

December 20, 2018

Neighbors and Friends of Cobb Park,

The Kankakee Valley Park District would like to thank you for your emails and phone calls concerning the activity at Cobb Park. We have recently been contacted by Nicor Gas/Southern Companies regarding replacement of a gas line. Currently, there is a 1946 gas line that runs from a point across the river to Cobb Park and into the neighborhood, servicing the homes in the area. This pipe is not only old and out dated, but too small to continue to service the area.

When Southern Companies approached the district about replacement of the gas pipe, they provided their initial plan of lay and easement. They have provided drawings of the current pipe route and the proposed easement. In order to have a full understanding and visual, the district granted permission to stake out the proposed easement.

During this time, the district has been speaking with numerous neighbors, legal advisors, arborists, legal legislative consultants, other municipalities, park districts, tree experts, community activists. We have been researching alternatives to the current proposal, which would go through the middle of our park. In addition, several neighbors have also been researching the consequences of gas lines within a park with majestic trees such as ours.

The majority of our trees are well over 100 years old! A Riverview neighbor pointed out that some of these trees predated the Lewis and Clark Expedition. They are part of a historic community and park. They are what makes this park historic, beautiful and loved. The original gas pipe lines were constructed in 1946, which means that the trees were already there.

The Southern Company representative is very compassionate and understanding. Once we saw their proposed easement, we requested that they go back and re-examine their plans to come up with something new. We will not allow the trees to be removed. At this time, we do ask everyone to leave the markers until we meet with Southern Companies again.

It is not our intention to interfere with proper gas service to the neighborhood by Southern Companies replacing the line however, there are alternatives.

We also realize, when the time comes and construction begins, there will be some inconveniences such as slight changes to social gatherings in the area or traffic detouring around or near the park. We have contacted the South Chicago Wheelmen for the Cobb Park Criterium race dates in an effort to work around schedules.



We ask that the community continue to contact us with thoughts and input and in general for updates. We will try to keep the community informed to the best of our ability and may engage a neighbor or two to assist us.

The district cannot thank Riverview residents enough for their support and for caring about Cobb Park.

Sincerely,

DJ Heitz

Dayna J. Heitz, Executive Director Kankakee Valley Park District Board & Staff



