

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

Question	Asker Initials	Response
I cannot hear anything. Has the meeting started?	MM	The meeting had not yet started.
Just signed on has the program started? I Have no sound.	WB	The meeting had not yet started.
My volume is at maximum and I can't hear you guys.	M	Suggested that the person log back in as others were not having the same issue
When will attendees be given the opportunity to speak?	S	Attendees were given the chance to submit written questions and comments, every one of which was read out loud and responded to.
I appreciate the chance to ask questions. When will attendees have the opportunity to share their points of views?	S	Attendees were given the chance to submit written questions and comments, every one of which was read out loud and responded to.
You said no rookie field light but there is one on this slide.	RR	The light plan has poles near the rookie field, but those light the outfields of two other fields. The rookie diamond will not have sufficient light to play after sunset.
Are the proposed lights installed in Chicago so people who are interested can go and see what they look like at night? At a baseball field, not at a top golf location?	SS	Our selected vendor has not installed these lights in the city of Chicago. The nearest location would be the Top Golf in Schaumburg or Naperville. The lights will be the most modern of any park in the city of which we are aware.
Who pays the electric bill?	SS	The WPPA makes a significant financial contribution to Welles Park every year; well in excess of what the cost would be for running the lights during the WPPA spring season. We will discuss how that contribution is applied and potential increases to that contribution with the Park District.
Are you going to raise all funds before you begin the project, or take a loan out with payments coming from future donations/fees?	SS	We have not yet started to raise funds. We anticipate that we will raise the required funds through a combination of grants and fundraising activities not tied to an increase in league fees.

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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<p>I live across from Welles, and all summer baseball takes over the park and parents shout all day long. Adding extra time to these games will add to the noise and usurping of the park in general. Believe it or not, some people don't like baseball. It's not a problem of added light, it's a problem of added shouting by parents and coaches and more limited time for regular people to use the park once the games are done. And I have never felt unsafe in the park at night, and I go in the park pretty much every night.</p>	<p>K</p>	<p>Most of the additional field slots will be used for practices, not games. Traditionally, our games are played Wednesday nights and then over the weekend. During the week, the WPPA teams host practices. We also anticipate implementing noise reduction rules for activities between 7:30 and 9:30p.</p>
<p>D said, "We think it's important for people who live around the park to have their say here." Question for the Q&A (please answer outloud for everyone to hear) - When will attendees have the opportunity to share their points of views?</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Attendees were given the chance to submit written questions and comments, every one of which was read out loud and responded to.</p>
<p>Very thorough presentation. I am fully supportive of the proposal.</p>	<p>JK</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud.</p>
<p>Loving this idea. The kids need it. The community and businesses need it. As a resident of this neighborhood, I completely support this game changing proposal.</p>	<p>MR</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud.</p>
<p>Have you done a survey of the current state of parking to understand how many parking spots are in use by the local community already and needed by them and then layering in the use by those at the fields?</p>	<p>PS</p>	<p>We have looked into doing a formal parking assessment, but finding a vendor that is willing to do such a small project or that is not cost prohibitive has been a challenge. We are continuing to look.</p>
<p>This will be a tremendous addition to the park and the neighborhood. Let's do it!</p>	<p>JK</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud.</p>

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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What commitment do we have that the lighted fields will not be used by other groups, going later in the night for things like adult kickball leagues that in the past have included increased trash and some intoxicated participants?	JH	Later in the meeting, a Chicago Park District representative confirmed that the 9:30p curfew will be enforced and that lights will be used for limited purposes throughout the year beyond the WPPA.
You may shut lights off at 9:30....but is that a park district edict...or can other organizations turn them back on for their activities post 9:30?	SS	Later in the meeting, a Chicago Park District representative confirmed that the 9:30p curfew will be enforced and that lights will be used for limited purposes throughout the year beyond the WPPA.
Are you sure you can't install the lights in 2021? There is so much desire for these kids to play under the lights as soon as possible, including maybe for the fall season. I know kids need all the normalcy and fun they can get, and I know my kids are so excited about this project!	RO	The earliest that we anticipate being able to install lights is Q1 2022.
Can curfew time change in the future? Who makes that decision?	CV	The WPPA has committed to a 9:30p curfew, and we do not anticipate changing that. The Park District has told us that they will enforce the 9:30p curfew, and at the end of the day, the WPPA can only use the fields when the Park District tells us that we can.
Would be nice to know there was an iron clad full stop at 9:30pm as part of the agreement for putting lights in place.	SS	The WPPA has committed to a 9:30p curfew, and we do not anticipate changing that. The Park District has told us that they will enforce the 9:30p curfew, and at the end of the day, the WPPA can only use the fields when the Park District tells us that we can.
Can Matt Martin's office subsidize any of this via their local funds?	RR	We are not seeking any public funding for this project
When will attendees have the opportunity to speak?	S	Attendees were given the chance to submit written questions and comments, every one of which was read out loud and responded to.
Do you plan to use the slots at 100% capacity	KJ	It is unlikely that we will use every single field every single night of the WPPA spring season.
Are the lights Dark Sky certified or is there a similar product that is?	SW	They are not, and based on our inquiry elsewhere, we were unable to find an appropriate vendor whose light products would meet safety requirements for light level and was Dark Sky certified.

