



### **MINUTES OF LINCOLN PARK PLANNING TASK FORCE - March 16, 2009 MEETING**

The session convened at 6:30pm at the Lincoln Park Cultural Center, with Tom Tresser presiding. Present: Betsy Altman, Coleen Blake, Eurydice Chrones, Pat Yeray, Joan Levin, Mary Gray, Karen Kass, Terry Schilling, Charlotte Newfeld, Merle Tresser, Tom Tresser

The purpose of this meeting was to consider the impact of the proposed tennis venue for the 2016 Olympic Games for Lincoln Park on the present site of the tennis courts at Armitage and Lake Shore Drive (neat the Clock Tower) and adjacent to the Jarvis Bird Sanctuary.

Charlotte Newfeld and Terry Schilling, the Stewards of the Jarvis Bird Sanctuary gave the following testimony:

- The proposed tennis venue impinges on the bird sanctuary and the nature preserve
- The venue would cause the removal of approximately 100 trees from the construction area
- No one who works with the sanctuary or the stewardship program was consulted on the site, the site was selected by the Park District
- The disruption to the nature area and sanctuary will be harmful and irreversible
- The 2016 Committee has no published plans for supplying water to the tennis site, raising fears of diverting or supplanting the water supply to the sanctuary
- There will be a net loss of 7 tennis courts if the 2016 plan is implemented

After lengthy discussion, the following motion was made by Tom Tresser, seconded by Pat Yeray:

“The Lincoln Park Advisory Council Planning Task Force opposes and will recommend that the full Council oppose the siting of the 2016 Olympic tennis court venue at the Waveland Park area because:

- (1) It would seriously damage the bird sanctuary and adjacent nature area and the wild life therein,
- (2) It would destroy park land,
- (3) Cause a net loss of 7 tennis courts,
- (4) Cause a loss of approximately 100 trees.
- (5) Risk grave damage to this area by the presence of tens of thousands of spectators.”

The motion carried 7 to 3 (Karen Kass had to leave early).

## TASK FORCE EXHIBITS

Proposed Olympic Tennis Venue impact on the BILL JARVIS MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

Terry Schilling and Charlotte Newfeld, stewards of the Sanctuary, offered to share information in a dialogue about the Sanctuary and the surrounding area at your Feb. 23 meeting. Our participation in this meeting was rejected.

Beyond facts about the Nature area these features of the proposal would be harmful to Jarvis and the community of park patrons presently using the site.

Removal of many trees including mature shade trees to accommodate 13 new practice courts, temporary 17, 000 seat stadium and facilities. Compaction of the soil supporting remaining trees' root systems.

(Location of new courts directly across road from B.B. grove of developing habitat.)

Leveling the land surface. Removal of berms surrounding existing courts and baseball diamonds.

Removal of existing parking lot including approximately 50 trees that have been planted in islands in this lot.

Relocation of the universal lake front path.

Possible disruption of the city water supply to the sanctuary and existing restroom facilities.

No Funding for protection and enhancement of the Nature Area in the bid document.

Planned connection with the Montrose Nature Areas could not proceed

(Funding of the extensive volunteer program comes from Lake View Citizens Council, and other donors. 2008 donations were \$4000. 215 work day hours --- plus stewards' preparation, planning and research time, etc.)

Bid document states "after the games the enhanced lakefront public tennis complex will anchor the sports legacy in the area."

A MAJOR SPORT COMPLEX IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE NATURE AREA AND HISTORIC SANCTUARY. The sanctuary came into existence with the landfill creating Belmont Harbor.

Designed by Carl Ponne and Dr. William Beecher and administered by the Lincoln Park Zoo, it far outdates the present sports usage.

No residual enhancement of the Nature area or public casual usage is in the plan. Statements of "forgoing construction during Bird Migration and no Games on Cubs weekends" were added after Media reports.

Jarvis will be in jeopardy if this venue is not moved.

