

Logan Square Walks Steering Committee Minutes: 4/12/05

In attendance: Peter Draper, Ben Helphand, Christy Prah, Rosita De La Rosa, Nick Jackson, Kip Rainey, Rey Reyes

Meeting convened at 6:30 pm with adjustments to the agenda. Items were designated as vital or optional.

Discussion began by addressing developments near the monument circle. Prah announced that Alderman Rey Colon has committed funds to bulb-outs at Wrightwood and Kedzie. Construction will be completed by the end of the calendar year. LSW would like to initiate a press conference and formal thank-you to the alderman's office for this commitment to pedestrian infrastructure, particularly in the vicinity of public transit.

Draper reiterated a hope to plan one or more large-scale events on the monument green space in tandem with temporary closure of Milwaukee Avenue between the two parcels, perhaps on Sunday(s). Support for this plan followed, with the caveat that access to the space would be considered in any event planning. Helphand asked that Draper complete a one-page explanation of a Milwaukee Avenue closure plan so others would have something concrete to consider and/or respond to.

Jackson mentioned that temporary closure of some boulevards was being explored by the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation. He will report back as details develop.

The May 14 Clean and Green celebration was addressed. LSW will host an all-day byo-perennial gathering, open to the community. The plan, guided by the landscaping expertise of Laurie Tannenbaum and others, will be to beautify the underutilized green space parcel adjacent to the west entrance to the CTA el stop. This project carries the tacit approval of several area agencies, including CDOT, the 35th Ward office, and LSNA. The planting initiative will improve the public space adjacent to bus and subway transit hubs, thereby attracting ridership and public congregation, enhancing the overall pedestrian and transit environments in the process.

The LSW meeting on April 26 will largely promote the Clean and Green event as a means toward getting involved in the community and joining the LSW mission. The meeting will also address other options for pedestrian activism sponsored by the group, but the key will be energizing new members into joining the cause. Select steering committee members will report briefly on their activities, and subcommittee sign-up sheets, as well as general LSW information sheets, will be available.

In kind, listserv posts and fliers for the April 26 meeting will emphasize the Clean and Green event, and all new LSW members who bring a perennial for planting on May 14 will have their \$5 dues waived for the year. The April 26 meeting will last no longer than one hour in the interest of new member retention. Organizational meetings for Clean and Green will be spearheaded by Lisa Phillips.

Discussion shifted to consideration of running a quarter-page ad in the LSNA program book, to be published in conjunction with the upcoming LSNA Annual Congress May 19, 2005. The ad cost would be \$85, and the bilingual text will consist of a brief congratulatory note to LSNA, with info on how to learn more about LSW. Spanish translation will be handled by De La Rosa.

De La Rosa generously offered to contribute funds to allow LSW a larger half-page ad, with the understanding that a good portion of these funds would be applicable to LSNA membership. The final cost to LSW, then, would be \$65 for the half-page ad, plus an additional \$125 for LSNA

membership. Discussion of LSNA membership was deferred to a later meeting, but the half-page ad was voted unanimously in the affirmative, with members Lisa Phillips and Ward Miller voting yes in absentia. A quorum was reached, and \$65 will be removed from the treasury to cover the cost of the ad.

Helphand agreed to generate the ad copy, and Rainey volunteered to create a camera-ready version in Photoshop. Jackson will try to supply stock art. The final ad and payment are due to De La Rosa by Monday, April 18. The program book will be distributed throughout the community and to LSNA member organizations later this spring.

Draper asked De La Rosa if it would be possible for LSW to have an information table at the May 19 LSNA Congress even if we have not officially decided on membership. De La Rosa will check into this and report back.

Jackson asked where we stand on the Palmer Square funding elements of the Logan Square Open Space Plan. The group decided to defer much of this discussion until Gin Kilgore's return, but Jackson sent a cautionary note that this was both a divisive issue and an urgent one, with funding imminent and community response quite fragmented.

Kilgore will be invited to assemble an LSW subcommittee dedicated to issues surrounding Palmer Square. Prahm requested more definitive information on the funding package for Palmer Square (how much funding is available, whether the tot lot and/or dog run are mandates, how much additional funding is provided for enhancements beyond tot lot/dog run—such as narrowing of traffic lanes, etc).