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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Great presentation. How does someone 'officially' register their support or opposition for the light project?	PR	A survey was sent out to participants to record their feedback.
I want to say thank you to Welles Park, my kids love being a part of this league but more importantly part of the community.	GM	Comment was read aloud
What are some of your fundraising ideas you have that will involve the coaches/players?	TW	The fundraising will be a combination of grants and good old fashioned asks to members of the WPPA community. We also anticipate partnering with local businesses on giveback days.
My 3 sons have played with WPPA for the past 9 years. I have one who has aged out, one who this is his last year and one who is in minors (10 years old). I have coached for the past 9 years as well and I can only hope that this proposal goes through. The league is special and truly a developmental league. The more kids we can get to play the better.	SR	Comment was read aloud.
Is there any type of permitting or ordinance change that needs to happen for this?	RR	We do not believe that any ordinance change is necessary, but we are aware that we would need to obtain a permit through the Park District.
This has been a great presentation! Thank you so much - very thorough. You have demonstrated you have done your homework, and are interested in collaborating with neighbors.	MM	Comment was read aloud.
Do you plan to extend the season?	KJ	There are no plans to extend the WPPA season, which runs from mid-April to mid-July. In fact, this year, we made the decision to shorten the season by one week.
How long does the baseball/softball season last and do practices and games happen every night of the week?	EL	The WPPA spring season lasts from mid-April to Mid-July. Typically, games are played Wednesday nights and then over the weekend (Fri-Sun). The remaining days of the weeks are when teams practice.

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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If wppa took 3/4 of the parking spaces on the 4 sides of Wells, that leaves 1/4 for other patrons of Wells (pool, exercise room, etc.) and patrons of Sulzer regional cpl as well as residents of buildings that depend on street parking. What are your thoughts on that?	MO	Parking is an issue in Lincoln Square. We are well aware of that. We are open to exploring solutions with community members as to how we can reduce the impact of an additional two hours of games. For example, the WPPA would support residents' efforts to obtain permit parking.
Have you done any noise and/or traffic assessments to understand potential impacts for those that live directly adjacent to the fields?	PS	We have looked into doing a formal parking assessment, but finding a vendor that is willing to do such a small project or that is not cost prohibitive has been a challenge. We are continuing to look.
So. I love this idea. Like a lot. But you said its only private funding. Can you please speak to how that is possible? So long as that is possible, you have my overwhelming support	JH	The fundraising will be a combination of grants and good old fashioned asks to members of the WPPA community. We also anticipate partnering with local businesses on giveback days.
How can WPPA ensure that parking restrictions on the neighborhood streets are adhered to?	CV	The WPPA is a non-profit, volunteer organization that runs the baseball and softball leagues at Welles Park. We cannot control whether the police enforce parking restrictions, but will encourage all of our families to adhere to them.
Lights at Welles would be awesome and I fully support this project! Was there any thought given to extending the curfew until 10:00 or 10:30 or 11:00?	DS	No. The WPPA - and the park district - are set for a 9:30p curfew for the lights
Candidly - which is the bigger challenge you foresee, the funding or the messaging? Do people need to agree to this or is it just a financial endeavour?	RR	We would like very much to have the support of the community for this project, and we have received overwhelming support to date. However, there is no formal approval necessary. We are hopeful that we can engage with our community on this project and ultimately the fundraising.
I second K's comment.	PS	Comment was read aloud.
I echo K's comment. There needs to be a limit.	KJ	Comment was read aloud.
Solid stuff guys - WPPA is doing a great job; especially with the COVID challenges. 100% onboard with this.	RR	Comment was read aloud.