"After the games the enhanced lakefront public Tennis complex will anchor the sports legacy in the area" 2016 Bid Book

Ald. Hellen Shiller has requested moving the Tennis site to a different location. Ald Tunney has spoken to me of his concern.

Charlotte <sup>NI</sup>ewfeld  
Steward Bill Jarvis Migratory Bird Sanctuary

[cnewfeld@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cnewfeld@sbcglobal.net)

## Olympic Tennis Venue for Lincoln Park

LOCATION: Addison st and Lake Shore Drive between Recreation Drive the Jarvis Bird Sanctuary, the Marovitz Golf Course and the lake revetment.

The 13 practice courts will be within less than a 100 feet from the "Barry Burton" grove currently part of the program to increase Habitat beyond the Fence line.

The Number of Courts will be less that the present capacity.

The parking lots will be removed. Future parking is not indicated in the proposal. Parking for Media, Shuttle busses, Security etc will be between the Golf Course and the Stadium.

A 20,000 seat temporary stadium plus all the dressing rooms etc will occupy the present Baseball diamonds. There is every indication that some of the golf Course Tees and holes will be reconfigured.

100 TREES will need to be removed and the land surface flattened removing the Brumes and green islands now present. This compacting of the soil will cause a problem for remaining Shrubs and Trees.

An assessment of the impact to Jarvis related to the Dept. Of the Environment Bird Agenda members contains false statements based on information from the Field Museum. The statement concludes there is no viable Habitat beyond the Fence line. At least an acre of new planting, including Memorial Trees, and large stands of Mature Buckeye and Oak would be jeopardized.

The universal Lake Front Path on the West side of the present Courts would need to be relocated. Where is no indicated. The Grove 15 festival and picnic area will not exist.

The only two way access for vehicles is the under pass at Irving Park. 200 Bus loads would be needed to carry 20,000 visitors. Belmont Harbor boaters would encure problems.

The only remaining improvement will be a refurbished Clock Tower.

No one from Jarvis or the C.P.D was involved in the selection or planning. Two years ago I raised the issue with the Lincoln Park Adv. Council, Tim Mitchell C.P.D. Sup. And the Dept. Of Natural resources. Reaction and condemnation of our assessment followed after 2016 appeared before LPAC. No L.V.C.0 public input was solicited by 2016. The Chicago Cubs were not consulted about the loss of the Baseball diamonds.

# LAKE VIEW LVCC CITIZENS' COUNCIL

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Mayor Richard Daley  
City of Chicago  
City Hall  
121 N. LaSalle, 5th Floor  
Chicago, Ill. 60602

February 21, 2009

Re: Proposed 2016 Olympic Lincoln Park Tennis Courts

Dear Mayor Daley:

This letter is written to express concern with the proposed Lincoln Park Tennis Venue for the 2016 Olympics to be located, per the bid book pages 116-117, at Waveland and Lake Shore Drive. City planners designed Lincoln Park to be a beautiful, uninterrupted green space along Lake Michigan. Building tennis courts and a 17,000 person stadium will reduce green space and severely destroy the pristine area along our lake front.

This construction, especially given its permanent nature for after the games, would certainly irrevocably damage the adjacent Jarvis Bird Sanctuary currently a mere 100 feet from the proposed site. The citizens of Lake View and our surrounding communities have donated thousands of hours of time and dollars to cultivate and maintain the Jarvis Bird Sanctuary. Birds of many varieties now call this area home. The permanent destruction of trees and a multi-year construction of this venue would be detrimental to the Sanctuary as well as our ability for residents to enjoy quiet, green space along the lake.

Lake View already faces huge traffic problems. We are concerned for increased congestion and traffic from spectators and athletes traveling to the area to watch the tennis games. Especially given the Olympics would run concurrent with the Chicago Cubs 2016 home game schedule, the intersection of Irving and Lake Shore Drive will be a traffic nightmare if the tennis court venue is built at that location. Additionally, boaters may not be able to reach their boats at Belmont Harbor with congestion from this proposed tennis venue.

