

# MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10 2018 JPAC MONTHLY MEETING

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7PM at the fieldhouse, 25 voting members and a total attendance of 28 being present. Maria Stone represented the Park District.

Treasurer Dwight Powell reported a balance of \$3,572.92 with more to deposit as membership renewals are coming in. We purchased at discount and accepted donated ice cream and other goods for the Area 3 Showcase at Roseblum Park. In response to questions, it was noted that we have a \$100 contingency fund for supplies et al. Receipts must be furnished.

Maria Stone, Legislative and Community Affairs, asked for volunteers to help plan the March 30 PACS Conference at Malcolm X College, which will be open all PAC members. McCurry, Mary Anton will attend a meeting Wednesday. There are now 252 park PACs and over 500 parks. The Park District Board of Commissioners also meets that day and will take up planning for our park.

A symposium and 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party were held for Dr. Timuel D. Black, who among many other actions has stood by Jackson Park in the past. . As per resolution last month, a letter of congratulations was sent. The Vivian G. Harsh Society is raising funds for civic engagement youth scholarships in his name. Moved by Anne Marie Miles, 2nded by Esther Schechter, and approved to give \$100 to the fund.

Minutes of the November meeting were moved by Jerry Levy and 2nded by Erin Adams and approved.

Election of officers. Per resolution last month, nominations were opened at that meeting and nominations received were communicated timely with announcement of the election to the members. Jerry Levy assumed the chair for the election, gave the rules prescribed in the bylaws, and gave the names of the four nominees who agreed to serve: Louise McCurry for President, Anne Marie Miles for Vice President, Gary Ossewaarde for Secretary, and Dwight Powell for Treasurer. The floor was opened for further nominations. Hearing none, Levy moved that the named nominees be elected by acclamation. This carried with no expressed dissent.

Woodlawn parks. McCurry reminded us that a Woodlawn community organization asked JPAC to look into the conditions of the other parks in Woodlawn and see if PACs can be helped or established there. The parks were looked at and work orders turned in, but further engagement with PACs that exist and park supervisors would be needed. A "golf cart" tour by park PACs/activists and staff will be recommended. Discussion showed that there are PACs for Harris and Huckleberry and perhaps 1 or 2 other parks.

Maria Stone said that the park supervisor or area/region should be notified by anyone right away of problems in parks. The revamped 311 city reporting system does go to the Park District. Send pictures if available. Suggested by others were a phone number on each park's ID sign and a checklist for park users. Support has been expressed in the area and among advocacy groups for more parkland and programs in Woodlawn.

Natural areas and grounds. Norm Bell reported a good workday in November with UC Lab School middle school students who collected plant seeds. Last year lots of plugs and shrubs were planted, invasives removed. Pictures are on the [www.bobolinkvolunteers.org](http://www.bobolinkvolunteers.org) website. A burn is hoped for in the spring. Next workday is March 8.

Jerry Levy said weather prevented a burn on Wooded Island this fall. New planting is virtually over, workdays resume in spring. Levy reminded that an additional steward, Nancy Joseph, has been appointed for the habitat restoration, the re-landscaped sections and the heritage oak stands south of the Museum of Science and Industry to the lagoons. Over 2000 plants have been installed, and many trees armored against beavers. Levy also note that volunteers can sign up for the South Shore Nature Sanctuary 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays at 10. {Check with Gary or Jerry for contact, Susannah Ribstein.]

McCurry said the Park District is looking into repairs on the end of La Raida peninsula

Recreation and fieldhouse. Pierre Nealon, rec. leader, said this is a light time, but they train wrestlers, for example, so they won't get hurt when the action starts after New Years. They are having difficulty finding offerings and to recruit girls and to have them stay. Dwight Powell pointed out a problem with CPS

and CPD/parks – competing, or not working together?)—by the time school or afterschool lets out, the kids have little 2 time for their activities at the fieldhouse before their parents come to pick them up. Also, many parents seem to use the fieldhouse as just babysitting. Members were also concerned that dance/ballet, which was promised to be offered this year, did not happen. Mary Anton who works with the Hyde Park School of Dance, said HPSD has a free program at Marquette and other parks and offered to inquire about here. Indoor adult soccer started last month. Spring offerings open March 8.

The holiday party for the park kids is December 21. Moved by Al Debonnet, 2nded and approved for JPAC to spend up to \$50 for the goodies for the party.

Tracy Raoul of Jackson Park Golf Association described their highly successful invitational in September and their scholarships. She said that six parks on the North Side have golf facilities for kids but none on the south side have except for our Bobolinks rounds that play early Saturday morning.

Old business. Conduct of business at meetings. McCurry said that we will work hard to follow proper order conducted in a respectful, single-conversation manner with all having a chance to speak before returning to one who has spoken already. Anne Marie Miles said that specifically concerns were expressed that women have been talked-over. The executive board met in response and made a decision to enforce the rules.

New business. Gary Ossewaarde reported that Hyde Park Historical Society informed us that they and Julia Bachrach are applying for a grant to repeat last summer's highly popular Flashlight Tour of Jackson Park. JPAC would not have any obligations, but its sponsorship would help with fees and insurance. Moved by Jake Young 2nded and approved to support and so inform the HPHS.

Members said they would like to see JPAC start kids programs such as nature or history scavenger hunts. Suggested also was a youth video project. Esther Schechter and others agreed to meet and develop ideas.

Events we should consider for doing or participating in in 2019:

King Day focus this year will include to get kids into parks for workshop and workday, January 19

One Earth Film Festival will return to Jackson Park March 2.

We could have a tree planting in April.

On the Table is May 14.

After the New Year we will continue to develop the sharing stories inter-generationally and among different park users that we explored with Changing Worlds at the October meeting.

Norm Bell described t h family caroling party that will take place at Cornell Park December 13.

The meeting was adjourned to take pictures a the fieldhouse tree and holiday display.

Submitted, Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary. Next meeting January 14.

## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2018 JPAC MONTHLY MEETING

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m. at the Jackson Park Fieldhouse. A quorum of voting members was present and a total of 23. Present from the park district were Area Manager Farah Tunks and Instructor Pierre Nealon. Agenda was distributed.

Minutes of the October meeting were duly moved and approved.

Treasurer Dwight Powell reported a balance of \$3,694.14 and deposits and expenditures. Asked by Powell, 2nded by Anne Marie Miles and Fran Vandervoort and approved was to purchase 10, or as needed turkeys for prizes to the age-group winners of the fieldhouse Turkey Trot. Powell asked consensus to explore getting a debit card for JPAC.

President's report. Members and others who contributed in many capacities to JPAC activities and successes during the year were given a shout out by the president and others. Noted also were the c1200 volunteers from many groups and organizations and the stewards who led them in 42 workday actions from March through October.

Recreation and Program. Instructor Pierre Nealon. Football is done while wrestling and tumbling (ages 6-15) are gearing up, with body training with the aim of keeping the kids involved and active year around. The Halloween party October 31 4:30 needs volunteers.

Turkey Trot will be November [16, changed]. Area Manager Farah Tunks announced a joint showcase and holiday festival with skits and "tours", "South Chi 3" for December 8, noon-2 at Rosenblum Park, 7547 S. Euclid (by South Shore High) featuring the kids from Jackson, Rosenblum, and South Shore Cultural Center. All are invited--\$5 for adults. Powell suggested this would be a good event to serve ice cream offered as donation to JPAC by L & P Candies on S. State St. (We will need to make sure there is good kid attendance and share publicity photos etc. with the store.) Men volunteers will be needed to scoop ice cream into cones.

The fieldhouse holiday event for end of fall camp is expected to be on last day of school, December 20 or 21. Volunteers are needed. JPAC secured books from Hyde Park Used Book Sale and donated by YWCA to give out. Members moved with second and approval up to \$100 for the event. Suggested by members was having a fieldhouse Holiday decoration and fix up day.

Facilities and grounds. McCurry reported Iowa building tree trimming, weekly landscaping, completion of mulch accessible paths, police patrols, lighting upgrades (but part is turned off for bird migration).

Bobolink – McCurry reported for Norm Bell and Gail Parry that garlic mustard and grape ivy need pulling throughout the growing season and now.

The park district is developing plans to save and rehabilitate the harbor wall at La Rabida Peninsula.