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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This is a wonderful development! We have long been jealous of the other parks. Thank you for all your legwork here, we are strongly supportive!	JM	Comment was read aloud.
Have you done an assessment to understand which communities kids/families who aren't able to participate currently reside in? Asking to understand if the lights are an opportunity to provide services to communities and families who are underserved or kids/families who already have a lot of options.	PS	The majority of the WPPA's players reside in the Lincoln Square area or immediately surrounding neighborhoods. Because of the WPPA's size, we serve areas where there are not currently baseball or softball programs (e.g., around Mather or Legion).
Who actually has to "give you the green light" for you to go ahead with the project?	JH	There is no formal approval process here. We need the approval of the Park District, and hope to get the support of the Alderman and the community.
What is the fundraising plan? Will there be a committee designated to apply for grants or will these be handled by the WPPA Board?	E	The fundraising will be a combination of grants and good old fashioned asks to members of the WPPA community. We also anticipate partnering with local businesses on giveback days. Anyone interested in helping with the fundraising should e-mail lights@wppachicago.org
1. Would WPPA commit to not holding night games or practice games when events are taking place such as May Fest weekend - events at Old Town , or Queens 2. I have heard that folks are most worried about parking - many will not be coming to the area because of the lack of parking, so I am surprised that some of the bars and restaurants are supportive of this project because of the lack of parking.	WB	We have had broad support from local businesses as well as from the North Center and Lincoln Square Chambers of Commerce. The WPPA is only allowed to use the fields on the days that the Park District allows us to. We do our best to limit our use of the fields around large neighborhood events.
I too am especially concerned about the lights contributing to later and later and later activities and more crowds and noise. For those of us who live directly across it's a major nuisance.	PS	The WPPA has committed to a 9:30p curfew, and we do not anticipate changing that. The Park District has told us that they will enforce the 9:30p curfew. We will be adopting noise restrictions for events 7:30-9:30p.

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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Thank you for the informational presentation. I love the fact that the lights would allow WPPA to clear the waitlists and get kids playing sports. A little bit of normalcy goes a long way these days! I support the proposal.	JP	Comment was read aloud.
This action seems to be in no consideration for the neighbors. I am a resident at one of the adjacent apartment buildings to the baseball diamonds. I work remotely 50-60 hours a week (sometimes evenings). You addressed the noise that you won't have music or microphones, however nothing about the hysterical cheering, which is extremely loud and disruptive. During games I can barely hear my TV or phone even with my windows closed.	CG	Most of the additional field slots will be used for practices, not games. Traditionally, our games are played Wednesday nights and then over the weekend. During the week, the WPPA teams host practices. We also anticipate implementing noise reduction rules for activities between 7:30 and 9:30p.
If we want to donate, where can we donate for lights?	GM	If we get there, a link for donations will be posted on our website
Well, before you give them the lights...have you sounded them out about permanent off at 9:30pm? I am sure the neighbors would be more welcoming of the project if it is agreed and understood that NO ONE allowed post 9:30pm?	SS	Later in the meeting, a Chicago Park District representative confirmed that the 9:30p curfew will be enforced and that lights will be used for limited purposes throughout the year beyond the WPPA.
I also know that you are or will be holding three community meetings about this project do we know when these will take place?	WB	The WPPA will be holding at least one other community meeting, details to come.
What percentage of WPPA players live within our neighborhood?	MM	The bulk of the WPPA players live in Lincoln Square or the surrounding neighborhoods

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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Reading comments outloud is not the same as allowing the community to share their thoughts. I've thought deeply about this proposal and have thoughts I want to share and have other meeting attendees consider. Similarly, I want to hear and consider other attendees' thoughts. When will there be an opportunity for attendees to speak so we can hear each other's perspectives?	S	Attendees were given the chance to submit written questions and comments, every one of which was read out loud and responded to.
btw....I am not living around the fields....but do enjoy the use of the park....	SS	Comment was read aloud.
Thank you for sharing this information with the community. Should anyone participating have feedback on this project or other activities at Welles, we welcome these to the Park Advisory Council at wellesparkac@gmail.com or our regular meetings listed on wellespark.org.	AD	Comment was read aloud.
Great presentation! As a community member and frequent user of the park, I fully support this project.	SH	Comment was read aloud.
Are you going to include the questions already sent to your email?	B	For questions sent in advance of the meeting, we did our best to incorporate responses into the presentation. If we have missed anything, participants were encouraged to submit their question during the Q&A.
Also, thanks guys for putting on this presentation/discussion.	SS	Comment was read aloud.
Is CPD in full support? Are there conditions on that support?	DE	The Park District has not taken a formal position. We are actively working with the Park District to ensure that we take all the steps deemed necessary to obtain their support.
There is an inherent flaw in your proposal. You propose a 9:30 cut off but the park district may not adhere to that time limit.	SL	Later in the meeting, a Chicago Park District representative confirmed that the 9:30p curfew will be enforced and that lights will be used for limited purposes throughout the year beyond the WPPA.

