
Central Park Dance Skaters Association

Newsletter © C.P.D.S.A., 1995

Editorial: Roslyn Dotson, Maureen Eckert, Bob Nichols, Brent Nosworthy, Lezly Ziering,

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What's Up!

Last week:

- Aides to a high ranking city public official agree to set up meeting between CPDSA and Parks Department. Official agrees sit in on any such meeting.

Action Steps:

- Discourage anyone from violating the rules of conduct published in this newsletter.
- During what is hopefully near the last stages of negotiations, it is critically important that we sound sound problems.
- Be cool!
- Let's enjoy ourselves, have fun and a good skate!

CPDSA in the News

We are making an ongoing effort to bring our case to the people of New York. To this end we have prepared and widely distributed a press kit. During the last two weeks we have succeeded in getting the following media coverage:

- *New York One TV (Cable)*: Interview with skaters & Henry Stern (Parks Commissioner.) Henry Stern acknowledges existence of CPDSA; says he is studying its proposal and that sound will return "mid-summer."
- *The West Ender*: Interview of Brent Nosworthy about the current skating problems, issues, CPDSA proposal, etc.
- *The Smithsonian*: Conclusion of interviews initially conducted in early May.

A Letter to Henry Stern

Dear Commissioner Stern;

I am following up on my letter of April 14th. I believe the time has come for a meeting to resolve our serious problem.

There are thousands of people who are deeply disturbed by the loss of our music, the six hundred skaters who have applied for membership in our organizations, those who count the days of the week until we come together to dance and skate and dance on skates. For some, it is what makes the work-a-day world bearable; for others, it is a spiritual experience. The camaraderie and mutual respect that has been engendered by our association with each other for two decades leaves us feeling that our quality of life is at stake.

On the other side are the over seventy five hundred people who signed our petitions and who have without solicitation, told us in an amazing variety of ways and in many accents of their outrage, their feeling of being denied something they have come to treasure over the years, of their desire to help - who see us dancing still, in silence - and who tell us that we are cheating them because we keep our music to ourselves.

Our proposal is in front of you - it is sincere, well thought out and honestly and responsibly addresses your concerns. If it doesn't, meet with us and let us find a common ground. Our group is an asset to the city and a tradition that makes Central Park unique in all the world. There are only two outdoor skate communities in the United States - ours and Venice Beach. I hope that you will be the commissioner who saves and preserves New York's beloved outdoor dance skate community.

Sincerely Yours,

Lezly Ziering

Chairman CPDSA

The View From Skaters Road

Some of the regulars out on Skaters Road have been skating there for eighteen years; others can remember sitting in strollers that their parents pushed past the skate circle eighteen years ago. No one, however, can remember a year when there was more communication and cooperation between the skaters and the Parks Department than last summer when the ban on music was first attempted. Last year a committee of skaters negotiated a reinstatement of music and formed a security unit responsible for keeping order. The Parks Department gave us laminated notices - on official Park stationary "Welcoming the public to the Central Park Dance Skate Area" - which listed rules of conduct that we were entrusted with enforcing.

Although most of us believe that we did a good job last summer - upholding most of the rules --the Parks Department did not agree. In late March, there was a ban on all amplified music in Central Park, not just on Skaters Road. We skaters didn't like it, but we kept on coming out and kept on skating. When all the benches and metal gates used to lock up our bags were removed by the Parks Department, we sat on the curb, piled our bags in the middle of the circle, and kept on skating. When we were surrounded by a small army of police every weekend, we didn't fight with them or succumb to the angry voices who wanted to start trouble, we kept our heads and kept on skating.

Things are looking a little better in the past few weeks: we've earned the respect and support of some important people in the city government and we've finally got a transmitter - which broadcasts dance music in a 75

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foot radius to all those skaters wearing a walkman tuned to FM 87.7 - which allows us to keep the circle rolling. The inside word is that results from negotiations are imminent -- Commissioner Henry Stern has promised music by the middle of the summer -- which I take to mean as soon as the "Pocahontas" Premier, on June 10th out on the Great Lawn, has been successfully completed - so there's reason to be optimistic.

Personally, I'll believe it when I hear it; but let's say we do get the music back...this time, I know we're not going to let anyone spoil things for us. This year we have found a really strong leader to enforce the rules and keep us honest. If you want to know who that leader is - go stand in front of a mirror and take a long hard look.

The Central Park Skate Circle Lives! -- Bob Nichols

Parks & Recreation Dept Public Relations, 830 Fifth Avenue, NY NY 10021, Fax: (212) - 360-1324

Official CPDSA Contacts

If you are interested in helping us, please let us know. All inquiries should be directed to:

Brent Nosworthy (718) 797-0592

Lezly Ziering: (212) 777-3232

Bob Nichols (212) 246-1344

The Skater's Ten Commandments

Please note! Last Sunday at around 6:30 PM, one of our skaters suffered a serious broken ankle. For the preservation of our activity and our collective sake, we must enforce strictly enforce good skating behavior!

Skating can be a hazardous activity.

Skate at your own risk!

1. Skate with caution, consideration and control.
2. No speed skating.
3. No alcoholic beverages or illicit drugs.
4. No belligerent behavior.
5. No glass containers.
6. No littering.
7. Respect the environment.
8. Respect our boundaries.
9. Supervise your children and pets.
10. No unauthorized commercial sales or solicitation of funds.

Have a great day!

Fax Numbers

Central Park Conservancy: Elizabeth Barlow Rogers,
Fax (212) - 315-0869

Central Park Precinct: Captain William Bayer
Transverse Rd & 86th Street, NY NY 10024,
Fax: (212) - 570-2864

Police Dept Community Affairs, One Police Plaza, NY NY 10038,
Fax: (212) - 732-3965

Henry Stern, Commissioner, Parks Dept. Fax: (212) - 360-1345

Please be kind. Don't Litter!