There were numerous beach cleans this year. Plastic is a major component of the waste dropped or washed up. It was moved, seconded and approved that Jackson Park Advisory Council supports the ecological benefits of efforts by the Alliance for the Great Lakes and others to replace the use of plastic straws.

The membership agreed that we need to have volunteers taught what and how to maintain the new plantings as the ecological restoration project ends next year. Mary Anton suggested that appropriate identifying plant labels be considered. The president and stewards are asked to pursue these ideas.

Al Debonnet asked: Request a survey of security cameras in the park and what locations may need them.

Promotion and Communications. Vandervoort showed decals she can give that promote the 125th anniversary of the Columbian Exposition. Erin Adams praised our website but urged that we find a way to have online membership sign up and donations. Miles offered to work with our tech people on this.

Several group tours of Wooded Island were given including to youth to inspire them to stewardship. Saturday White City tours led by Ray Johnson, Trish Morse, and Louise McCurry, concluded at the end of October.

Erin Adams described a new website and discussion forum, South Side Neighbors for Hope. It has links to full documents and processes regarding the OPC including the survey of trees on the site, and to other changes going on or proposed. She said it is favorable to the possibilities of the Center but wants open community conversation. ([www.sosideneighbors4hope.org](http://www.sosideneighbors4hope.org)) 2

Liz Moyer of the University of Chicago asked JPAC to provide full information on our and the park' activities, amenities and resources—especially for kids and youth, for an online clearinghouse she is developing.

Hyde Park Herald staff said the Herald has made it easier to get events on line and in print there. A problem noted is how to reach Woodlawn residents.

Nomination and Election of officers. Erin Adams, 2nd by Fran Vandervoort, moved that the election and annual meeting be moved this year from November (as in the bylaws) to December 10 and nominations be opened. Approved without dissent.

Mary Anton moved, Miles and others seconding, that nominations be opened now, that any nominations not made at tonight's meeting be emailed to the secretary ([garyossewaarde@yahoo.com](mailto:garyossewaarde@yahoo.com)) before the 14-day-notice of election, which is November 26, that the secretary soon after this meeting send notice to all members qualified by attendance to vote, a notice of the election and that nominations are open, and that November 26 the secretary send the members the names of all nominated to that date. Approved after discussion.

With the nominations opened, Mary Anton nominated the following: for President Louise McCurry, for Vice President Anne Marie Miles, for Secretary Gary Ossewaarde, for Treasurer Dwight Powell, all of whom agreed to serve.

Anne Marie Miles moved and Brenda Nelms seconded that JPAC send a letter to Timuel D. Black and to the organizers of the Tim Black 100 Birthday Celebration supporting, appreciating, and congratulating Tim on his 100th birthday. Approved. It was noted that on December 8, afternoon University of Chicago Civic Knowledge Project will host a symposium with Lonnie Bunch about the work of Tim Black, at the Logan Center. December 9, 3-7 p.m. there will be a celebratory party and program and fundraiser for scholarships in Tim's name at South Shore Cultural Center (\$100). Contacts are at the website of the Vivian G. Harsh Society-  
<https://vghs.org/TimBlack100>.

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting, with election is on December 10, 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 8 2018 JPAC MONTHLY MEETING

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at LaRabida Hospital, which offered space in lieu of the fieldhouse closed for Columbus Day observed. A quorum of members and a total of 17 were present. The program was preceded by an acknowledgment of the 125th anniversary of the Columbian Exposition and celebrated with Cracker Jack © and Tootsie Roll © secured by Dwight Powell and Fran Vandervoort. Fran also gave us a quiz on tree leaves-catalpa on Wooded Island and distributed a NY Times feature, "More Trees, Happier People."

Minutes of the July and September meetings were moved by Dwight Powell, seconded and approved.

Treasurer Powell gave the latest balance as \$3,790.91 with more contributions received since. We will be spending already-approved funds for the Halloween Party for the kids that will also feature the Columbian Expo at 125—other parks have been invited and neighbors are welcome. This will be Halloween, Wednesday October 31 at 4:30 p.m. in the fieldhouse. The Turkey trot (for which we usually furnish turkeys as prizes) will be on November [15, 4:30 p.m. -changed].

McCurry reported that boxes of children's and park- and nature-appropriate books were purchased from the Hyde Park Used Book Sale for the fieldhouse library and for giveaway to kids. Shquestra Sitawi of the YWCA at 66th and Cottage Grove will work with McCurry and the fieldhouse staff to transfer surplus children's books from the YW to the fieldhouse. We thanked Shquestra and the YW for their generosity.

McCurry attended a symposium of experts, including a leading one from Japan, on Japanese gardens and using them for meditation that can broaden our understanding and programming.

FloJo Mills, with the 63rd drumming group that has held drumming ceremonies on the lakefront for over 50 years, read the resolution of the group asking a plaque be installed at the drumming circle east of the 63rd Street beach that would state "63rd St. Beach Drummers Circle. 50 years" (or as finally determined). Mills moved and Powell seconded that JPAC supports the concept and will bring the request to the Park District. Approved.

Workdays. Bobolink. Trail chipping was undertaken in September, more is needed on the north end.

On Wooded Island and by Columbia Basin work was done and planned protecting new trees.

Numerous groups have done work on paths and invasives by La Rabida and the bastion wall at the end of Promontory Circle Drive. Sadly, the wall and supports are showing signs of collapse and sinking, and vandals forced several capstones off the balustrade. Other groups worked on access paths and more at the Iowa Bldg.

Duwain Bailey and his Phi Beta Sigma fraternity brothers cleaned up the 67th/Ridgeland playground, including breaking up the caked-up chip surface. This should be a monthly task in summer, he said. These playgrounds need to be more taken back as family gathering spaces.

Toward this end, Sylvia Brooks is organizing a Halloween party at this playground for Tuesday early evening October 30. Moved and approved that we supply two boxes of our supply of Cracker Jacks.

Other activities. Jackson Park Golf Association golf tournament had an overflow turnout. 24 kids were involved through learning and volunteering. Tracy Raoul was a lead organizer.

The Yacht clubs had a party with sunfish boats to celebrate the sailing safety classes held by the clubs and the park district. 22 kids graduated. Classes fill fast, so we have to get the word out early to local area schools and youth next year. There is a moderate charge but there are subsidies and scholarships. This is a major pipeline to the lifeguard jobs for youth. Meanwhile, the Sea Scouts program has been moved back to Jackson.

Intergenerational program. Cythium Woodfolk, Prof. of Creative Writing at Columbia College. Described the project she wants to get started with us, Montgomery Place, park district, schools, and other entities in which youth and sets of people of various ages and interests explore and write down and share their stories. One aim

is practice in building goals and taking responsibility, another is discovery and taking pride in one's story/stories and sharing them. She engaged us in an exercise and asked us to think of various populations that could be approached about creating their stories to share—we came up with about 15 subgroups of park users. Cynthia and her cohorts will engage with various groups and will bring more ideas to the next meeting.

Fran Vandervoort read her letter on Frederick Law Olmsted's parks vision, attached.

Then we adjourned to share cake and other treats.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

Letter read by Frances S. Vandervoort, as published in the Chicago Tribune and Hyde Park Herald.

Olmsted was right

Not many people know that, more than a century ago, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and partner-in-design Calvert Vaux planned Chicago's great South Side parks as sites where people of all races, religions, and backgrounds can come together to celebrate the spirit of democracy in a rapidly growing city.

It might surprise some people to learn that Olmsted designed a great pavilion, to be located in the site of the present swimming pool behind the refectory in Washington Park. There were to be parades, exhibitions, a grandstand for watching firework displays, and noise and disruption that, if it happened today, would offend those who consider parks solely as places of quiet reflection. Would people have objected to the construction of a handsome building honoring the legacy of a great man? A place where people of all ages and backgrounds could enjoy a great park while learning about history, government and the natural history of a spectacularly beautiful area?

Jackson Park will continue to be enhanced by sensitivity to the latest advances in ecological understanding. The latest in athletic facilities would bring pleasure to sports-inclined individuals of all ages, interests and physical capabilities. The benefits are immeasurable. Just knowing that this place exists on the South Side of Chicago will elevate the spirits of individuals who have experienced disadvantages in their lives.

Olmsted had it right more than a century ago. Parks are places where nature and mankind can celebrate life.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10 2018 JPAC MONTHLY MEETING

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m. in the fieldhouse. A quorum of voting members was present and a total of 20 including guest Shequstra Sitawi from stakeholder South Side YWCA.

