

**Friends of Grant Park Pool
Monthly Meeting
July 6, 2006**

Attending: Melissa Devereaux, Sylvia Davis, Kellie Macdonald, David Ringstrom, Rachel Chmiel, Joy Ayre.

Facilities

The city has a new Aquatics Director, Janet Davis, who has been very responsive to neighborhood concerns.

A letter from city Parks and Recreation Commissioner Dianne Harnell Cohen about the misinformation passed along to our neighborhood regarding the new saline chlorination system will be published in the next issue of Porch Press. Friends of Grant Park Pool were told by a former employee that this system had been installed (it had not), and publicized this incorrect information.

If FOGPP members or others see problems at the pool (such as when the water looks dirty), they are asked to please alert pool manager Jose Salazar, then email Melissa at Melissa@grantparkpool.org so she can forward to the proper city officials. Other Friends members are asked to keep up this effort at times when Melissa is not available.

A Scout named Jason Boffman is interested in doing his Eagle Scout program at the pool. This would consist of 100 hours of work along with his troop. Tim Saviello has some ideas about work they could do, and will get in touch with him.

Genny Drash has come up with a survey to get neighborhood input on a "wish list" for pool improvements to be funded by the \$750,000 in opportunity bond funds the pool is to receive. About 30-40 surveys were filled out during the recent Midsummer Pool Party. David will post a simple version of the survey on the www.grantparkpool.org website.

Melissa will ask Susan Rouse to pull together a "vision document" encompassing the survey results as well as the research Susan has done with Dynamo. Sylvia can assist if needed. The city is making its own assessment about what capital improvements need to be made, so we're hoping to be able to complete our document by Aug. 1.

Park Avenue residents who live next to the pool have expressed interest in being involved. FOGPP is looking for one of the immediate neighbors to lead this effort.

Few of the table umbrellas purchased by FOGPP have been installed at the pool. We believe they are still in storage in the lifeguard room. Tim will investigate, and Susan will

call Aquatics about the best way to go about getting them installed.

Swim Lessons

The 2nd session of swim lessons is set to start the week of July 17 with expanded hours Saturday and evening classes are now being offered for Level I and II students.

Last session, we had a total of 45 students who signed up for the Aquatots lessons and 12 for the Level I/II classes. We have had mostly positive feedback on the lessons.

Melissa will ask Grant Park Parent Network playgroup coordinators to send the Session 2 lessons information out to playgroup email list.

Concessions

Many problems have arisen with weekday concessions sales this year graffiti on the walls, water fights during work hours, missing food items, salespersons not showing up and allowing unauthorized friends to man their posts. The FOGPP concessions point person, Genny, has given the workers many opportunities to remedy these issues.

FOGPP set up these concessions sales positions as an opportunity for high school students to earn some of the community service hours required by their schools. We also pay a stipend at the end of the summer, to be used for books or other school expenses.

The group voted to collect the keys from the current group of workers at the end of the day tomorrow (7/7) and pay them a pro-rated stipend, minus charges for damages. Two new workers have agreed to take on the weekday concession jobs for the rest of the summer.

The bulk of FOGPP funds raised from concession sales have come on the weekends. We will evaluate this program at summer's end to decide if it is worthwhile to continue weekday concessions sales. If we opt to continue, we'll need to start looking for next year's concessions staff right away.

Sylvia will be in charge of unlocking/locking the concessions building this Saturday (7/8) and Rachel will do so on Sunday (7/15)

Midsummer Party

The party was a success overall. We had a smaller crowd than last year, but the people who came had a great time. The total cost for the party was about \$600 (some \$400 less than last year). Kellie was able to return unused items to Kroger and Costco and thus realized a big savings.

Neighborhood Nights

Neighborhood resident Andrea Knight is working with GPPN on setting up neighborhood nights out at the pool, to start Fridays at 4:30 p.m. This will be a chance for neighbors to come out with their kids and socialize at the pool.

Swimsuit Donations

Melissa has received two big donations of boys' swimsuits, lightly used but in great condition. Most needed now are XL-size boys suits; small men's suits; and girls' suits.

Kellie suggests that we conduct a swimsuit donation drive at local schools at the end of the school year.

New Energy for FOGPP

Our small group has been working doggedly on pool issues for two years, and is in sore need of some new energy and input from the neighborhood. To this end, we hope to increase our public relations efforts.

Melissa is seeking quotes from people who are happily using the pool to use in her email newsletter. Kellie will inquire about giving people who get the Grant Park Neighborhood Association newsletter the option to get the FOGPP letter as well. FOGPP will also seek to write more articles for the Porch Press.

Major volunteer needs include someone to manage the swimsuit donation program; and someone to work on the appreciation party we want to have for the pool staff (Rachel will do this).

Swim Team

Jose reports that we have had about 5 children regularly attending practice for the Grant Park Renegades Swim Team. He would like to set up a mini-meet for the team. He will choose a day and let us know.

He also asks that the swim practice time switch from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. after 7/7. We will check with the parent who has been helping with the practices.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, Aug. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the pool (rain location: Dakota Blue).