



RANCH Reporter

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*"[E]verybody can be great, because everybody can serve."
Martin Luther King, Jr.*



RANCH held its Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 12, 2017. Thanks to everyone who came out and joined us. I would like to thank Vinci Restaurant for hosting our meeting in such a lovely, bright space and providing such wonderful fare for all to enjoy. Thanks also to Alderman Smith for attending our meeting, on her birthday no less. The attendees appreciated the update on things going on in the 43rd Ward, and Alderman Smith appeared to enjoy the rendition of "Happy Birthday" sung by RANCH members. Finally, I would like to thank our honorees – Janet Martin, Senior Customer Service Representative at the Armitage Brown Line Station, and Greg Gibbs, owner of the Chicago Bagel Authority. Whether you were or were not able to attend the meeting, you likely are already aware of the many reasons why RANCH is fortunate to have each of them as part of our community. Copies of the Board's *Resolutions of Thanks and Appreciation* presented to Janet and Greg are available to read on pages 7 and 8 of the newsletter.

- Reatha Kay, President, RANCH Triangle Community Conservation Association



Urbs in Horto – Slogan or Motto

While often used interchangeably, slogan and motto have vastly different meanings. A slogan is "a brief attention getting phrase used in advertising"¹ while a motto is "a short expression of a guiding principle."² How the City addresses Lincoln Park's open-space issue in the Clybourn Corridor PMD rezoning plan will go far in telling whether *Urbs in Horto* is truly Chicago's motto or just another slogan.

¹ "Slogan" Def. 2. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, Merriam Webster (11th ed. 2014).

² "Motto" Def. 2. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, Merriam Webster (11th ed. 2014).

The limited open space in the Lincoln Park community has come up in almost every public meeting held by the Department of Planning and Development (“DPD”) concerning the Clybourn Corridor PMD. Aldermen Michele Smith and Brian Hopkins wrote an opinion piece published in the *Chicago Tribune* advocating for DPD to use this planning opportunity to address the open space deficit currently existing in the community. The CitySpace Plan prepared by the City advocates for 2 acres of space per 1,000 residents.³ The Park District’s Land Acquisition Plan, however, concludes that there are currently 6.98 acres of park land per 1,000 residents in Lincoln Park,⁴ a position that ignores the CitySpace Plan’s assessment that while Lincoln Park “appear[s] to be well served when considering total open space acreage...much of this open space is contained within lakefront parks that attract visitors from the entire Chicago metropolitan region...”⁵ Moreover, the conclusion that the Lincoln Park community lacks adequate park space is supported by the Park District’s own characterization of Lincoln Park as a magnet park - a park which regularly attracts large numbers of people from the metropolitan area and beyond.⁶ The magnet park along our community’s lakefront was designed to and indeed does attract and serve vastly different populations than our community, regional and citywide parks.⁷ This is underscored by the fact that this portion of Lincoln Park includes, among other attractions, the Lincoln Park Zoo, the Chicago History Museum, the Lincoln Park Conservatory, the Peggy Notebart Nature Museum, the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool and the North Pond Nature Sanctuary. If you exclude its eponymous park from the open space calculation, the entire Lincoln Park community has less than 26 acres of park space⁸ – more than half of which alone (13.32 acres)⁹ is contained in one park – Oz Park. When you calculate the community’s open space using this figure, Lincoln Park residents have less than .41 acres of space per 1,000 residents - significantly less than the CitySpace Plan’s goal.

³ *CitySpace – An Open Space Plan for Chicago*, p. 27 (January 1998). Click [here](#) for link to report.

⁴ *2016 Land Acquisition Plan*, Chicago Park District, p. 26. Click [here](#) for link to Chicago Park District website. The *2016 Land Acquisition Plan* is located at the bottom of the Framework Plans document list.

⁵ *CitySpace – An Open Space Plan for Chicago*, p. 26 (January 1998).

⁶ *The Power of Parks: An Assessment of Chicago Parks’ Economic Impact*, Chicago Park District, p. 3 (2014).

⁷ *The Power of Parks: An Assessment of Chicago Parks’ Economic Impact*, Chicago Park District, p. 4 (2014). Click [here](#) for link to report.

⁸ Information regarding the respective acreage of the parks used in this calculation was compiled from *The Power of Parks: An Assessment of Chicago Park’s Economic Impact*, Chicago Park District, App., pp. 26-39 (2014), and includes the following parks: Oz, Trebes, Clover, Clybourn, Goudy, Noethling (Grace (Wiggly Field)), Park 535, Park West, Privet, Schaefer, Supera, Adams, Bauler, Jonquil, and Wrightwood.