Treasurer's report. Dwight Powell gave the balance as \$3,869.91 (a goodly increase-- and additional membership contributions were given tonight). He moved and it was seconded by Any Carter up to \$100 for camp kids Halloween and Thanksgiving Turkey Trot. Approved. He is looking for corporate donors.

Minutes of the August meeting were moved by Powell and Sharon Lewis and approved, but at the request of members, the July minutes will be emailed for review and approval at the October meeting.

Wooded Island. Jerry Levy announced a moved workday (September 29) with the contractor, assembling and installing protective fences around newly planted and other saplings. (All but 3 of 150 have survived.) Planting for the GLFER ecological restoration is essentially done. An older mulberry on the Japanese Garden shore fell last week and will be left as a snag for birds to use. Possible presence of Oak Blight was found on a mature tree and a sample has been sent to the state lab for testing. Gypsy Moths are now reported in the region. Members asked about fish and salamander stocking and asked for a tour with a project ecologist. Jerry recommended the manager and will see what can be arranged. Whitney Young high school botanical club had a tour recently.

Fran Vandervoort reported that the path around the south lagoon between the Island and Bobolink looks really good; many families were using it. She looks forward to restoration of the Darrow Bridge to complete the circle. Especially notable is this year's unusually large crop of monarch butterflies- so important, and threatened.

Fundraising. Sharon Lewis investigated a Walmart sale (substantial savings) on popcorn and snow cone/cotton candy machines that PACs and community groups are using to raise a little money at their events. Permission was granted to purchase after comparing prices of other suppliers.

Playlots. Sylvia Brooks reported on food fests with book/bag giveaways at the playlots 67th/Ridgeland and one at 67th and Woodlawn. Anne Marie Miles helped. JPAC and Brooks have been pressing the park district for safety lighting at our 67th playgrounds. This will be asked at the next CPD board meeting. Brooks will hold a food fest October 30 afternoon and could use the machines being purchased. Lucky Trikes held three storytelling, song, and book giveaways in the Ridgeland playlot in August. Many of the tots at these playlots have been stressed by the violence in the area. Duwain Bailey will lead a playground cleanup Saturday morning and agreed to head a playground committee. Anne Marie Miles will help recruit and promote.

Fieldhouse and recreation. Additional pickleball courts were marked off by the fieldhouse at players request. Supervisor Bobbie Beckam won citywide championship in both pickleball and ping pong.

The second annual adaptive golf tournament will be held in Jackson Park September 14 and Senior Games and Festival participants will be coming to the Bowling Green.

Queries and questions were raised about replacement track and field prep work being done, and schedule. Federal reviews oversee this and questions might be answered at the introductory NEPA meeting scheduled for September 17, 6 p.m. at South Shore Cultural Center.

Workdays, activities, and collaborators. Bobolink Workday this month is on the 15th. Wooded Island the 29th.

U of C Business School is sending a large contingent to chip the trails by La Rabida tomorrow. Eagle Scouts continue to work there and will be making temporary mulch ADA paths at the Iowa building. Other groups will be coming including UC incoming students on the last weekend of the month.

Shequstra Sitawi from South Side YWCA, 6600 S. Cottage Grove, described their services and resources (including a small business resource center) and offered books for the fieldhouse and to give away.

Hyde Park High School will get a total \$40 million physical rehabilitation including spaces for enhanced International Baccalaureate programs. The work includes landscape and structural improvements that are right across from the park. Their teams do cleanup in the park. JPAC officers helped get a golf team and caddy program in the school.

September 22 JPAC will participate in Harold Washington Park's cleanup after a breast cancer run. 2

Dragon boat racing and demonstration will be held by the yacht clubs in the outer harbor on the 30th 11-1.

Lanita Ross gave a rundown of 5th Ward and other events in the park.

JPAC will celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Columbian Exposition at its October 8 meeting, which was proposed moved to LaRabida Hospital because the fieldhouse will be closed on the holiday. (This move has to be confirmed.)

Attention was called to two exhibits on the Columbian Exposition and its anniversary, at the Driehaus Museum and at the Newberry Library ("Pictures of an Exposition," opening September 28. Fran Vandervoort passed around an Autumn 2010 issue of the Hyde Park Historical Society newsletter about the Midway at the Fair.

McCurry said that JPAC has been invited to participate in identifying and planning two new parks in Woodlawn, especially west Woodlawn. The inviters include Alderman Cochran, Rev. Brazier, and One Woodlawn. Duwain Bailey of One Woodlawn explained the project and the city planning process for Woodlawn. McCurry asked for volunteers to form a participating JPAC committee. Sylvia Brooks, Sharon Lewis, Kenneth Newman, and Dawn Posey volunteered.

Moved to adjourn.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 13, 2108 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MEETING

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m. in the fieldhouse. A quorum of voting members was present and a total of 20 including some new.

Treasurer's report. Dwight Powell gave the balance as \$3,609.91. He noted \$407 in donations and expenditure of \$273 for food for the close of training for the c24 Junior Counselors and their mentors for summer camp. The donations included \$110 from a new member. A very nice thank you card to JPAC was hand-written and signed by counselors and staff. The treasurer and president recommended and the council consented that we not give book bags to the summer camp kids this year but explore bought or donated tablets for next year. Powell noted that the treasury is getting low and encouraged donations, especially by active members.

Fieldhouse and recreation. Physical Instructor Pierre Nealon added his thanks for the meal and said this is the first year the junior counselors (age 14- 18) are paid and the program formalized. JPAC pushed strongly for these. The program continues next year. Developing adult responsibility and skills is taught and is a requisite for returning next year.

Football. 171 kids participated in football camp, which had no injuries. Coaches are certified to follow anti-concussion and other safe play protocols. The parent support and rapport with the baseball and football teams was incredible. Junior Bears is of course supported by the Chicago Bears.

Baseball. He said it is a challenge to recruit youth, especially in this area, for baseball, but kids were delighted to learn the game despite their skepticism that it's "too slow." The Jackson team made it into the final four citywide games. The program, for ages 9-13, is Intercity Baseball, sponsored by the White Sox and others. To build on learned skills and keep interest, Nealon hopes to have a winter indoor baseball camp.

Track and field and the displaced ball fields. Nealon said he is very pleased that construction of a new track and field is underway. He said its design and amenities are a big improvement, and will replace unsafe and non-compliant features of the present track and field. (Announcement about the new track elicited appreciative remarks by several members.) The ball teams displaced by the new track are using two new ball fields along 63rd, and another will be made or readied. Asked about ball field funding and whether all tree cutting connected to these changes are done, information was not available at the meeting. [Ed.: tree schedules, diagrams for the track and field are on the city website and show the swath of trees that is still left on the outsides.]

The fall class and program schedule is available in the fieldhouse and on the park district website, and sign up is opened. Programs include (many for various age groups): football, cross country, gymnastics, basketball, weight/fitness, (free) pickleball, walking groups—and also nonathletic--crocheting and the preschool decorative arts program. The new preschool program that JPAC and park staff requested had 6 kids this term. Nealon is working for at least 10 this fall.

General comments. Members said that programs need to reflect the needs and interests of the community and include vigorous outreach and recruitment and parental participation. PAC and community members do help, especially at day camp, but more are needed. Enrollment is inclusive of more communities.

Members said we need to push for a new fieldhouse that can have, for example air conditioning and can accommodate teaching kids life skills including swimming. McCurry noted that new water pipes and other utilities along Stony Island should lessen the shutdowns and breakdowns in the present fieldhouse. Members noted the lead problem with Chicago water, citing studies and the shutting down of park drinking fountains, and also lack of ADA compliance generally in the parks.

Nature areas, workdays, and the park. Bobolink. Norm Bell and Gail Parry said the meadow really bloomed this year. Although it is dry now, we had a wet spring and deep prairie roots are keeping things OK. On August 28 a group of DePaul University freshmen will be coming to work in the meadow. The September meadow workday is moved to September 15 (9 a.m. to noon) from the 8th.

Wooded Island. Jerry Levy sent word that 30 U of C Lab School students worked August 4. The next workdays will be August 25 and September 22 (10 a.m.-1 p.m.).

McCurry mentioned that we have various large groups that do work each year in the park—schools and colleges, corporations, and service organizations.

