
Central Park Dance Skaters Association

Newsletter c C.P.D.S.A., 1995

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

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???Good News???

Several days ago, a senior Parks Official contacted our negotiating team with some important news. The situation now appears *very promising* and the much hoped for mutually acceptable solution appears to be at hand.

For further details, please contact members of the CPDSA steering committee. --The Editor

Membership Gathering

There will be a general "membership gathering" in our area next weekend. The gathering will take place on Saturday & Sunday, July 1st & 2nd, starting at 2:00 PM and running intermittently all afternoon. For an exact location, please contact CPDSA steering committee members near our transmitter.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide our skaters with an opportunity to:

- ∑ pick up membership applications
- ∑ choose between various logos for your T-shirts and buttons (which will be offered later)
- ∑ help determine CPDSA's official logo.

Membership in the CPDSA offers a number of benefits. Members will receive several large-sized newsletters in the mail annually. A Membership Card also entitles members to discounts in rinks and shops around New York. The Wollman Rink, for example, will give a \$2.00 discount towards its admission charge to any of our members. --The Editor

A Call to Skaters

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you - the hundreds of concerned skaters who have skated with us in the Skate Circle in better, happier and freer times and who have expressed an interest in joining the CPDSA in order to do what is necessary to regain our music.

We share your outrage and sense of loss and have been working very hard to right this injustice. We have been successful in enlisting the support of some important local politicians and community groups. We have also come up with an interim solution to supply music to our group so that we can continue to skate in harmony to the same music. A transmitter now broadcasts our tapes on the lowest FM band and our skaters can boogie together to the beat by tuning in their headsets to our own FM radio channel!

Endlessly we hear -- "What can we do to help?" from our skaters who long to be part of the solution. *There really is* something all of us *can do* and it's not even a chore - it is what we all want to do in the final analysis - and *it is what we must do - Now!* Come out and skate with us on Skaters Road - bring your FM radio headset, tune in to our station and dance and skate and dance on your skates. We need our skaters out there to demonstrate that we

will not go away -- that regardless of what restrictions and prohibitions are imposed upon us, we will persevere.

In the early weeks of the music ban there was very little drop off in our numbers and the spectators still flocked to watch us do our thing. To succeed, we must have your support and most especially, your physical presence.

If depriving us of our music causes us to lose interest and we stop coming to the "Circle" in any meaningful numbers, we may cease to attract our usually devoted onlookers - let us not lose this fight through apathy!

If you want our efforts to be successful - if you want to have our music back - if our quality of life is important to you - *skate and be counted*. Only you can make the difference. We must fill "Skaters Road" with vibrant activity - with life -- we can succeed with your help.

-- Lezly Ziering

The View From Skaters Road

I've been skating around in circles, out on Skaters Road, for a long time; obviously, it has fried my brains. Four months after our music was silenced, I'm still going around in circles - without any music. No wonder the Police and Parks Department keep such a large contingent of cops out there; they see us dancing - without music - and think they're dealing with crazy people! After four months, maybe we are nuts!

Hmmmm, now it's all beginning to make sense! What could we have been thinking? We've been really stupid. Stupid enough to think that it was our park and that we should have a say in how it was used. You know, like we were living in a democracy? Well, OK, we're not that stupid!

Dreamed I was out skating in the park, last night and a bunch of cops came after me: *"Alright officer, grab this guy. That's right, put him into the straight jacket...he's ready for the loony bin. Get this: he said "It's a free country." Where the hell has he been for the last fifteen years? This guy is delusional!"*

Could it be that the city is just protecting us from ourselves? They *do* have our best interests in mind, don't they? The message is that Central Park is there for everyone, it's a public park, not private. It doesn't belong to anyone - it belongs to everyone. Skaters Road may not be the private property of the skaters, but it's been ours for twenty years - doesn't that count for something? And, if we don't own it, who does?

Maybe it's the challenge of rink skating while wearing headphones that's making me nuts. Ever try communicating with a dance partner while listening to a walkman? You've got to shout or take off your headphones. Wires get tangled, the headset slips off, the station drifts, batteries run down, the walkman drops...the problems are endless.

Please be kind. Don't Litter!

Without audible music, our activity lacks substance; spectators have no idea of what we are doing. People walk through the rink with babies in strollers - totally oblivious to what is happening! Bikers and roller bladers zoom through the area going in the wrong direction and look at us like we're nuts when we explain that there's a rink.

For now, I can only follow the example of my fellow skaters who keep coming out and skating, despite the hardships. What a bunch of beautiful people! But then, that's what the skate circle is all about. The Skate Circle lives!

-- Bob Nichols

The Skaters' Ten Commandments

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 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

Park & 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

Please be kind. Don't Litter!