LSW will keep open the option of an additional steering committee meeting devoted solely to Palmer Square, if funding timetables prompt immediacy. The group decided to proceed largely by concord, looking for elements of the plan around which we predominantly agree so we retain our cohesion as a group.

Draper raised the issue of the LSW introductory statement, to be posted to the website and other promotional materials. The group has spent a great deal of time tweaking this statement, and Draper, Helphand, and Prahm will finalize the text in short order.

Draper also proposed obtaining a P.O. Box for mailed correspondence to LSW. The cost of the box will be approximately \$4 monthly, and Draper agreed to cover these costs temporarily until such time as the treasury allows sufficient funds for reimbursing him.

Rainey will generate a tally of personal costs associated with the website through the end of calendar year 2005. Rainey will be reimbursed by special collection among steering committee members, or by the treasury. Fundraisers may be explored at a later date for ongoing operational costs.

Draper will add the P.O. Box and website url to the LSW letterhead and redistribute shortly.

It was determined that benefits of LSW membership require some fine-tuning and elaboration in the coming months. We need to do a better job of promoting ourselves and articulating what an individual receives by joining the organization. We will create a task list for the treasurer of appropriate steps to take upon receiving new membership forms/fees.

The website contains some outdated information and would benefit from enhancements such as a community calendar and interactive blog or other option(s). Prahm will locate most recent copy of bylaws for posting to site. Rainey will attempt to upload calendar software and migrate the

listserv (or create a blog or wiki) onto the site. Reyes will continue to take responsibility for website updates to be sent to our web manager, Robyn Nisi.

Reyes called for steering committee members to respond more actively to calls for votes distributed via listserv. This was a mechanism for saving time during face-to-face meetings, but results have been spotty so far. Draper indicated there were limitations to electronic votes, and others agreed. Efforts would be made, however, to improve these methods in hopes of accomplishing goals between quarterly meetings. Rainey called for the "Vote Needed" and a deadline to be included in the subject line of all electronic proposals.

Event possibilities in the coming months include Bloomsday (June 16), the Palmer Square Boulevard Festival (August 13-14), and the Logan Square Preservation House and Garden Walk (early September).

By consensus of the members present, the next steering committee will likely be held in mid June.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

<u>Action Items</u>	<u>Assigned to</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
LSNA ad copy to Rainey	Helphand	4/15/05
Final bylaws posted to website	Prahl	4/18/05
Camera-ready LSNA ad to De La Rosa	Rainey	4/18/05
\$65 check (md out to LSNA) to De La Rosa	Hastie	4/18/05
Spanish translation of LSNA ad	De La Rosa	?
April 26 meeting copy to Helphand/Draper	Prahl	4/15/05
April 26 meeting promoted: listserv, fliers	Draper, Helphand	4/19/05
Clean and Green planning meeting options	Phillips	4/20/05
April 26 meeting agenda	Draper, Helphand	4/26/05
Info and subcommittee sign-up sheets for mtg	Draper, Helphand	4/26/05
Clean and Green promotions	Phillips & subcommittee	5/5/05
Contact Kilgore to head Palmer Sq subcom?	Helphand	5/15/05
Obtain P.O. Box	Draper	5/15/05
Update and distribute LSW letterhead	Draper	5/15/05

Quarterly Tasks (to be undertaken between now and next steering committee meeting)

Chair duties	Draper, Helphand
Secretary duties	Prahl
Treasury/new member maintenance	Hastie
New member procedures	Draper, Helphand, Prahl, Hastie
Website updates	Reyes
Clean and Green	Phillips
Finalize LSW introductory statement	Draper, Helphand, Prahl
Bloomsday?	Burton?
LSP House Walk?	Miller?
Palmer Sq Boulevard Festival?	De La Rosa?
Fullerton and/or monument streetscape?	Prahl, Jackson, De La Rosa, Rainey, others?
Palmer Square subcommittee?	Kilgore?
Plaza updates?	Gustafson?
Calendar software/blog/wiki on website?	Rainey?