At least three such sessions including with Scout and Eagle Scout Troop 599 have worked at LaRabida, and there will be more. The past weekend much trash and 2 overgrowth on the wheelchair paths to the shore were removed. As part of the Eagle Scout ecological project, marram grass (which stabilizes shore against wave action) and pollinator-friendly and other species were planted. Parents were highly supportive and worked alongside the scouts. Dwight said he would seek to engage the scout troop in South Shore in work projects in the park.

Beach: August 28, Tuesday, 3-5 JPAC will participate in a beach clean at 63rd St. Beach, followed by a picnic in the play fountain courtyard celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Columbian Exposition. Several groups were recruited by Alliance for the Great Lakes for 57th and 63rd this year and now it's the PAC's turn.

Reminder- we are partnering with South Shore Nature Sanctuary. Workdays are 3rd Saturdays 10-noon. The expert on species and weeds is expected to give another class in the fall.

Other: The park district is working to have the crews of the Chosen Few festival or CPD remove the fence they put across the path to the wetland bridge and overlook at the southeast corner of the east lagoon.

Fran Vandervoort brought up concerns about proposals in the Lakefront Plan for restoring a bayou or connector between the inner harbor and the lagoons, fearing invasive species, fish unsuited for the lagoons, and pollutants would get from the harbors into the lagoons. McCurry said she had been assured that the proposal had been scrubbed during internal final vetting due to these concerns and fear that soccer and other fields would be flooded and that to and between fields would be burdened.

Safety. Kenneth Newman reported to the park district and CDOT numerous safety issues along the beaches and lakefront bike trail 63rd to Promontory Point and illegal parking. McCurry lauded the bike patrols. The flooding 59th underpass now has a wooden trestle and pumps on order, but ultimately the floor will have to be raised above the water table. The same may be true at others.

Other Activities, Programs.

Iowa building. A temporary chip path will be installed to 56th St. by volunteers. Members supported a permanent path and other ADA steps. Much work is needed, but it is more visible and open. More patio was found around the building. Intergenerational programming is being developed with partners. Chess tables are sought for use by Montgomery Place and other residents. A dog-walking related activity was suggested.

JPAC members and park kids rode on a float in the Bud Billiken Parade.

The Sailing program of the park district and harbor yacht clubs was full with 30. It stresses ecology as well as safety and life skills. Other programs bring the total learning navigation skills at over 100.

The piano in the park was highly successful with over 150 kids involved to date. Pierre Nealon was in charge of its availability and repair; jazz musicians Thaddeus Tukes and Bethany Pickens engaged the kids. Sharon Lewis was the JPAC point person. Region manager Farah Tunks is working on a winter program for us.

The kids loved the Shedd Aquarium big tank of fishes at the fieldhouse. Those who went on the research vessel cruises were amazed—and sometimes appalled at what's in the Lake.

SummerDance south of the Museum, with Steel Drum Band was highly popular.

Coming: a movie on the Museum lawn, Tiny Trikes at the 67th playlot, and Flowers for the Living at 63rd Beach.

Sharon Lewis reported for Cherry Theard that JPAC will give out Cracker Jack at a picnic honoring the 125th anniversary of the Fair at a picnic at 63rd St. Beachouse (play fountain courtyard) August 28 5-7.

Programs by others included a Friends of the Parks panel on Frederick Douglass and Ida B. Wells at Hyde Park Historical Society followed by a walk to the Douglass memorial in Jackson Park (McCurry said she wishes to have a plaque to Wells in the park) and a talk also at the Historical Society by Robert Nelson of South Shore on his experiences as the park district's last in-house harbor master, recounted in his book, "Dirty Waters".

To be considered by the Program Planning Committee: Sharon also reported that James Terry of the Creative Artists Association wishes to discuss with JPAC a proposal to bring to the fieldhouse the Rolling Toy Show, which is a puppet program and experience with 10,000 pieces, very tactile.

DJ Marcel of Gallery Guichard hopes to offer a program teaching kids how to become DJs, similar to that of Herb Kent here a few years ago.

New Business, Announcements and Opportunities. Newman said the Friends of the Viking Ship are increasing their activity to restore and display the ship.

Fran Vandervoort led preliminary discussion of a possible memorial to Leon Despres in the park. 3

McCurry: Japanese gardens and techniques (tending nature as meditation and medicine), a South East Chicago Commission workshop Aug. 22, South Shore Cultural Center with expert Chisata Takuchi from Japan.

Fran Vandervoort noted that a mural that was at the Columbian Exposition is on display downtown.

The Sierra Club will hold a planning workshop August 18 at University of Chicago, Ready for 100, preparing for activities to promote green energy including on September 8.

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting September 10 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE JULY 09, 2018 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MEETING

The July meeting was our timely announced annual picnic meeting on safety and security, at the 'Iowa' building on 56th Street. Upon convening the meeting at 6 p.m. President Louise McCurry thanked those who brought food to share. These included a cake celebrating the 125th year of the World's Columbian Exposition and the 35th year of JPAC. A quorum was present along with many returning or new attendees and guests in total about 30. McCurry distributed the agenda.

(Later in the meeting) June minutes were moved by Fran Vandervoort, 2nded by Jake Young and approved.

Gary Ossewaarde gave the Treasurer's report for Dwight Powell (who had a surgical procedure that day)--

\$3,912.91. Dwight thought we will be able to provide lunch for the senior and junior camp counselors from donations and will consider what to give to the day camp kids at the end of the summer term.

Brief introductions were given.

Iowa building. McCurry noted that in our conversations members said the Iowa building should be among our top projects this year. She noted that the dying trees have been removed by the park district opening up clear lines of sight, lighting has been improved, broken pieces of patio paving and high weeds have been removed. Also, regular police patrols and presence has been established interrupting drug runs via the building. The assembly formed breakout groups by threes to come up with ideas for improvements or programming for the Iowa building. The ideas are appended.

Alderman Leslie Hairston and assistant Lanita Ross were given JPAC's Bertha Palmer Award for leadership and support for the needs of Jackson Park. The Alderman praised JPAC for leadership and persistence.

Chicago 2nd District and University of Chicago Police and Park Security discussed strategies implemented and progress made. McCurry stressed the need for and value of bike policemen riding by key locations at key times, which she named, and pointed out that cameras and other devices need to give specific locations, not just report as, for example "lakefront." Members asked for a police "roll call" at the Iowa building- the Alderman and police said they would try to arrange one. Among enforcement improvements noted by Tom Snooks of Park District Security were: parking on grass along 63rd Street, the playlots on 67th Street (including talking with and persuading loiterers), and removing certain benches on Wooded Island.

La Rabida. Joyce Williams, La Rabida staff, gave a shout out to Eagle Scouts for cleaning up the wheelchair paths and shoreline, which she can now see clearly from her window. She said the Hospital is growing strong through its U of C relationship and growing community clientele for outpatient urgent care.

Several donated items were raffled off.

CherryTheard agreed to lead a committee planning an October celebration of the Columbian Exposition at 125.

Ossewaarde reminded that the replica Republic (aka since as The Golden Lady) was dedicated 100 years ago and asked that we consider a commemoration or plaque for Ida B. Wells and her activism in the park.

McCurry reminded us we agreed last month to have a green awareness action September 8. One suggested action was working with the garden crawl (different from a "garden walk") in South Shore in mid-August.

McCurry reported on her attendance at an AI/Social Media workshop and noted that we have an intern group—we need persons to work with them.

Drummers issues, 63rd beachhouse. Flo Mills asked for new sidewalks and markings of where not to park so drummers are not prevented from bringing their instruments to the drumming circle. (It was noted that restriping and other turnaround improvement are in progress.) Asked: more bike racks in the area. Sharon Lewis also said there is a low-cost program for short-ride Divvy bike use called D4E.

Jake Young reported he has a grant application going to OpenLands for trees to plant in the fall.

Attendees were asked to recall things or happenings with the park or JPAC they are proud of over the past year. Responses are appended.

Members were asked to suggest fundraising ideas. These are appended.

Announcements of upcoming programs and activities and request for volunteers were made. Ossewaarde had distributed the latest version of the 2018 Summer Events Schedule.