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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How do we know who will rsvp pro or con if they live near the park - We know many who play live all over the city.	WB	The survey that was sent to participants requested the approximate address/location of the person responding to the survey.
Great presentation! This is a great idea. Thanks for your work on this.	B	Comment was read aloud.
Are lights Dry sky certified?	SW	They are not, and based on our inquiry elsewhere, we were unable to find an appropriate vendor whose light products would meet safety requirements for light level and was Dark Sky certified.
Wonderful presentation! Thank you for all of your work to make this happen for the community.	SR	Comment was read aloud.
I understand that this absolutely provides opportunity for the families who are looking to have their kids play ball. I'm curious to hear how you think it will benefit the neighborhood as a whole. It seems that there are several businesses that will receive increased traffic (Lou Malnati's, Taqueria), however, I have to wonder if families are really going to be doing a lot of shopping and/or eating out at 9pm post game further north on Lincoln.	AC	In our discussion with local businesses, they are all in support because it increases foot traffic around the time when families need to eat. We have received support from many businesses as well as the North Center and Lincoln Square Chambers of commerce.
Are lights Dark Sky certified?	SW	They are not, and based on our inquiry elsewhere, we were unable to find an appropriate vendor whose light products would meet safety requirements for light level and was Dark Sky certified.
Very impressive presentation. You have given this a lot of thought and I appreciate it.	JL	Comment was read aloud.
Thanks for leading this initiative - we are supportive!	HC	Comment was read aloud.

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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I've been part of Welles Park Baseball since 2004 and all three of my boys have gone through this program and unfortunately they are all too old to benefit from this perk, however this is a great idea for the future of this program and I am hoping that we continue serving thousands of our neighborhood youth for years to come. Hoping my grandkids have an opportunity to participate in this league.	SH	Comment was read aloud.
I think an indepth parking assessment needs to happen before this proposal moves forward	PS	We have looked into doing a formal parking assessment, but finding a vendor that is willing to do such a small project or that is not cost prohibitive has been a challenge. We are continuing to look.
Have we consulted and considered issues from other lighted parks (ie Hamlin)? - if so, any other issues not presented?	DE	We have engaged with the presidents of other baseball organizations around the city, and believe that the issues that we have been discussing include all the issues that were discussed when the lights in the other parks were installed.
First year for my son to play for WPPA and I'm excited for it. I've been trying for the past 2 yrs. Can't wait for the season to start.	M	Comment was read aloud.
What about reaching out to the residents around the park that do not use computers or technology?	SM	The community meeting had a dial in number, and multiple participants elected to dial in. We are aware that there are limitations that COVID has placed on in-person gatherings, but are mindful that Zoom has its limitations.
100% support this. Great opportunity for an upgrade to a community asset at no taxpayer expense. Totally understand why some immediate neighbors would be concerned, but i believe all of the positives outweigh any negatives by a long shot.	PR	Comment was read aloud.

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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<p>Excellent presentation. Well researched to take advantage of current lighting technology. This can be a tremendous amenity to the community as a whole, and not just WPPA. Thank you.</p>	<p>KB</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud.</p>
<p>My daughter was in the inaugural year of softball at Welles and this program has doubled in size in the last 7 years. Lights will help WPPA continue to expand so that more and more kids can make new friends, keep old friends and be part of a team. It's a vital part of this community.</p>	<p>KR</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud.</p>
<p>Very thorough presentation! This is such a wonderful opportunity for the community as a whole. WPPA is taking our children, local businesses, and neighboring families into account. Even if you aren't a fan of baseball or softball, the impact that WPPA makes on over 1,600 community kids per season is incredible and these programs develop and empower kids of all ages.</p>	<p>AB</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud.</p>
<p>Are the Chicago Cubs among those supporting the project?</p>	<p>PB</p>	<p>The Cubs are not involved in our planning at this stage, but may be at a later stage.</p>
<p>I've been a coach and parent at Welles for the last seven years and this is a great idea. My kids have friends who moved into the area later and couldn't get into the league. And this will help fix that. And it'll help fix the rainout makeup problem. Which is rough on the kids every season.</p>	<p>EC</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud.</p>

