**Clarendon Park Advisory Council Meeting Minutes for February 19, 2025**

1. **Introductions & Welcome**

**Attendees:** Ryan, Michael, Pat, Louis & Elliot, Katharine, Connor, Laurie, Lara, Melanie

1. **Community Center Renovations update—**Michael
2. **Protocol for CPD staff, after walk-throughs complete—**Michael

**MB:** Last-minute checks and PD staff needs to learn how to operate the building. No firm reopening date yet. Early March things will likely start going into the building as a prelude to final reopening; it is likely that staff will be bringing things in, too. CPAC should be there for any official ribbon cutting. There will be no spring programming but there will be summer day camp (six-week program starting June with 100 kids, only 2 instructors right now). MB foresees the RR Club getting in there before the public but after staff. A lot more to it than "give us the keys." KB asks if MB can take photos and he will try. We can get another newsletter out at that point, perhaps using photos.

A lot of the RR Club schedule depends on access to new storage space. CPD may be able to purchase some lockers bc the ones the RR Club requested doesn't work.

Spring 2025--garden group will becoming active, showing people the renovated space

Seniors--can do something with them any time, introduce them to the "senior room," get coffee going, get folks used to the building

We will get a lot of people who want to use the rooms and gym (everything from 2 step, karate, VR to dog obedience, all kinds of things, rooms will be pricier bc they will be new)

1. **Discussion on Grand Opening**

CPD has Grand Opening people, there's one in the works involving the Mayor and the Superintendent and CEO of the Park District.

- Timing is key as to whether or not we coordinate with the CPD, but we want to be sure to have enough time to do a really great community-centric opening

- Food donations, bouncy house, RR Club(?), music. Entertainment suggestions so far: [Victoria Boateng](https://urbangateways.org/victoria-djembe/), CircEsteem, Peoples Music School, Mariachi band (MB will get quote), Synapse Arts (way to advertise future programming), others?

-Budget?

1. **Google docs for programs and events, including CPD, City of Chicago Senior Programs, Arts Partners (ARCS), etc—Everyone (**[**https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1s1BsjIs0qDCU3xgfviFZk0BknVbUSxeXZRLGSP8EHJo/edit?gid=0#gid=0**](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1s1BsjIs0qDCU3xgfviFZk0BknVbUSxeXZRLGSP8EHJo/edit?gid=0#gid=0)**)**
2. **Clarendon Park Native Gardens: Initially the Community Garden**

Breanne Heath ask LS from CPD asked about separate coordinator and separate docs for the native plant bioswale. She sent docs to us that LS has been working on.

ME suggests that the native plant group shouldn't be separate, in particular so that maintenance can easily be coordinated and we can offer something different for those on the community garden waiting list.

Background is that historically the bioswale has been the pollinator bank for the community garden and it was maintained by the Park District. It became invaded with trees and non-natives during the construction. CPAC sought and received a grant to reinstall it. It will be in the same space behind the fence where the community garden is located, so it is natural to include it in that work, with a co-coodinator, as required by the CPD, to help manage a separate group of volunteers. We have over 100 potential volunteers on the garden waiting list. LS said that some people have contacted her to ask about other volunteer opportunities. LS will consider the options. KB will contact Kristin Brock to confirm the March 5 date for a meeting with Kristin, Breanne, LS, ME, MB, and KB about the native plant bioswale and general planting design, if Kristin still has it available.

**Next meeting March 19, 2025.**