⁹ *The Power of Parks: An Assessment of Chicago Parks’ Economic Impact*, Chicago Park District, p. 28 (2014).

As our neighborhood continues to grow and develop, the open space issues relating to quality of life and business and workforce development grow as well. Providing open, recreational space in the Clybourn Corridor PMD is not something that would merely benefit the existing community, but would increase the attractiveness of this area for business and knowledge workforce development. Open space should not be viewed as something competing with business and workforce development, but something that, as the City has already recognized, is required in order to be competitive with other cities.¹⁰ As so aptly put by Aldermen Smith and Hopkins, “[w]e can create a public asset and still accommodate private interests on the last large tract of land to be developed in this part of the city.”¹¹ The opportunity exists to add needed park space for the Lincoln Park community, and we call on the Chicago Park District to keep Chicago a true *Urbs in Horto*.

Why Cleaning up After Your Dog (or Your Neighbor’s Dog) Is More Important Than You Think

Dog poop left on the ground doesn’t harm anyone – it will just decompose! This belief is just one of the many reasons veterinarians hear why dog fecal material is such an issue in our area. While the above is true, there are a lot of issues related to just letting it decompose that more than just pet owners should be aware of:

- Fecal material from dogs is the #3 cause of water pollution in our country!
- One gram (that is 1/8 of a teaspoon) of dog feces can contain as much as 23 million fecal bacteria, which may include bacteria which can infect humans such as Salmonella and Campylobacter.
- Studies have shown that about 15-20% of fecal samples from dogs have parasites in them, ranging from tapeworms, to roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, and even Giardia. None of us want to get that from our water!
- And of course, none of us are sticking our nose in this poop, but chances are every single one of us has stepped in a pile and had to clean that off our shoe. It stinks, it’s gross, it’s annoying, and it could even infect you with one of those bacteria or parasites!!

¹⁰ See *CitySpace – An Open Space Plan for Chicago*, Executive Summary, p. ii. (January 1998).

¹¹ Smith, Michele, & Hopkins, Brian (2017, December 22). Commentary: A legacy for the future: Parks in the reimagined Clybourn Corridor. *Chicago Tribune*. Retrieved from <http://www.chicagotribune.com> (Click [here](#) for link to opinion piece).

So, what are some other reasons people leave their dog's waste where it lies? These are the other top reasons cited by most people, along with some suggested solutions:

- I forgot my bags at home. Solution: Put those bags right next to the leash, or buy a poop bag holder for the leash so they are always there. Some people even attach them right to their dogs' collars.
- I don't like to put it in bags because then it won't decompose. Solution: Buy biodegradable bags which are readily available these days and often even scented with lavender. Then they can decompose safely in the landfill.
- It's too dark! Solution: Carry a little flashlight or use your smartphone to help you see.
- I forgot to buy bags. Solution: Amazon subscribe and save makes it cheaper and easier to get routine deliveries to your house to help you avoid running out of bags.
- I can't bend down to pick it up - my back is bad! Solution: Look for a device online such as the Gogo Stik or Auggie Dog. These let you pick the poop up without having to even touch the bag.
- No one will see it! In reality, they will! And they will probably step on it. In addition to that, if the wrong person sees you not pick it up, you could be fined! Solution: Don't be lazy!!

The issue of dog waste left in our area is a serious one, with pollution of our water, infections passed from dog to dog and even dogs to humans being the primary reasons. We encourage all our clients and neighbors to pick up after their dog each and every time. It's good for your dog's health, your health, and our planet!

- Ross D. Mahowald, DVM
Mid-North Animal Hospital

Our special thanks to Dr. Ross for contributing this article and to Mid-North Animal Hospital for their generous offer to provide some dog waste stations for our neighborhood to help encourage people to pick-up! RANCH is working with Alderman Smith's office to work out the details of where and whether these dog waste stations can be set up around the neighborhood.

To Project and Serve

Summertime in Chicago is a wonderful time where the weather is usually warm, the days are often sunny, and activities and festivals abound. One of the many options with which you may be familiar is Elevated Films Chicago. Elevated Films is a nonprofit organization that

screens first-run independent films before their theatrical or video on-demand releases. The films screened at these events are not ones normally found in mainstream theaters, but rather at local Art Houses – like The Music Box theater or The Century.

Elevated Films was started by two RANCH Triangle residents, Susie and Eddie Linker, modeled after the New York City based Rooftop Films' concept, with a charitable purpose - to support Chicago youth art programs. For example, at an Elevated Films event you may see a youth-made short film as an opener to the feature film, where the student then comes out and presents about their program; any net profits are donated back to the specific program highlighted at the event.