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting August 13 7 PM at the fieldhouse.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

## APPENDICES TO THE JULY MEETING MINUTES

1. VISIONS, IDEAS AND OBSERVATIONS FOR THE IOWA BUILDING FROM THE JULY 9 MEETING given by teams (not in priority order, "several" means idea given by several attendees). A committee will be formed to organize and seek implementation of the best ideas.

Defunct fountain in the center should be made functional or repurposed, as for a garden? (several) or for an exhibit perhaps on the WCE.

Gardens, plantings inside and out

The outside patio should be taken up, preferably replaced with concrete or permeable pavers(several), alt. temporarily chip. Suggestion that the patio need not be so wide on the south- low shrubs there would be nice.

Toilets - make functional (alt.: signage directing to Beachhouse)-what for winter?

Roof replacement perhaps with better, long-maintenance material. And keep trees and weeds from growing inside building (alt. creative patching)

Security should be ongoing with redundant means (thanks for what has been done)—Iowa needs to stop being a dead area that seems uncomfortable (several). Have a police roll call (being requested).

Activate it with performance (incl. dance and music), art, activities, chess and coffee tables, making the middle friendly to performance, classes, gatherings, and art (several).

Concession either in the house or via truck including coffee in winter

Open up to the east (lakefront), coordinate with Lakefront/beach/bike trail activity (several). May require trimming back vegetation on east slope.

Bike rack, or bike concession

Picnic table(s)

Keep it clean

Pedestrian access/path to 56th St. (several) (temporary coming)

Promoting for receptions etc.

Upgrade the lighting within- ask Region to inquire about solar panels, LED and self-powering

2. WHAT I AM MOST PROUD OF WITH, OR THAT HAPPENED WITH JACKSON PARK AND JPAC, round-robin at the July 9 2018 JPAC meeting.

On the Table and other conversations/outreach

Make Music Together and the piano in the park

Culture and arts including music and dance increasing in the park and fieldhouse including via new fieldhouse classes, dance in the parks, Lucky Trikes kids interactive. Promoting coming to Jackson for culture as well as recreation and nature.

More nature and health programs and activities in the park- including the Shedd

Workday activities, especially large groups coming to the natural areas

History and other tours we offer to the public and to private groups

We set the standard for PACs and make ideas on many fronts work

Our hard activity in the park and advocacy over many years set the stage for those who want to do things in Jackson Park, including Obama Foundation. Buzz about Presidential Center has encouraged families to come to the park and groups/organizations to engage with us and our community

Established relationships with the University of Chicago and several other institutions, and groups like Scouts-- from interns and tech work to big workday groups and tours

Wonderful beaches, recreation and other amenities

Big events especially last year at 63rd beach house

Bringing adaptive and access sports to the park

We've helped make a better park, and that adds many kinds of value in surrounding communities.

### 3. FUNDRAISING IDEAS SHARED AT THE JULY 9 JPAC MEETING

Aiming Very high- Our own golf tournament

High- Bring showcase(s) to Jackson, such as dance (similar to South Shore) and tie with arts teachers shared with other parks such as SSCC. Fieldhouse, Iowa, other locations depending on size and draw.

Middle- a soiree at one of the yacht clubs

Low- Sell bottled water or treats on lakefront etc.

## MINUTES OF THE JUNE 11, 2018 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MEETING

The meeting was preceded by screening of "Sea of Life" about the environmental challenges and solutions for the oceans. This film was courtesy of Green Connections/One Earth Film Festival. We are grateful.

At about 7:30 p.m. Louise McCurry convened the JPAC meeting. A quorum was present.

Kyra Woods, of the Sierra Club, and McCurry led discussion of reactions to the film and of ways to become involved. (See attached report.) Jake Young moved, Reggie Seay seconded that JPAC will plan a Jackson Park environment and waters activity or action for Saturday, September 8. Approved with no dissent.

Agenda was distributed. Minutes of the May 8 meeting and report of the On the Table® community discussion that preceded the meeting were distributed in the June Newsletter. Minutes were moved later in the meeting by Jake Young, seconded by Kenneth Newman and approved.

Treasurer Dwight Powell was unable to attend. He reported earlier in the day that the balance was \$3,912.91 after checks- \$53 for supplies and \$100 for Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce membership.

On the Table® potluck dinner conversation had about 20. Table members filled in and discussed and reported on their thoughts about the accomplishments, state, and desired future actions for the park and JPAC. (Report is in the June Newsletter or can be sent separately by Gary Ossewaarde by emailing garyossewaarde@yahoo.com.) Proposals and initiatives from OTT discussed or noted tonight were:

- Anti-littering campaign and litter patrol is in pilot stage under Erin Adams but needs volunteers and expansion.
- Tree planting. Jake will seek a grant from OpenLands - Treekeepers for about 20 oaks to start, to be planted where already designated by the park district (by the soccer fields). Also, Louise asked and consent was given to acquire a good oak as a memorial to a young school coach who recently passed away and whose team used that part of the park. Anyone willing to help acquire should call Louise.
- A membership campaign and recruitment drive for more to attend our meetings and have a say in their park, and one to get people into to the park are needed. A good start for the latter would be the bevy of activities for Make Music Chicago June 21, the It's Your Park activities June 16 and June 23, and the Piano in the Park. Louise asked for volunteers. At On the Table participants asked for more JPAC, park district, and partnership programs. Members said tonight that Environmental films are good, but any before meetings must be shorter. Sources for films or videos were suggested.

Disappointment was expressed with tonight's attendance for the film and meeting. Ideas included imaginative attractors and PR, and connecting with schools.

- Media and outreach. Louise reported we have interns from the U of C Community Accelerator developing more for us including possibly material to post.
- Facilities. The Iowa building and grounds will have work done ahead of the July 9 meeting. Members said the mini lagoons in the golf course need immediate attention. A drive though with area and park staff identified needs and generated work orders, but capital items may take longer (our top ask is a fieldhouse). Still, the list was shorter- many issues have been addressed in the park in recent years.

Louise discussed logistics of the many workdays and activities coming up and for the large number of Night Out in the Parks programs coming in July and August. Large groups have signed up to have tours and to work in the park: we try to make them welcome and orient them to what can seem a very large and intimidating place. She announced that the piano coming about the 19th would include short piano lessons and the piano will be donated to the park at the end of the summer.

Yacht clubs/park district reached out to area high schools for their sailing/swimming summer course.

4th on 53rd St. Louise asked for people to march with JPAC and possibly to help with the games and tables.

July 12 Ch Parks Foundation holds a golf tournament to raise funds for the parks--needs volunteers.

Park District natural areas volunteer coordinator Forrest Cortes wrote an article for Nature magazine on the value and experience of nature volunteering. Congratulations.

OUR NEXT MEETING, JULY 9 6:30 p.m. will be the annual Safety and Security picnic with Chicago and UC police at the Iowa Building on 56th St. Please bring concerns, questions, ideas/goals and something to share. Incident location maps from police were asked.

Moved to adjourn.

Submitted, Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary

6/11 Responses to, actionables from "Sea of Life" screening

- There is nothing like experiences in and on the ocean and beaches to wake one up. In places like Miami that are directly impacted there are initiatives. We can take action for the Great Lakes.
- Was unaware of the vast amount of plastic bags and especially commercial nylon fishing netting that stays in seas and lakes: the rise of plastics was a game-changer for seas.
- ...How much of the fishing catch is not the species fished for, how much is used as livestock feed.
- Corals are the "canary in the coal mine" signaling death of the seas.
- A major effect of carbon dioxide emissions is acidification of the seas—species are very sensitive.
- Negative global forces play a role, such as big countries and companies that acquire mega fishing rights from developing countries in exchange for tearing up rainforests for extraction and development.
- Didn't know trees, by capturing carbon, are a key regulator. Let's plant more than are lost.
- So much development or upgrade, including proposals for Jackson Park involves taking out current trees and plants, even if replaced. Everything we do has consequences globally. Around the world lots of trees get planted, but that doesn't keep up what is removed or with effects of global warming.
- Recycling needs to happen on a big scale including in Chicago—plastics and dumped stuff end up a long ways away including in the oceans. We need to get to the kids, including in schools.

Kyra Woods of the Sierra Club discussed forming work groups to form constituencies and concentrating on sustainable and renewable green energy sources and creating a green ecology as well as encouraging commitment to responsible personal choices such as appliance use to slow the problem before its effects get to the seas. The Sierra Club's program and future PAC is called READY FOR 100. It will be holding community listening sessions and action days including in Chicago – one action day will be September 8. A key will be getting buy-in for energy and other solutions from millennials, kids, and politicians/officeholders.

