



chicago park district

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January 3, 2005

Mr. Steven G. Whitney
P.O. Box 59-7308
Chicago, Illinois 60659-7308

Dear Mr. Whitney:

I am writing in response to your letter dated November 30, 2004. Thank you for your comments during our first two "visioning/idea" sessions. It was also informative to meet with you and Mr. Josh Levy to discuss your plan in more detail. Your letter clearly reiterates your issues, which we discussed in that meeting. I believe it is also important that I do the same and reinforce the Park District's position in my response to you.

As we discussed, the intent of the "visioning" sessions is to solicit many different ideas for parks from as wide a range of residents as possible. Using these ideas, we can begin to put together initial concept plans and conduct a second round of meetings to show them to communities and get feedback. The current meetings are not intended to be a forum to showcase competing privately developed plans. You have done well in explaining your plans to us at the Park District and to a larger audience through the media. However, we feel it is extremely important that we give residents from around the city the opportunity to express their park development ideas for Northerly Island.

Your concerns about airport development can best be addressed through the City of Chicago, who manages airport operations and development. It is not our intention to conduct any planning sessions that focus on airport development or any area that is not strictly related to park development.

I hope this letter has clarified for you the intent of our initial planning sessions and the process we intend to follow. I am asking that you respect this process, which is the one we use for all of our park planning efforts, and allow others to express their opinions as you already have. As always, please feel free to contact me at 312-742-4686 should you have any questions or comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

Arnold L. Randall
Director of Planning & Development

cc: C. Gent