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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I live 1/2 block north of the park, and parking is rarely an issue for friends and family throughout the summer. A lot of families live near the park, thus many walk or ride their bikes to the park. As a parent, coach, and community member I am very excited for this project to happen.	JJ	Comment was read aloud.
When in between seasons, I assume the lights will not be on?	LC	Later in the meeting, a Chicago Park District representative confirmed that the 9:30p curfew will be enforced and that lights will be used for limited purposes throughout the year beyond the WPPA.
Thanks for the balanced presentation. I fully support the project and see the many benefits for everyone - CPD, WPPA, Lincoln square business and residents! Let there be Lights!	M	Comment was read aloud
Thanks for knowing what Dark Sky certification is and looking for led lights pollution options. We fully support Welles Park softball and aquatics.	SW	Comment was read aloud
Why can't you simply extend the season to accomodate the need for more games?	K	If we were to extend the season later into July we run into conflicts with other sports and sleep away camps, and that impacts the overall quality of the league.

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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<p>The website says the lights will “increase foot traffic to local businesses and restaurants.” Increased foot traffic is not necessarily a good thing. We need to look at where the foot traffic because of later games (and thus, the money) would go. The WPPA teams include kids from 4-19. The kids playing later games will likely be on the older side of the spectrum, most likely teenagers. So we’re thinking specifically about the increased foot traffic of teenagers and families with teenagers playing later games. While I love the Taqueria and think that Potbelly’s has its place, if money starts to funnel primarily to establishments that are conducive to busy families or to teenagers out on their own, while making it more difficult for patrons to support other places, we could lose the diversity of attractions that inspire many to live in Lincoln Square and others to come to enjoy it. - How will this affect sit-down restaurants like Bistro Campagne? How will this affect the Davis, Old Town, and other attractions?</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>The oldest players (over the age of 14) do not play on the Welles Park fields. The fields would be used to host practices and games for 9-14 year olds. We have received support from many businesses around the park, including both of the Chambers of Commerce. The businesses that we have spoken to all see the increase in foot traffic as a positive.</p>
<p>When I think about the parking issue, I’m wondering if the Archdiocese was concerned about the neighborhood impact in terms of noise and parking when they merged St. Matthias with Queen of Angels last year. Do we know?</p>	<p>EC</p>	<p>We do not know.</p>
<p>This plan seems well thought out and respects the needs of the neighbors. Glad to see that more kids in the neighborhood may be able to get outside and play softball and baseball and at the same time may bring more customers to our local businesses.</p>	<p>JR</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud.</p>

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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<p>I talked to a few sit-down restaurants within two blocks yesterday and today. They did not know about the proposal to add the lights or this meeting tonight. Similarly, not all neighbors along the park received notification of this meeting. How will you make sure everyone who will be affected has an opportunity to express their thoughts?</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>We have contacted dozens of businesses by phone, e-mail and in person about our project, and have many supporters among them. In advance of this meeting - beginning nearly a month out - our volunteers (1) left nearly 250 flyers at houses and apartment buildings bordering the park and within a block North and South of the park; (2) shared news of the meeting with the Alderman's office, both of the neighborhood community associations, both chambers of commerce, and the Welles Park Advisory Council and requested that all of those parties share news of the event with their e-mail lists; (3) requested that Block Club Chicago run an article advertising the story (which it did); and (4) publicized the event through social media and our own e-mail list.</p> <p>We anticipate similarly advertising our next community meeting.</p>
<p>I have driven by Hamlin Pk many, many times, from 11PM-1AM, with the lights blaring, and no one on the field, or anyone in sight. If the park district is ultimately the arbiter of who will use the fields with lights, how do we know this will not be the same, going forward?</p>	<p>LC</p>	<p>Later in the meeting, a Chicago Park District representative confirmed that the 9:30p curfew will be enforced and that lights will be used for limited purposes throughout the year beyond the WPPA.</p>
<p>I want to commend you on an incredibly thoughtful presentation. It is obvious that you anticipated concerns and have sought to address them. There is no way to completely resolve all concerns (i.e. too much baseball), but you have certainly gone to great lengths to minimize the disruption, while expanding opportunities for those that are seeking the opportunity to learn from a team sport. Well done.</p>	<p>DF</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud.</p>