## MINUTES OF THE MAY 8, 2018 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MEETING

The meeting was held at a special day and time and followed JPAC's annual On the Table (Chicago Community Trust) dinner discussion, proceedings of which follow the minutes [not here, in teh June Newsletter].

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the fieldhouse, a quorum being present.

Minutes of the April meeting were moved and approved.

Treasurer Dwight Powell reported a balance of \$4,090.93. A deposit of \$76 was since made. Expenses include \$53.03 for the film festival program. Moved and approved were expenses of up to \$250 for the summer day camp, Migratory Bird Day, and to buy more business cards promoting Jackson Park In Your Pocket.

McCurry reported we are signed up for two In Your Parks activity days—individuals are asked to sign up with the Chicago Parks Foundation website, [www.chicagoparksfoundtion.org](http://www.chicagoparksfoundtion.org) by June 8 and let Louise know you are coming. On June 16 teams will clean 57th St. beach and around the Columbia Basin and lagoon north edge- meet at 57th St. beach 10 a.m. On June 23 teams including 200 from Roosevelt University will clean 63rd St. beach and along Hayes including by the Inner Harbor. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Jackson Park fieldhouse.

Jerry Levy will teach about native plants and ecology in conjunction with work days at South Shore Cultural Center Nature Sanctuary 3rd Saturdays at 10 a.m. On the 4th Saturday, May 26, Jerry's workday on Wooded Island will include tree identification—meet 10 a.m. at the south bridge to the Island.

Bobolink Meadow has new plantings. Workdays are 2nd Saturdays 9-noon. Bird tours given by various groups on Wooded Island and the Meadow including 8 and 10 a.m. on Saturdays, mornings on Wednesdays.

Piano in the Park is coming to Jackson Park for the summer. Dawn Posey said the "outdoors" piano arrives c. 11 a.m. June 19 by the fieldhouse entrance. June 21 has a full day of programming with Make Music Chicago Hyde Park. The idea is for adults and kids to sign up for short introductions or lessons with a volunteer professional piano teacher. The piano will be brought indoors for the night and during inclement weather.

There was a discussion of looking for creative ways to get schools more involved in the park and students doing community service hours in the park.

Alderman Hairston held a well-attended meeting at South Shore Cultural Center May 7--extended presentations, questions, and engagement at boards about the Obama Presidential Center and its Community Commitment with the design team, CDOT-proposed road changes, the replacement Track and Field, and South Lakefront Plan. Changes to the Obama Center were announced. The Chicago Plan Commission will consider the OPC, roads and tracks May 17 and City Council these and more in phases later in May and later.

Moved to adjourn. Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary. NEXT MEETINGS JUNE 11, at fieldhouse, JULY 9 (annual Safety picnic, with police) at Iowa Bldg.

## MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2018 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MEETING

President Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m. at Jackson Park fieldhouse, a quorum being present (13 qualified members), total 17. The treasurer and vice president were excused for illness and injury respectively. Introductions were made.

March minutes. Margaret Schmid asked correction of her comment, re: plan for the replacement track and field, to read that she questioned whether the plan could be implemented at present. McCurry moved consent; seconded and approved. Minutes were moved and approved with that correction.

Treasurer's report. Gary Ossewaarde reported for Dwight Powell. The balance as of the most recent statement is \$4,090.94. Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce requested membership renewal. This will be paid by a donor.

President's and committee reports.

McCurry noted that groups cleaned lots of garbage by LaRabida Hospital and along Hayes Drive, especially at the bridge.

McCurry reported a wave of gang tagging and drug selling through Jackson and other parks and parts of surrounding neighborhoods. A delegation from JPAC and other PACs will meet April 16 with University of Chicago Police Department concerning gang activity, a killing in Cornell Park, and other issues. What can UCPD do for parks; how can PACs help with park safety? Also, April 23 Cornell Park PAC will host a park security meeting as part of its PAC meeting 6:30 at Catholic Theological Union, 5416 S. Cornell.

Norm Bell, our Bobolink steward and president of Cornell PAC, presented on nature play spaces and play dates at the CPD PAC quarterly conference at Indian Boundary Park April 7.

Wooded Island. Jerry Levy said there will be two workdays, April 14 with U of C students (meet at the north end 10 a.m.) and the first regular one of the season April 28 10 a.m. (these meet at the south bridge).

Workdays will start at the South Shore Cultural Center Nature Sanctuary April 21 (3rd Saturdays) at 10 am.

Fieldhouse and recreation. Pierre Nealon reported on and was roundly congratulated for the Pickleball team's 2nd place showing in the citywide tournament. This is our leading adult program. Many kids and teen programs are winding down and gearing up for spring. Track is important because there is little option for that in many schools. Kenneth Newman and others asked that we approach more schools, especially elementary, and congregations for the golf, other programs in the park-- many schools are lagging in Title 9 compliance. Tiny Tots preschool is doing well. Work will start on a baseball field to replace one to be displaced north of Hayes.

New business.

McCurry moved to appropriate up to \$200 for supplies and end-of-spring gifts for the day camp. Seconded by Schmid and approved.

Programs. Dawn Posey

Piano in the Park program comes to Jackson Park, with short lessons to be offered by a piano teacher starting June 20 and a Make Music Chicago participatory program on Make Music Chicago Day June 21. Sign up with program chair Dawn Posey (dmposey4@gmail.com) or at the fieldhouse. The "outdoor" style piano will be parked outside the fieldhouse door and brought inside at night, during inclement weather or seasonally. Suggested was pricing/getting cardboard keyboards so kids can get a taste of music by "playing" along.

Earth Day Film Festival April 21, 2:30 p.m. (Doors open 2 p.m.) "Happenings: A Clean Energy Revolution" will be screened by Green Community Connections/One Earth Film Festival. Jackson will be one of five Chicago regional venues for the screening. The Sierra Club is participating. There will be action tables and q and a. We

regret, no popcorn! Volunteer greeters and set up/take down personnel are needed. [See attached schedule in the May Newsletter for a suite of other Jackson Park Earth Day activities, details.]

May 8 5:30 p.m. On the Table community conversation on “Ways to involve more in the park in more ways and make the park better.” Bring a new idea. Sug.-- women bring main dishes/salads, men sides, water, utensils... On The Table is the trademarked community conversation program of the Chicago Community Trust.

May 12, 9-noon. International Migratory Bird Treaty Day. Family activities, tours- by golf driving range lot.

Workdays- [see schedule attached in the May Newsletter]. The group coming from Museum of Science and Industry April 23 4:30 p.m. will concentrate on LaRabida south promenade paths and invasives. Volunteer group leaders are needed. This or another group will pick up trash along Marquette. Dr.

Harold Washington Playlot Park is forming a new council and will have a work and recruitment day May 5, at 2. Newman showed samples of a large collection of beautiful educational posters being tossed by the downsizing Illinois Department of Natural Resources. He is offering these to park fieldhouses, schools et al.

Intern. We have a new intern from the University of Chicago, Alex Levy. Fran Vandervoort and Andy Carter will oversee. Some possible tasks are media/IT related, which is under Jake Young.

Old business.

Our One Earth screening of “Making Waves,” March 3 had the third largest attendance of all. Thanks to all!

The council expressed thanks to Dr. Miller for her talk ahead of the March meeting. She will speak again.

Golf. McCurry said that PAC members visited the Sidney Marowitz CPD Golf Course March 17. It is really nice with a big variety of offerings and amenities including for young golfers. She noted there will be a walkthrough of the South Shore Golf Course Monday April 16 at 5:30 p.m. from the beach house.

Thank you to U of C for the student workday at 63rd St. Beach March 17.

SECC Community Enhancement Grants will open this month. PACs are encouraged to apply.

Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners will have a presentation of the draft South Lakefront Plan and take public comments April 11, 11:30 a.m. at 541 N. Fairbanks 8th floor.

Next meeting- in light of the heavy load of activities, McCurry proposed that the May 14 monthly PAC meeting be instead held in conjunction with a May 8 On the Table dinner [at the fieldhouse 5:30 p.m.] and with a short agenda. Seconded and approved. [On The Table is a trademark of Chicago Community Trust and Affiliates.]