For Elevated Films, giving needed exposure to these youth art programs and their students is as important as any of the monies donated. While most people intuitively understand the importance of the arts to our society in general, studies have shown that art programs benefit child development in many important ways, including improved motor skills, social skills, problem-solving skills, creativity, focus, perseverance and overall academic performance. Many of the aforementioned are not only necessary for academic achievement but are basic skills necessary for success in life.

Elevated Films events, while held in outdoor venues, differ from Movies in the Park, as the movies are typically for adult audiences, seating is provided, and alcohol is served. Additionally, the night is usually opened with a performance by a live, local band. Therefore, the next time you are looking for something to do on a warm summer Chicago evening, just look for one of the City's fabulous outdoor venues, grab a craft brew or locally distilled spirit, sit back, and enjoy a movie under the stars – and the fact that you are supporting something important to this City's youth.

You can find out more about Elevated Films and its events on its website: <http://www.elevatedfilmschicago.com/>.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Public Meeting - The Chicago Department of Planning and Development will host its next North Branch Industrial Corridor Modernization Public Meeting **Tuesday, February 21, at 6:00 pm at UI Labs (1415 Cherry Street).**

An RSVP is required for this meeting due to facility requirements. Please click [here](#) to register. Presentation material are posted on DPD's [website](#), and you may contact DPD@cityofchicago.org with any questions.

Friends of Mayer's *Mayer Magnet Benefit* - Friday, March 31st from 7pm – 11 pm at Salvatore's Ristorante

Tickets are \$110 per person. Tickets go on sale Monday, February 27, 2017. **Online Auction** – Even if you can't attend the Benefit, you can still support Mayer and experience the bidding fun! The online auction will begin on **Wednesday, March 22nd** and will showcase fantastic packages, including vacations, staycations, restaurant gift certificates, tickets to sporting events and concerts, and much, much more! If you would like to donate an auction item for this event, please contact Stacey Kaplan at donations@friendsofmayer.org. You can find out more information about the event and the online auction on the Friends of Mayer [website](#).

Please remember to support your local businesses, because they support your community.

Stay in touch with community meetings and happenings by becoming a member of RANCH. Sign up on www.RANCHtriangle.org, and follow RANCH on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/RANCH-Triangle-Community-Conservation-Association-108461592543401/>

RESOLUTION OF THANKS AND APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, RANCH Triangle Community Conservation Association (“RANCH”) is a non-profit corporation duly incorporated under the Illinois Not-For-Profit Act; and

WHEREAS, the mission of RANCH includes, in part, Improving the physical and social conditions of the RANCH Triangle community neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the Armitage Brown Line station is located along the northern boundaries of RANCH; and

WHEREAS, Janet Martin is the Chicago Transit Authority’s (CTA) Senior Customer Service Representative at the Armitage Brown Line Station; and

WHEREAS, Janet Martin is known throughout the RANCH Triangle community and greater Lincoln Park community for the kindness, professionalism and warmth shown to residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors believes that Janet Martin, through her actions, contributes to the goodwill of the community;

WHEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Board of Directors, on behalf of its membership, wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude to Janet Martin for the dedication, kindness, and warmth she has shown to residents and visitors in the performance of duties and the goodwill these actions add to our community; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be furnished to Alderman Michele Smith and the Chicago Transit Board.

The undersigned hereby certifies that she is the duly elected Secretary of RANCH Triangle Community Conservation Association, a corporation duly formed pursuant the State of Illinois, and that the foregoing is a true record of a resolution duly adopted at the Annual Meeting of the above-named corporation on February 12, 2017.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned affixes her signature this 12th day of February 2017.

Micheline Sabatte, Secretary

RESOLUTION OF THANKS AND APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, RANCH Triangle Community Conservation Association (“RANCH”) is a non-profit corporation duly incorporated under the Illinois Not-For-Profit Act; and

WHEREAS, the mission of RANCH includes, in part, Improving the physical and social conditions of the RANCH Triangle community neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, RANCH is a non-profit volunteer organization that relies on support from community members in furtherance of its mission; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Bagel Authority (“CBA”) is a business located at 953 W. Armitage Avenue within the boundaries RANCH Triangle neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, CBA has been a long-time member of RANCH; and

WHEREAS, CBA has been a long-time and consistent supporter of RANCH, its events and projects; and

WHEREAS, Greg Gibbs is the owner of CBA; and

WHEREAS, Greg Gibbs, on his own and through CBA, has contributed significant time and resources in the support of RANCH, RANCH sponsored efforts and events, and the RANCH Triangle community;

WHEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Board of Directors wishes to express its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Greg Gibbs for his dedication to and longstanding support of RANCH and the RANCH Triangle community.

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