

**CHARTER, ORDINANCES  
AND RESOLUTIONS OF  
THE SOUTH PARK  
COMMISSIONERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649426843

Charter, Ordinances and Resolutions of the South Park Commissioners by Anonymous

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OF THE

*Chicago*  
-SOUTH PARK COMMISSIONERS.

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Published by Authority of the  
South Park Commissioners.

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~~Law 5.5.2~~

~~Law 965.945.55~~

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CHARTER, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS  
OF THE  
SOUTH PARK COMMISSIONERS.

AN ACT to provide for the location and maintenance of a Park for the Towns of South Chicago, Hyde Park and Lake:

*Approved February 24, 1869.*

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly,* That five persons, who shall be appointed by the Governor of the State of Illinois, together with their successors, be, and they are hereby, constituted a Board of Public Park Commissioners, for the towns of South Chicago, Hyde Park and Lake, to be known under the name of the South Park Commissioners; and in case of the failure of any of said persons to accept such appointment, and to qualify thereunder as hereinafter provided, within sixty days after the passage of this act, the place of such person in said commission shall be thereby vacated, and it shall be the duty of a majority of the commissioners so accepting, to appoint some suitable persons to fill the place thus made vacant, which appointment, when accepted by such nominee, shall constitute such person as a commissioner under this act. And a majority of said commissioners shall so continue to nominate until the board shall consist of five per-

Oath. sons. Each of said commissioners, before entering upon the duties of his office, shall take an oath to well and properly discharge the duties of his office for the interest of the public, which oath shall be reduced to writings subscribed to by him, and filed in the office of the County Clerk of Cook County. They shall each

Bond. give a bond in the penal sum of fifty thousand dollars, with one or more sureties, to be approved by the Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County to the Treasurer of Cook County, conditioned for the faithful discharge of their duties under this act.

SEC. 2. As soon as convenient, after the said board shall be constituted as aforesaid, the members thereof shall decide by lot, at a meeting to be called by any three of them, as to the respective terms for which each member shall hold his office; the number of lots shall equal the number of commissioners, and the person drawing the longest term shall serve for five years from the first day of March, A. D. 1869; the one drawing the next shall serve for four years from said date; the one drawing the next shall serve for three years from said date; and so on until the term of each one of said commissioners shall be definitely determined, each one serving for the length of time inscribed on the lot drawn by him—the last of said commissioners serving for the term of one year only from said first day of March, A. D. 1869. As soon as the term of office of each of said commissioners shall be determined as aforesaid, said board shall organize by electing one of their number as President, and one of their number as Auditor; they shall also appoint a Treasurer, prescribe his duties and fix his compensation, who shall give bond for the faithful discharge of his duties in the penal sum of five hundred thousand dollars, with not less than three sufficient sureties, to be approved by the Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. They shall also choose a Secretary, who shall not necessarily be a commissioner, and who shall hold his office until his successor shall be appointed, as hereinafter provided; and all officers

Term of  
Office.

Election of  
Officers.



- appointed by the board shall be subject to removal at the pleasure of the board. The said board shall adopt a seal and alter the same at pleasure; they shall keep a complete record of all their proceedings, which shall be open at all times for the inspection of the public. The said commissioners shall receive no compensation for their services, except the President, who may, in the discretion of said board, have and receive such compensation as may be fixed as hereinafter provided, not to exceed three thousand dollars per annum. All vacancies occurring in said board shall be filled by the appointment of the Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, when such vacancy or vacancies shall occur. Said Board of Commissioners shall be a body politic and corporate, and shall have and enjoy all the powers necessary for the purposes of this act.
- Seal.**
- Vacancies to be Filled.**
- Election.** SEC. 3. The President, Auditor, Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected annually by said board, at the annual meeting thereof, and shall receive such salary for their services as said board shall from time to time determine, not exceeding, for each of said officers, the sum of three thousand dollars per annum.
- Lands to be Taken.** SEC. 4. The said commissioners, by this act, are authorized and empowered to, and they shall, within ninety days after their organization as aforesaid, or as soon thereafter as practicable, select the following described lands, situated in the towns of South Chicago, Hyde Park and Lake, in Cook County, Illinois, to wit: Commencing at the south-west corner of Fifty-first street and Cottage Grove avenue, running thence south along the west side of Cottage Grove avenue to the south line of Fifty-ninth street; thence east along the south line of Fifty-ninth street to the east line of Hyde Park avenue; thence north on Hyde Park avenue to Fifty-sixth street; thence east along the south line of Fifty-sixth street to Lake Michigan; thence southerly along the shore of the lake to a point due east of the center of section twenty-four (24), in township thirty-eight (38) north, range fourteen (14); thence west through the cen-

