

Friends of the Grant Park Pool Jan. 26, 2006 meeting

Attending: Melissa Devereaux, Simone Capote, Susan Rouse, David Ringstrom, Rachel Chmiel, Sylvia Davis, Ron Hunter (new member)

Updates for 2006 Season

Opportunity Bond (Melissa): The city's Opportunity Bond is to provide \$750,000 for the Grant Park Pool and \$500,000 for the Recreation Center.

Moving Forward (Rachel): FOGPP has been unable thus far to set a meeting time with city Aquatics Director Curtis Winston. We will write continue seeking a meeting by writing a letter to Parks and Recreation Commissioner Dianne Harnell Cohen.

Reaffirming FOGPP's mission (Melissa): We will continue our focus on the existing Grant Park Pool facility while "widening the net" – reaching out to try to involve other neighborhoods as well as more people in our own community.

Programming (Rachel): Pool managers Chico and Jose plan to schedule the 2006 swim lessons by March so give parents plenty of time to plan. To help get the word out about our group and programs, FOGPP members plan to attend meetings of/contact neighborhood associations throughout District 1; promote our activities through churches in Chosewood and Englewood; and to try to get contact information for parents of children who use the pool.

(David) We will again have open swim in the mornings after Camp Best Friends ends in August, and will seek to have a standing FOGPP morning swim slot all summer.

Concessions (Melissa): We need to stock our concessions items 1 month before the pool opens. Also need to find weekday volunteers with transportation; perhaps youth groups from area churches could do this as a service project. FOGPP plans to contact groups at St. John the Wonderworker and St. Paul's Methodist Church. We also need a new concessions tent as the old one is broken.

Website (David): Site will be updated soon with new wish list and a countdown to opening day. We expect to have new survey information soon as well.

Design (Simone): No word from city Bureau of Cultural Affairs about gate. Group decides that it's best to wait on planning of projects until we know what will happen to the building as a result of the Opportunity Bond.

Thank You/Other (Sylvia): Thank-you letters to go out to donors/people who did major projects.

Volunteer Opportunities

Sponsorships (Susan): We'll meet with Nick Fletcher (boyfriend of loyal concessions volunteer Dawn Davis), who works for Dr. Pepper, at 4 p.m. Feb. 3 at Little Azio to discuss sponsorship possibilities.

Party Planning (Melissa): Councilwoman Carla Smith will again sponsor an Opening Day Party on Memorial Day (May 29). We'll also plan another Midsummer Party, and work with the Grant Park Parent Network on a Back to School Party.

Staff Recognition/Support: Rachel agreed to hold a Staff Appreciation party at her home in mid-May; we'll order pizzas and FOGPP members can bring side dishes.

Brainstorming

Porch Press Thank You Ad (Melissa): FOGPP plans to buy a thank-you ad in the Porch Press listing the names of major donors, and will have a "fond memories of last summer" theme.

Dine-Out Fundraisers (Melissa, Susan, David): FOGPP has begun contacting area restaurants, aiming for dates in April and May.

Swimsuits (Melissa): Melissa seeking more donations as well as a wholesale connection for swimsuits to distribute to patrons who don't have proper swimming attire. This could be a good use of money raised through Dine-Outs; we can also apply for a United Way Great Ideas grant for swimsuits (deadline is mid-April).

Lounge Chairs (Simone): We have discussed having new chairs available for pool patrons; perhaps we could rent them to patrons as a fund-raiser? Cost for 10 chairs ranges from \$1,000 on up.

Concessions Tent (Simone): Perhaps a retractable awning would be a more permanent solution. But we'll wait to see what happens with the Opportunity Bond before pursuing this.

Questions/Issues

Receipts: All receipts from FOGPP projects/operations need to be collected and taken to Michell B. Please give to her or Melissa.

Next Meeting: No date set yet; David has taken on the role of meeting convener.