overall the above as noted are going well, but the Police Department is wrestling with expectations from the public regarding traffic, safety and parking; the Police will remain flexible and take feedback from the public to improve the services they provide.

Commander Cameron stated that the Certified Police Associates (CPA’s) and officers have been put in place up to one hour earlier than in previous seasons, the number of CPA’s and police officers on duty during events has been increased, and CPA’s are stationed to discourage attendees from turning down residential streets in search of parking and drop off zones. In drop off zones, 40 citations have been issued; this number is down from previous years. Only 3 EMS calls have been required for the season. An emphasis has been placed on pedestrian safety and pathways to discourage dangerous behavior.

Around 136 parking citations had been issued by mid-season; many citations were for having no resident permit or parking outside of the permit area. The new system of pre-printed permits is generally working because they cannot easily be altered and the start

time for required permits is earlier. This prevents waiting cars from sitting throughout communities. To address drop-offs, a uniformed officer has been located at the Lambert Tree intersection, a known trouble spot.

Responding to a question, Commander Cameron stated that the fine amount for drop-offs and standing is set by Council at \$50.

Councilman Kaufman stated that the pre-printed permits are in fact working in his opinion. The Councilman posed a question about how attendees know about drop-off locations, and

Commander Cameron stated that attendees are informed of permitted drop off locations with hand-outs, police and staff posted at locations, and the Ravinia website.

Commissioner Newman asked if CPA's can write tickets; Commander Cameron stated that they are able to do so.

Member of the public *Michael Cohen*, of 703 Ravinia Glen Place, requested that after the lots are full, CPA's and uniformed officers be moved to the west side of the park off of Green Bay Road. Commander Cameron noted this concern.

D. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Business from the Public

Chair Borden opened the meeting to Business from the Public again after several attendees arrived during the Committee Reports portion of the meeting.

Brett Tolpin – a resident of 283 Leslee Lane, and *Bernie Steves* – resident of 275 Leslee Lane, attended the meeting to speak about an incident where an altercation between themselves and people dropping off for a concert took place in front of the intersection of Leslee and Green Bay within view of Ravinia staff. They questioned the inactivity of Ravinia staff during the altercation.

The Ravinia representatives on the Commission stated that staff cannot intervene in matters like this off of Ravinia property, however, CPA's and police are around the area for this reason. Commander Cameron recommended that in the future, residents should get the plate number and call the police if none are in sight, as was the case in this incident.

[INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Choos moved to adjourn; Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

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

The Commission adjourned its meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea E. West
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 ____ ____, 201_.

- WITH NO CORRECTIONS