Moved to adjourn.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, 2018 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MEETING

President Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m. at the South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 South Shore Drive due to mechanical failure at the Jackson Park fieldhouse, with notice as possible. 17 (of 42) members qualified to vote were present. Quorum is seven.

New Track and Field. Chicago Park District presentation and discussion of plan for a replacement artificial track and field in the 6200 block of S. Stony Island Avenue. Nichole Sheehan, project manager in the CPD Department of Planning presented the plan to JPAC ahead of introduction and comment opportunity, as part of the consolidated South Lakefront Plan draft, at public meetings March 13 and 14 at South Shore Cultural Center. She said it is essential to the teams using the present track to have the replacement ready before work might start on the Obama Center in early 2019 that would cause closure of the present track.

Sheehan expressed regret that she needed to present and leave before one or more members had yet arrived who had deep experience with tracks and team needs and had emailed many concerns. She would nevertheless include in her presentation responses to the concerns.

The track, comparable to that at Wilson Park, will be 400 meters and have 8 lanes. A 100-m reversible sprint lane will be located north to south. The field will be wider than that of the present track to the north to accommodate regulation lacrosse, soccer, and football. The new track will have a wider curve, for speed. The high jump is at the south end as is a turf warm up area. (In answer to question, CPD does not provide pole vault in outdoor facilities, Gately being the exception.) The entire facility will be ADA- accessible. Concrete pads on the Stony Island side will accommodate bleachers seating up to 500. There will be a scoreboard and lighting similar to the present on 4 standards that may be retrofitted with LED. 20/22 trees will have to be removed, but the shape and facilities, including location of the (reversible) long jump inside the track are designed to avoid cutting more trees. This plan, which they hope can be completely paid for with the \$3.5 committed by the Obama Foundation, does not include restoration or upgrade of the washroom comfort station to the north. Alternate year round washrooms are at the fieldhouse. There will be full inside electricity inside the track. Storage bins will be provided, There will be a plaque honoring gifts for the present tracks by the Bears/National Football League and by Take the Field.

Sheehan said she would be delighted if JPAC would support the concept and send a letter of support. Along with the South Lakefront Plan, into which the track will be integrated, the plan will go before the Chicago Park District Board at its April meeting and then the Chicago Plan Commission. Bids will be taken thereafter and the work will be done in summer and fall.

Members strongly urged that the comfort station be brought up to standard before the new field opens.

Margaret Schmid [(cor. at Apr. mtg.) questioned whether the plan could] be implemented at present because the site is currently part of the Obama Center footprint, not under control of the Park District, and that the Obama Center and Lakefront Plan remain subject to approvals including the Section 106 federal review that will not be complete until late in this year. Al DeBonnett contested various of these conclusions.

Minutes of the February meeting. Margaret Schmid noted misspellings of her name and asked correction of her objection to vote on a resolution last month: "Margaret Schmid objected that this vote was taken without notification to the membership." The minutes were moved as corrected with these corrections.

Treasurer's report. Dwight Powell reported a balance of \$4,909.94, which reflected income of \$50 and expense of \$350 to the One Earth Festival for the film rental for March 3 and \$75 to Chicago Parks Foundation for fiscal service. He reminded all that JPAC needs to receive dues and donations.

Reports. Program. Dawn Posey thanked all who helped make the One Earth Film Festival Jackson Park festival a great success March 3. 88 attended.

Our next event is celebration of Earth Day daylong April 21 that will include another free film and festival in the fieldhouse at 3 p.m. Please contact her if your environmental, ecological or community group wants a table. Powell added that we would like to have donation to cover the film and event activities.

Bobolink Meadow. Steward Norm Bell said that on our first, very cold workday March 10 (2nd Sat. 9-noon), 8 accomplished a lot of cleanup and wood -chipped half the trail at 4-inch depth. Next workday April 14. 2

Wooded Island. Steward Jerry Levy said he had noted little trash. The contractor would start work soon. Two special workdays are already scheduled- April 15 with the U of C Service Center and May 9 with the Lab School—any are welcome to join, contact him for location (probably north end) and details. The first regular workday (4th Sat. 10 am) will be on April 28. Levy said he needs volunteers for newly started workdays at the South Shore Cultural Center Nature Sanctuary 3rd Saturdays. (sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com).

Special workdays. Louise McCurry: March 3 volunteers worked at 63rd St. Beach- lots of bags of trash.

March 17 U of C group will clean 63rd St. Beach and along Hayes Drive to Stony Island.

April 21 Earth Day 9 am- 57th Street Beach clean with Alliance for the Great Lakes (register at greatlanes.org) followed at 11 and later by history tours from east side of Darrow Bridge and of the Midway, and the 3 p.m. Earth Day film festival.

May [12] morning- International Migratory Bird Day festival.

June 16 It's Your Park Day. Join a group from Roosevelt tentatively set to work at LaRabida.

Conditions, needs. McCurry said 42 trees were lost over winter, a smaller number than usual.

Fly dumping of bags along Marquette Drive was handled by the Park District.

La Rabida area needs cleaning, trim-back.

Tour guide trainees, helpers are needed for the White city and history tours May-October Saturdays 11 a.m.

The "bird tree" art of Margaret McMahon along Lake Shore Drive toppled- suggested is having a carver (as at other parks) carve another dead tree to honor Ida B. Wells.

Safety. Kenneth Newman reported to CPD broken benches and sand in the playground at 63rd Beach, storm damage at La Rabida, dangerous erosion and other conditions at the south end of 57th St. beach trail and at the 59th St. harbor.

Fieldhouse and Sports. The fieldhouse was again flooded by breaking water mains. Spring registration has started. Programs include TinyTots, Windy City Hoops, indoor soccer. An outdoor piano is coming just in time for Make Music Chicago Day.

Announcements. The First Tee of Chicago youth programs start in April M, W, F for ages 7-18- there will be a tournament May 30. Jackson Park Golf Association will celebrate 125 years with a special- Erika Shavers read Pat Harper's letter in honor of this milestone, the First Tee program and hopes for an updated facility.

South Lakefront Plan meetings. South Shore Cultural Center March 13 and 14 5:30-8 with presentation 6:15.

Annual Clarence Darrow Wreath Toss, Speeches, and Lecture March 13.

Response to request for support from CPD regarding the replacement Track and Field. Jerry Levy proposed the following resolution:

"The Jackson Park Advisory Council supports the plans for the new multipurpose ADA compliant Jackson Park Track and Football/ Soccer Field located in the panel south of and adjacent to the OPC as presented to us by Nichole Sheehan on behalf of the Chicago Park District tonight."

Roberta Siegel and others asked that the item be placed on the agenda of the next or a special meeting with notice to membership. Levy, Dwight Powell and others noted the timetable of and need for timely action for this project, that we are endorsing a concept—such plans undergo changes and we are not saying “when” the track needs to be done, and that we should respect the respect shown us by the Park District in coming to us ahead of the public meetings—such mutual relations are as coin of the realm to us when we need consideration from the District on matters on which we may disagree with them or seek special consideration.

The president put it to the PAC as to whether to vote tonight (ayes) or postpone- 9 ayes, 2 nays.

The question was called and the resolution approved by show of hand-10 ayes, 1 nay, 3 abstentions.

Motion to adjourn. Next meeting April 9, 2018, 7 p.m. at Jackson Park Fieldhouse.

Submitted, Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2018 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MTG

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m., a quorum being present. Total was about 20. Agenda was distributed. Minutes of the December meeting were approved as circulated.

Dwight Powell gave the treasurer's report. Latest bank balance: \$4,430.95. Receipts including a very generous gift from La Rabida Hospital brought the balance up. However film rental for the March 3 One Earth Film Festival will be a major expense on the next balance. Expenses for last year for fieldhouse program events were considerably above income, a pattern that would lead to depletion of funds in a couple of years. Suggested: Undertaking costly special events only if special outside funding is secured; more membership gifts ("dues") and outside grants or gifts. Fiscal agency annual fee and report were made, more filings coming.

Committee and standing reports.

Tours in the park. McCurry reported that a large contingent of University of Chicago students took a tour; more with them are being planned. Regular Saturday White City and history tours resume in May.

Nature-Wooded Island. Jerry Levy said it's lovely in the snow. Jake Young said kids have really discovered the berm by Sky Landing. Workdays resume in March, fourth Saturdays at 10.

