

# MPRB and Lake Harriet CAC Background and Process

July 30, 2009

A plan to expand the concession offerings and construct an additional building at the Lake Harriet Bandshell pavilion area was proposed to the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) by MPRB staff in February 2009. The Board did not take action on that proposal. Instead, they created the Lake Harriet Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) with the following charge:

- Review and discuss the scope of concession opportunities and the general atmosphere of the band shell
- Review a schematic design and site for a potential auxiliary concession or other building
- Present a report with recommendations to the Board

The Lake Harriet CAC's work is guided by the goals from the MPRB 2007 Comprehensive Plan. Its community engagement approach adheres to the core principles of public participation defined by the International Association of Public Participation ([www.iap2.org](http://www.iap2.org)). **Per its charge and within this framework, the CAC seeks to answer the following questions:**

- Should food concession options be expanded at the Lake Harriet pavilion area, and if so, for what purpose and to what end?
- If they are expanded or changed, what are the impacts and how are they best addressed?
- If more food options are offered, what structural and/or physical layout changes to the pavilion area would be necessary (if any)?

The Lake Harriet CAC has held four meetings, with two more planned. The first was on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and the last is expected in September 2009 when the CAC expects to finalize its recommendations to the Park Board.

A detailed Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been created and engagement activities are in progress. The Lake Harriet CAC created a publicly accessible website so people can follow along ([www.lakeharrietcac.ning.com](http://www.lakeharrietcac.ning.com)). The MPRB also created a website for this CAC ([www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1145](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1145)). An online survey created by the Lake Harriet CAC is available on both websites. Below is some of the work the CAC has done to date.

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

The CAC collected input from nearly 1100 individuals through brief in-person surveys near the Lake Harriet Pavilion and online surveys, and interviewed the current food vendors at Lake Harriet, Lake Calhoun, and Minnehaha Falls. The CAC also asked for input from many stakeholders, including Lake Harriet event organizers, Lake Harriet Yacht Club, trolley operators, buoy permit holders, concert and religious service attendees, park donors, the Lakes District Council, business associations and residents from neighborhoods that border Lake Harriet, and others (see Stakeholder Engagement Plan for more information).

## **Information Gathering**

The CAC interviewed MPRB maintenance, law enforcement, and support services staff to gather information on the intersection of concessions, uses, and impacts. The CAC heard presentations from MPRB staff on both the economics of concessions as they relate to the MPRB enterprise fund, and their assessment of various structural considerations if food choices were expanded at the Lake Harriet Pavilion. Data on site layout considerations will be presented by the MPRB to the Lake Harriet CAC in an upcoming meeting.

For more information, please see [www.lakeharrietcac.ning.com](http://www.lakeharrietcac.ning.com) or contact the Lake Harriet CAC Chair, Matt Perry, at 612-839-3320 or [mattp@pobox.com](mailto:mattp@pobox.com).

## Community Meeting Guidance

Below are the objectives the neighborhood organizations and Lake Harriet CAC established for this meeting:

- Provide a welcoming and open environment where people feel their input is being heard and respected, and they can get the information they need
- Provide background information
- Gather basic information about how participants are currently using the Lake and concession/band shell area (comparable to the intercept surveys; from the sign-in sheet)
- Gather in-depth input about specific issues around concessions and layout/structure
- Gather in-depth input on potential impacts, as well as avoidance/mitigation suggestions

They then designed this meeting specifically around those objectives.

- The initial presentation and handout provides everyone with the same background information
- Having you provide input at topic-based stations, and focus on impacts, ensures that the CAC can immediately use your input to inform their recommendations; there are two stations each for concession operations, structural considerations, and site layout
- Offering a background information station and having both CAC members and Park Board staff here lets you get more detailed information about your area of interest
- Finally, we sincerely respect the fact that each of you has your own interests and priorities, questions and comments about various issues, and a lot of ideas and input to offer; this open and flexible format lets you choose where to start and when to move to a different station or head home; and the neighborhood representatives and CAC members at the stations will help you get your ideas, thoughts, and perspectives written down in a way that CAC members understand and can immediately use – allowing us to *promise* you the CAC will include your input and ideas in their deliberations

For more information go to [www.lakeharrietcac.ning.com](http://www.lakeharrietcac.ning.com) or contact CAC chair Matt Perry at 612-839-3320 or mattp@pobox.com

## List of Members and Appointments

### Appointment

**Commissioner Fine** Joel Chechik

**Commissioner Nordstrom** Joseph Schmidt

**Commissioner Nordstrom** Elizabeth Larsen

**President Nordyke** Matt Perry, CHAIR

**Commissioner Young** Lisa McDonald

**Commissioner Merrill Anderson** Janet Hallaway

**Council Member Hodges** John Finlayson

**Mayor Rybak** Roann Cramer

**East Harriet Farmstead** Donovan Hart

**Linden Hills** Bruce Manning

**Metropolitan Open Space Commission** Mark Peterson