We hope that the 2016 Committee will relocate the tennis courts and stadium from Waveland and Lake Shore to another area. We would be happy to meet with the Committee to discuss these concerns and strongly recommend the Committee gather community input before decisions are made that affect the immediate neighborhood. We will be happy to offer public comments and input as to the feelings of the community.

Sincerely,

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Diann Marsalek  
President LVCC

CC: Ald. Tunney  
Ald. Shiner  
Tim Mitchell

[WWW.LAKEVIEWCITIZENS.ORG](http://WWW.LAKEVIEWCITIZENS.ORG)

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NEIGHBORHOOD BRANCHES:

BHN - BELMONT HARBOR NEIGHBORS CLVN - CENTRAL LAKE VIEW NEIGHBORS ELVN - EAST LAKE VIEW NEIGHBORS  
HPN - HAMLIN PARK NEIGHBORS HN - HAWTHORNE NEIGHBORS SPN - SHEIL PARK NEIGHBORS SELVN - SOUTH EAST LAKE VIEW NEIGHBORS  
SLN - SOUTH LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORS SNA - SOUTHPORT NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION TN - TRIANGLE NEIGHBORS  
WDNA - WEST DEPAUL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION WLN - WEST LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORS



## Action alert

### **Lincoln Park and other bird sanctuaries threatened by Olympics 2016**

The Chicago **Audubon Society** opposes construction of Olympic facilities on or near any lakefront sites; in particular, we oppose any facilities being constructed at Bill Jarvis migratory Bird Sanctuary and Montrose Harbor in Lincoln Park. The shore of Lake Michigan, including Lincoln Park, is designated the "Chicago Lakefront Important Bird Area" by the National Audubon Society, and the City of Chicago acknowledges the significance of the description. More than three-fourths of a bird species seen in Illinois have passed through or paused to rest and feed along the Chicago lakefront.

The Chicago Olympics 2016 is proposing the construction of a \$25.8 million tennis complex just 100 feet from the Bill Jarvis Migratory Bird Sanctuary fence. The tennis complex would include a stadium, viewing areas and approximately 15 practice courts. The development, construction activities, increased human presence, stadium lights and glass associated with the tennis complex pose potential short and long-term hazards to birds before, during and following the Olympics.

Construction of a tennis complex as described above would be counter-intuitive to any claims of commitment to protection of the existing environment. The Chicago Audubon Society, a City of Chicago Bird Agenda partner, along with many other organizations, has not been given the opportunity to adequately evaluate the Chicago 2016 environmental impact assessments for the games.

**Chicago Audubon Society** believes that construction of the tennis complex or any other such facility in an Audubon Important Bird Area would be harmful to the existing environment and counter-intuitive to the protection of birds and their habitat. Other viable options situated away from the lakefront and away from Lincoln Park should be investigated by Chicago Olympics 2016.

Please contact Mayor Daley's office and request that the proposed tennis complex be moved to protect lakefront sanctuaries.  
Email Sarah Beazley at [sbeazley@cityofchicago.org](mailto:sbeazley@cityofchicago.org).

**"Lake Michigan's shoreline is acknowledged as one of the most important flyways for migrant songbirds in the United States by ornithologists and bird watchers worldwide. In all, more than 300 species of birds have been recorded in the Chicagoland area since 1970." *The Lake Michigan Flyway: Chicagoland's Role in the Miracle of Bird Migration – A Green Paper by the Bird Conservation Network***

For more **information**, please contact **Chicago Audubon Society**, Joe, at  
[TrptJoe@aol.com](mailto:TrptJoe@aol.com)

# PROPOSED 20,000 SEAT OLYMPIC TENNIS VENUE FOR LINCOLN PARK

From the official 2016 Bid Book  
<http://www.chicago2016.org/our-plan/bid-book/bid-book.aspx>

Estimated cost = \$31 million