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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I think by saying that certain aspects are under the park district's control and you saying that you're not responsible if the lights are used differently past your curfew or for other use. If not for this proposal the lights wouldn't be an issue.	PS	Later in the meeting, a Chicago Park District representative confirmed that the 9:30p curfew will be enforced and that lights will be used for limited purposes throughout the year beyond the WPPA.
Thanks for your presentation. I think this is a great experience for the kids and community, which I live in. I think it is important to note that this will only impact less than half of the park, allowing others to park their cars and enjoy the rest of this great space.	TS	Comment was read aloud.
I approve the lights where it would give more kids to play and more games to have for kids to enjoy.	M	Comment was read aloud.
This was extremely well done. Not only do I love the idea but I appreciate your preparation and thoughtfulness. Thank you. I look forward to receiving the link you mentioned and I will speak to my neighbors about adding their support. Thank you! #GoWhiteSox	JH	Comment was read aloud.
This seems a natural progression, especially considering other parks in the area. With the size of Welles' program, why hasn't this been done 10 or 20 years ago?	ES	We don't know why this was not done years ago, but we are hoping it becomes reality now.
Why exclude seniors?	B	Certainly not our intent, and we are hopeful that all members of the community engage with us. If someone could not join the meeting tonight, they can e-mail us at lights@wppachicago.org
Great presentation! Thanks for the info. The lights would be a great and very welcome addition to both the park and neighborhood. This project has my full and enthusiastic support.	E	Comment was read aloud.
You'll never include all who want in.	B	Comment was read aloud.

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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<p>Can the Park District representatives please speak to what the requirements are for other groups to use the ball fields and the proposed lights? Is there a list of other groups that also use the fields, excluding nearby residents who are not part of an organized group from using the space?</p>	<p>JH</p>	<p>Later in the meeting, a Chicago Park District representative confirmed that the 9:30p curfew will be enforced and that lights will be used for limited purposes throughout the year beyond the WPPA.</p>
<p>I am hearing lots of your people ...stacked meeting?</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>In order to spread the word about this meeting, beginning nearly a month out - our volunteers (1) left nearly 250 flyers at houses and apartment buildings bordering the park and within a block North and South of the park; (2) shared news of the meeting with the Alderman's office, both of the neighborhood community associations, both chambers of commerce, and the Welles Park Advisory Council and requested that all of those parties share news of the event with their e-mail lists; (3) requested that Block Club Chicago run an article advertising the story (which it did); and (4) publicized the event through social media and our own e-mail list.</p> <p>We encouraged WPPA families to attend and share their views.</p>

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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<p>Comment: Next year, hopefully, kids will be back in school consistently and full-time. Parents who are juggling their own work, picking up kids from school, trying to make sure homework gets done, and feeding their families don't have a lot of time and will understandably support convenience spots with faster food. Even on weekends, it's doubtful that many parents coming for games will take their kids to the Bistro before they play baseball. I'm concerned, along with others, about the unsightly massive poles, bright lights, and more noise. But my biggest concern is for the neighborhood institutions which have been most affected by the pandemic - which would be further affected if lights and later games are added and they lose convenient parking spots.</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>We have had broad support from local businesses as well as from the North Center and Lincoln Square Chambers of Commerce.</p>
<p>As the Welles Park Supervisor, we will adhere to the 9:30pm curfew</p>	<p>BK</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud.</p>
<p>It might be helpful to figure out what percentage of the area being lighted vs. the entire park. I doubt the baseball fields are even half of the park and are only proposed to be lighted for a couple hours a night for a few months. Also, while difficult, some commitment from the park district to the 9:30 cut off or what their policy would be also would help.</p>	<p>SH</p>	<p>Later in the meeting, a Chicago Park District representative confirmed that the 9:30p curfew will be enforced and that lights will be used for limited purposes throughout the year beyond the WPPA.</p>
<p>Parks are for more than kids and parents believe it or not</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud.</p>

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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<p>This is Lauryn Schmelzer, Chief of Staff for State Representative Ann Williams. I have been listening in to the meeting in order to monitor this development in our community. Rep. Williams and I love Welles park and are happy to see the healthy dialogue within the community about the future of this beloved park.</p>	<p>LS</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud.</p>
<p>We live a block from the park and we are in full support of this. WPPA is a wonderful organization which provides lifelong friendships and memories to children for a lifetime. Thank you for all of your efforts.</p>	<p>KJ</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud.</p>
<p>To Pamela's point, I don't know how we can present parking statistics without a study. Anyone who lives in the neighborhood realizes that parking is already an issue at night, so the idea of increasing night parking is an inherent issue. I know you don't have the answers yet, but I feel like that it is such an important issue that to move forward without a formal study feels ill-advised.</p>	<p>AC</p>	<p>We have looked into doing a formal parking assessment, but finding a vendor that is willing to do such a small project or that is not cost prohibitive has been a challenge. We are continuing to look.</p>
<p>That did not happen. [There were] no paper flyers [for those who] live [with]in a block of park.</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>In order to spread the word about this meeting, beginning nearly a month out - our volunteers (1) left nearly 250 flyers at houses and apartment buildings bordering the park and within a block North and South of the park; (2) shared news of the meeting with the Alderman's office, both of the neighborhood community associations, both chambers of commerce, and the Welles Park Advisory Council and requested that all of those parties share news of the event with their e-mail lists; (3) requested that Block Club Chicago run an article advertising the story (which it did); and (4) publicized the event through social media and our own e-mail list.</p>
<p>Great presentation. We fully support this and are excited to (hopefully) see our girls play softball under the lights next year!</p>	<p>JM</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud.</p>