ter of said section twenty-four (24) to Hyde Park avenue; thence north on the east line of Hyde Park avenue to the north line of Sixtieth street, so called; thence west on the north line of Sixtieth street, so called, to Kankakee avenue; thence north on the east line of Kankakee avenue to Fifty-first street; thence east to a point to the place of beginning; also, a piece of land commencing at the south-east corner of Kankakee avenue and Fifty-fifth street, running thence west, a strip two hundred feet wide, adjoining the north line of Fifty-fifth street, along said Fifty-fifth street to the line between ranges thirteen (13) and fourteen (14) east; thence north, east of and adjoining said line, a strip two hundred feet wide, to the Illinois and Michigan canal; also, a parcel of land beginning at the south-west corner of Douglas place and Kankakee avenue, running thence south, a strip of land one hundred and thirty-two feet wide along the west side of said Kankakee avenue to a point one hundred and fifty feet south of the south line of Fifty-first street; also, a strip of land commencing at the intersection of Cottage Grove avenue and Fifty-first street, running thence east one hundred feet in width on each side of the center line of Fifty-first street, to a point one hundred feet east of the center line of Drexel avenue; also, a strip of land extending north from the intersection of Fifty-first street with Drexel avenue, one hundred feet in width on each side of the center line of said avenue to the north line of Forty-third street; thence northerly, a strip of land two hundred feet in width till it meets or intersects with Elm street in Cleaverville; thence northerly along said Elm street, two hundred feet in width, west from the east line of said street to its intersection with Oakwood avenue; which said land and premises, when acquired by said commissioners as provided by this act, shall be held, managed and controlled by them and their successors, as a public park, for the recreation, health and benefit of the public, and free to all persons forever, subject to such necessary rules and regulations as shall,

from time to time, be adopted by said commissioners and their successors, for the well ordering and government of the same.

**Condemn.** SEC. 5. In case the said commissioners cannot agree with the owner or owners, lessees or occupants of any of the said real estate selected by them as aforesaid, they may proceed to procure the condemnation of the same in the manner prescribed in the act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, entitled "An Act to amend the law condemning right of way for the purpose of internal improvements," approved June 22, 1852, and the acts amendatory thereof, the provisions of which said act, and the several acts amendatory thereof, are hereby extended to the park and park commissioners to be created by virtue of this act.

**Map.** SEC. 6. When the title to the land selected for such park as herein provided shall have been acquired by said commissioners, by gift, condemnation, or otherwise, it shall be the duty of such commissioners to make, acknowledge, and file for record in the office of the recorder of deeds for Cook County, a map, showing the said land, with a correct description, including section, township, and range.

**Assessors Appointed.** SEC. 7. As soon as the amount required for the condemnation of the grounds selected for said park shall have been ascertained, by said commissioners, with reasonable certainty, they shall apply to the Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County for the appointment of three freeholders of the County of Cook as park assessors. The commissioners shall give notice in one or more of the daily newspapers published in the City of Chicago, of the time when such application will be made, and all parties interested may appear and be heard by the said judge, touching such appointment. At the time fixed for such application, the court, after hearing such persons as shall desire to be heard, touching such appointment, shall nominate and appoint three assessors for the purposes provided in this act. The said assessors shall proceed to assess the amount so