

FGPP Meeting
-Minutes-
October 26, 2005

Attendees

Dianne Harnell Cohen, Truman Tolefree, Curtis Winston
Rachel Chmiel, Melissa Devereaux, David Ringstrom, Susan Rouse

Friends met with City officials to discuss summer 2005 and to make future plans.

The Commissioner opened the meeting with a discussion of the recently announced Opportunity Bond whereby \$25 million will be invested in City of Atlanta parks and green space. This is a bond through the Recreation Authority—and it is very clear what can be done with it. All projects must be completed within a three year window.

The Commissioner has worked with CM Smith and others to designate District 1 project placeholders.

- \$750,000 designated for improvements to the Grant Park Pool
- Will begin working on scope as soon as bond passes
- Will begin physical work next September after close of Summer 2006 pool season
- Two new Project Managers will be hired in January 2006 to help handle workload.
- Side note that \$500,000 will go towards improvements to the Grant Park Recreation Center.

The Commissioner, Mr. Tolefree and Mr. Winston are working to revamp the Aquatics Department. A meeting was held post Summer 2005 with the entire city aquatics staff, which the staff apparently appreciated. During the meeting it was asked that every issue/concern be addressed. Mr. Winston will go back to the staff with policies and procedures to help improve the functionality and atmosphere of the summer pool season. Significant training and certification will take place prior to next summer. Included is a three-day training session in juxtaposition to previous years' one-day session. The Commissioner urged friends to lobby our At-Large Council Members to keep adding funds and to keep supporting pools as a serious quality of life issue.

The next discussion surrounded lifeguard staff attitudes and behavior. The Commissioner believes that improvements will help attitudes. Concern was expressed by Friends about 'umbrella baseball' and general disregard for property including the park itself, lack of cleanliness of entire facility. Also the fact that sign-in was not generally required at the pool was disturbing. Cell phone use, car washing, and like behavior is not acceptable while on the job. General enforcement of rules such as 'no clothing in pool' was a problem. Guards—especially the younger set *must* have support from their managers in order to enforce the rules.

-Mr. Winston stated that the 'restaurant concept' will be implemented to help the restroom facility issues and a schedule will be posted.

- A rotating schedule for chores and lifeguarding is a necessity so that duties are completed every day and in the same way.
- A swim lesson schedule will be sent to Melissa.
- Sign-in is absolutely required—without it there is absolutely no audit system.
- Aquatics looking into implementing a summer-only pass.
- Pump motor and roof of pump house will be repaired for summer 2006.
- Commissioner will forward letter re Opportunity Bond lingo.

FGPP commitments:

- FGPP are more than willing to do incentives throughout the summer such as guard of the week, etc.
- FGPP will plan a staff/spouse event to begin Summer 2006 on a high note.
- FGPP will get with Curtis on our laundry list asap for bond projects.
- FGPP will attend meeting with Finance Committee (Debbie Starnes) regarding the Opportunity Bond next Wednesday, November 2, at 2pm. Council vote on Bond takes place on Monday, November 7.
- FGPP will make contact with Recreation Center's new head, Angeline Brown.

Brief discussion surrounding Simone's grant application for artwork- need to make sure this fits into scope of new project. 1.5% of proposed monies will go towards art installation.