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

Question	Asker Initials	Response
I love this format with you reading the questions. It is very constructive, allows everyone to contribute, not just the loudest and most disruptive voices.	MM	Comment was read aloud.
Am I wrong to assume that once you raise the money it is full steam ahead, regardless of dissent from neighbors?	K	Haven't gotten there. Hope we can gain the support of our neighbors, but we realize that we are not going to be able to make everyone happy.
We live on Sunnyside, just east of Leavitt, and NEVER received any flyers or handouts regarding this.	LC	In order to spread the word about this meeting, beginning nearly a month out - our volunteers (1) left nearly 250 flyers at houses and apartment buildings bordering the park and within a block North and South of the park; (2) shared news of the meeting with the Alderman's office, both of the neighborhood community associations, both chambers of commerce, and the Welles Park Advisory Council and requested that all of those parties share news of the event with their e-mail lists; (3) requested that Block Club Chicago run an article advertising the story (which it did); and (4) publicized the event through social media and our own e-mail list.
Just a point of clarity - oldest aged players that play at Welles park fields is 14 - older kids play at Winnemac and Rogers.	BN	Comment was read aloud.
I love the idea of supporting kids and keeping them busy in healthy activities. However, I am torn. I am still seriously concerned about curfew changing in the future as Park District is ultimately in control.	CV	Earlier in the meeting, a Chicago Park District representative confirmed that the 9:30p curfew will be enforced and that lights will be used for limited purposes throughout the year beyond the WPPA.

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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Continuing the conversation, D... Next year, hopefully, kids will be back in school consistently and full-time. Parents who are juggling their own work, picking up kids from school, trying to make sure homework gets done, and feeding their families don't have a lot of time and will understandably support convenience spots with faster food. Even on weekends, it's doubtful that many parents coming for games will take their kids to the Bistro before they play baseball.	S	We have had broad support from local businesses as well as from the North Center and Lincoln Square Chambers of Commerce.
Do you actually need the approval of neighbors? What is the process of getting approval for your project? will there be anything resembling a vote that considers the opinion of the immediate residents?	KG	To proceed with the project, the WPPA needs the approval of the Park District, but we are hopeful that we can get the support of our community as well.
Sheila, teenagers can be great people too. I have two amazing teenagers.	SW	Comment was read aloud.
I am proud of the hard work the VOLUNTEER board on this project. Thank you and the full board for the time and effort you put it in to better the experience for our children. It's a wonderful opportunity to improve the program and maintain WPPA's strong partnership with the community.	BN	Comment was read aloud.
But who controls that? You said the park district has ultimate control.	LC	Earlier in the meeting, a Chicago Park District representative confirmed that the 9:30p curfew will be enforced and that lights will be used for limited purposes throughout the year beyond the WPPA.
Thank you so much for your passion and commitment to this project. These lights would be a great asset to the park and would hugely benefit all of the kids who want to play.	AC	Comment was read aloud.

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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Any conversation around lights in Welles Park has to be specific to this neighborhood, including its particular layout, its particular patterns, and its particular businesses and residents. This can't be compared to Hamlin, etc...	S	Hamlin was used as a comparison in terms of what those lights are like versus what these proposed lights would be like
Again, the answer "not yet" as to whether other groups can solicit use of park, using the lights, is the problem...	LC	Earlier in the meeting, a Chicago Park District representative confirmed that the 9:30p curfew will be enforced and that lights will be used for limited purposes throughout the year beyond the WPPA.
You did not answer questions that were e-mailed to you in advance.	B	For questions sent in advance of the meeting, we did our best to incorporate responses into the presentation. If we have missed anything, participants were encouraged to submit their question during the Q&A.
Not all parks are just for kids. Newly formed River PAC is working to bring Saturday SM yoga.	SW	Comment was read aloud.
Doing a parking study now will not reflect the situation after welles, cpl, and businesses are operating fully.	MO	Comment was read aloud.
We did not receive a flyer on the 4300 block of Bell, adjacent to the park, and I am not aware of any neighbor who did. Please be sure you flyer for future meetings, as it is important for neighbors.	JH	In order to spread the word about this meeting, beginning nearly a month out - our volunteers (1) left nearly 250 flyers at houses and apartment buildings bordering the park and within a block North and South of the park; (2) shared news of the meeting with the Alderman's office, both of the neighborhood community associations, both chambers of commerce, and the Welles Park Advisory Council and requested that all of those parties share news of the event with their e-mail lists; (3) requested that Block Club Chicago run an article advertising the story (which it did); and (4) publicized the event through social media and our own e-mail list.

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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We didn't get one.	LC	In order to spread the word about this meeting, beginning nearly a month out - our volunteers (1) left nearly 250 flyers at houses and apartment buildings bordering the park and within a block North and South of the park; (2) shared news of the meeting with the Alderman's office, both of the neighborhood community associations, both chambers of commerce, and the Welles Park Advisory Council and requested that all of those parties share news of the event with their e-mail lists; (3) requested that Block Club Chicago run an article advertising the story (which it did); and (4) publicized the event through social media and our own e-mail list.
I also live on the square and didn't receive notice. — This affects more than the immediate perimeter and one block east/west, especially when parking becomes limited.	S	In order to spread the word about this meeting, beginning nearly a month out - our volunteers (1) left nearly 250 flyers at houses and apartment buildings bordering the park and within a block North and South of the park; (2) shared news of the meeting with the Alderman's office, both of the neighborhood community associations, both chambers of commerce, and the Welles Park Advisory Council and requested that all of those parties share news of the event with their e-mail lists; (3) requested that Block Club Chicago run an article advertising the story (which it did); and (4) publicized the event through social media and our own e-mail list.
We also live one block south of the park on Oakley. Only heard from one of our kids' former coaches about meeting. None of neighbors I asked not involved in WPPA were aware.	MV	In order to spread the word about this meeting, beginning nearly a month out - our volunteers (1) left nearly 250 flyers at houses and apartment buildings bordering the park and within a block North and South of the park; (2) shared news of the meeting with the Alderman's office, both of the neighborhood community associations, both chambers of commerce, and the Welles Park Advisory Council and requested that all of those parties share news of the event with their e-mail lists; (3) requested that Block Club Chicago run an article advertising the story (which it did); and (4) publicized the event through social media and our own e-mail list.

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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It's not simply the 9:30 curfew. It's the fact the lights are then available for more and more use throughout the weekdays and weekends (beyond your programs). It sounds like there will be a lot of unknowns once the lights are in place	PS	Earlier in the meeting, a Chicago Park District representative confirmed that the 9:30p curfew will be enforced and that lights will be used for limited purposes throughout the year beyond the WPPA.
I didn't say anything negative about teenagers. They're just unlikely to support the sit-down restaurants around baseball games. When parking is taken by the leagues, it will affect the sit-down restaurants.	S	Comment was read aloud.
No plan to use light for other than baseball and football (which does not go that late).	BK	Comment was read aloud.
FOOTBALL? Was that part of the discussion?	LC	Football does not play night games.
As I recall, the The mission of the Chicago Park District is to: Enhance the quality of life in Chicago by becoming the leading provider of recreation and leisure opportunities. Provide safe, inviting and beautifully maintained parks and facilities. I think this project supports this mission at no cost to CPD.	M	Comment was read aloud.
I am not a restaurant owner, but if the nearby restaurants unanimously support this proposal that is telling.	JP	Comment was read aloud.
Great presentation, great forum, you guys did an amazing job and really appreciate all of the time that you put into making a great community organization better. As a community member and WPPA member this is absolutely the right thing to do. These types of amenities make us a better place to live, thank you so much for all that you are doing for this.	M	Comment was read aloud.

March 11, 2021 Community Meeting for WPPA Light the Diamonds Project

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<p>I have lived in the neighborhood for over 20 years. I came to this meeting with concerns about this proposal, but you have more than convinced me that you should do this. Well done. I was a skeptic about putting lights in Wrigley Field, but it worked out well there in 2016!</p>	<p>MM</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud</p>
<p>Lincoln Square is its own ecosystem. You can't say that more of any one thing is necessarily healthy for the overall environment. More baseball games, later at night, would have a ripple effect. Often, when changes are made without thinking through the ripple effects, there are unintended consequences.</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud</p>
<p>Thank you for your efforts and quality presentation. I am impressed. Possibly some of my frustrations are with other groups who use the fields.</p>	<p>MO</p>	<p>Comment was read aloud</p>
<p>how will we now when the next two meeting will take place ?</p>	<p>WB</p>	<p>We are evaluating next steps, and will distribute information about our next meeting.</p>