Nature-Bobolink Meadow. Norm Bell reported that removal of dead ashes left scars that will need attention in spring. The first workday of the year will be on March 3, 9 a.m., to prepare for emergence of the plants.

Fieldhouse. Instructor Pierre Nealon reported on indoor gymnastics, track, basketball, and teen leadership, and that there is interest in a girl's ball field program this spring.

Education Programs. Dawn Posey reported on planning for March 3. Starts with a 63rd St. beach Cleanup at noon. Then [3-5 p.m.] One Earth Film Festival Jackson Park screening (in the fieldhouse) will show "Making Waves" about invasive species and other threats the Great Lakes, narrated by Bill Kurtis. The program will include short talks and Q and A, a community resources fair, light refreshments, and musical/story entertainment. Volunteers signed up, and can continue to sign up with Dawn at [dmposey@gmail.com](mailto:dmposey@gmail.com).

The next in the JPAC Education Lecture Series will be at 6 p.m. ahead of the March 12 JPAC meeting and will be on health and the built environment.

Planning is starting for Earth Day (April 21), Migratory Bird Day (May 5) and It's Your Park Day (June 16?).

Golf. Levy noted that there was a committee meeting to hear from stakeholders in light of refinements to golf reconstruction plans at the January 31 South Lakefront Plan meeting. No recommendation to JPAC was made. The committee will continue to seek information, give input on concerns, and recommend when plans are firm, a viewpoint also expressed by others.

Transportation & Infrastructure. Chair Sharon Lewis said that plans proposed by the city, Obama Center, and for golf involve more than roadway closures or changes and park accessibility and connectivity and safety but also plans to improve hydrology including water runoff management and retention and alterations to habitat, wildlife, and trees and plant numbers, stands, and kinds. Others said shoreline erosion and risky or downed trees need to be addressed. These will all be under federal review, Lewis said. JPAC evaluation requires a full committee.

IT and Media. Jake Young said we had technical problems with the website that are now resolved. Lots of pictures are being added.

New business. Fran Vandervoort discussed and received support to continue to develop a school and or community contest for an art installation project at the fieldhouse. Dwight Powell and it is hoped others will help. Noted also was the Art in the Parks initiative presented at the recent PAC Conference. McCurry said that under discussion is a temporary art piece outside the fieldhouse.

Fran also noted the 70th birthday of our treasurer, Dwight Powell.

Old Business. Golf discussion. . JPAC member Al DeBonnett proposed a resolution regarding the Chicago Park District's proceeding with restoration of the Jackson Park Golf Course after Margaret Schmid asked for clarification of JPAC's position on support for Jackson Park Golf Course restoration a number of times during the meeting. A quorum of members entitled to vote was present. Margaret Schmid objected that this vote was taken without notification to the membership. Al DeBonnett moved to waive notice for vote on the proposal, in order to tender a vote during the February 13, 2018 meeting, The motion for waiver of notice was seconded. With limited 2 discussion a vote was then taken, whereby a majority of JPAC members present voted in favor of waiving notice.

JPAC member Al DeBonnett then moved for JPAC members present to take a vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and discussion proceeded. Norm Bell, Jerry Levy, Margaret Schmid and Al DeBonnett were recognized during the discussion period and all other members had ample opportunity to discuss the motion.

After the discussion period concluded, the motion was stated and a vote was taken, whereby 12, a majority of qualified JPAC members present, voted in favor of the resolution, with the exception of 2 votes against said motion and two stated abstentions.

“JPAC supports the process for reconstruction, upgrade and consolidation of the JP and SSCC golf courses and proposed infrastructure changes indicated for the projects and desired for the community and will continue to evaluate any proposals for the golf course and make a final determination after discussions with the proposing parties and a plan is firmed up.”

Moved by Margaret Schmid to adjourn. Next meeting March 12, Monday, 7 p.m. at Jackson Park fieldhouse.

## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2018 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MTG

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m., a quorum being present. Total was about 15.

Minutes of the December meeting were approved as circulated.

Dwight Powell gave the treasurer's report. Latest bank balance: \$4,145.94 (\$3,840.94, plus \$305 in receipts). Expenses since were \$175. He also noted that we had an ad calling attention to JPAC in the program book of Charles E. Curry Annual Scholarship Gala. Member Donna Hodge, who narrated our Jackson Park in Your Pocket ap, is president. The organization gives college scholarships to excelling youth in five high schools.

Recreation and fieldhouse. Pierre Nealon described the winter programs including basketball, teen leadership club, and wrestling. Nealon appealed for small tables and chairs for the new preschool class.

He asked us to call attention to the Park District's summer youth employment programs (including lifeguards)-enrollment is open now online; youth should apply now.

Sharon Lewis described partnership programs with schools that not only give students community service hours but also teach such skills as how to fill out applications, including for scholarships. We should be active in such forms of civic engagement. CPS now requires students, in the service hours packet, to give more information on what they learned at, and how they contributed to volunteer activities-- in the process demonstrating verbal skills that the schools tie to college scholarship applications. She will help formulate a JPAC stewardship program (a letter having already been approved by the park district), based on modes developed by University of Illinois Extension. The 5th Ward Office is connected to this CPS initiative and will help get the word out, said Lanita Ross.

Bobolink Meadow. Norm Bell reported that he uses CPS kids in projects. Work days resume March 10 (second Saturdays, 9 to 12). The contractor has removed selected dead ash trees. McCurry noted that University of Chicago students are coming to the park for a Martin Luther King Day service event.

Programs, Dawn Posey. January 19 Friday 5:45 p.m. "Come to Supper" neighbor discussion, hosted by JPAC at the fieldhouse and co-sponsored by the Chicago Parks Foundation, will discuss creating an initiative to address bullying and harassment of children and youth in parks. The program will feature a video, "Be Strong" that tells the stories and strategies of youth representatives from the states at a national conference.

March 3 Saturday, 2:30 to 5 p.m. One Earth Film Festival will again have one of its annual March venues in our fieldhouse, screening "Making Waves"—the story of the Great Lakes and increasing challenges to their health and viability. Hear local voices on climate change and how we can help. For the entire One Earth Film Festival Schedule visit <https://www.oneearthfilmfest.org/films-by-date/>

There will also be a community and ecological resource fair—organizations and groups wishing a table should contact Louise at 773-844-2225. Refreshments will be served. The program will be preceded by a 63rd Street Beach Community Cleanup from 12:30-1:30 at the 63rd Street Beach. Dawn asked all to post this program and the One Earth Film Festival site to our social media networks.

McCurry said more stakeholder and community meetings will be held on the park framework plan and proposals for the park. Recent ones on the framework plan include meetings at the fieldhouse with a contingent of youth from schools, one with coaches and rec leaders, with JPAC board and committee chairs, and remotely with yacht clubs and harbor users, birding, ecology, fishing, preservation, and other groups. Larger public meetings will be scheduled on the lakefront plan in the next few weeks and their scope will be broadened to include OPC and golf. Margaret Schmid noted there is more recent information on some of the topics covered in commentary in last month's Newsletter including on Darrow Bridge, and a lot that has not yet been decided or not disclosed by agencies. Editor Ossewaarde noted that it hard to keep up with changes and full information. Dwight Powell noted that even to the extent officials know about what is entailed, there are for some things constraints on what can be disclosed until the parts can be assembled without speaking out of

turn, and for others- they will tell us when they decide, so it is good to keep in play the dozens of questions one may have--but stating or submitting them over and over may not speed up getting the answers.

Louise McCurry showed a book privately published in 1978 by George Cooley (who was vice president of JPAC and president of Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference and served in the city and park district planning departments) to restore the Japanese Garden on Wooded Island. It includes the history of the Ho-o-den temple/ Japan pavilion, built by the Japanese government for the Columbian Exposition, and a proposal to rebuild it. The latter was not achieved, but the Garden was, and became a Sister City co-project of Chicago 2 and Osaka, Japan, resulting later in a series of Japanese cultural festivals, and later Sky Landing sculpture both at the site of the Ho-o-den. Friends of the Japanese Garden and Project 120 has put the text of Cooley's book (English and Japanese) and facsimile at <http://www.gardenofthephoenix.org/blog/2018/01/1978-restoration-proposal>. The copy shown tonight was temporarily lent by the Blackstone Branch Library, Anne Keogh Manager. It was found in a blocked shelf in the Library during remodeling.

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting February 12, 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary