



For immediate release:

Neighborhood Association Reacts to IGB Casino Determination

As expected, the Illinois Gaming Board voted unanimously at its June 15 meeting to grant a Determination of Preliminary Suitability to Bally's Chicago Operating Company, LLC. Though not a final approval, this is an important step on the path towards the opening of the company's temporary casino at Medinah Temple, which is expected in late summer of this year. The temporary facility will operate for approximately three years during construction of the much larger permanent facility at Halsted Street and Chicago Avenue.

A link to a recording of the IGB meeting has been posted on RNRA's main casino page at [RNRACHicago.org/Chicago-Casino](https://rnrachicago.org/Chicago-Casino).

Though this huge gaming and entertainment complex is likely to become a reality, it can be better than that which is envisioned by the current plan. Shortly after the City Council approved the Bally's proposal in May of 2022, River North Residents Association (RNRA) published a series of project improvement recommendations, intended to reduce harmful impacts to the surrounding communities, the citizens of Chicago, and the natural environment.

Having met with city officials and members of the Bally's team to discuss the recommendations, RNRA leaders are pleased that some meaningful progress has been made, including elimination of the outdoor music venue and pedestrian bridge to Ward Park, expansion of onsite public green space, addition of a dog run and riverfront wildlife habitat, reduction in overall PD 1426 site density (from the 2022 proposal), and consideration of enhanced offsite security measures. These are encouraging steps, but more work remains to be done.

The full set of recommendations can be accessed at rnrachicago.org/casino-improvement-recommendations.

Representing nearly 25,000 individuals, RNRA has worked to protect and enhance quality of life in the River North neighborhood for more than 25 years. We appreciate the willingness of city officials and the casino developers to engage in substantive dialogue with our association and other stakeholders to further improve this highly impactful project and look forward to continuing the conversation.

Thank you for covering this important story.

On behalf of the RNRA Board,

Brian Israel
Director Emeritus
River North Residents Association