

## Minutes- Jackson Park Advisory Council. January 2017-March 2018

In reverse order. Links and emphases are not highlighted or activated-- visit <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/minandresolu.htm>.

Current minutes are draft until approved at a meeting.

### 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 sig 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 Schmidt 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 app, 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 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 February12, 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2017 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MTG

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m., a quorum being present. Total was about 17.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved as circulated.

Gary Ossewaarde gave the treasurer's report. Bank balance: \$4,010.75. Moved by Ossewaarde and seconded by Jerry Levy and approved to buy up to \$100 for the day camp holiday party with remainder towards kid's tables for the new preschool program, and that JPAC will pay for the tables.

Wooded Island and special areas and repair needs. Jerry Levy reported that major planting, especially along edges and at overlooks, will resume in the spring after removal of invasives (which were cut to ground this fall and will be early sprouters in spring) and an expected controlled burn. More new planting including sedges will be done in areas off the island, mainly south of the lagoons. The strawberries planted outside the island are mostly temporary ground holders and will be replaced with a more diverse palette later.

Reported by members- trash and overgrowth under Darrow and Hayes bridges (which have already been reported) and condition of trees and undergrowth in the cherry tree area north of the lagoons.

Louise McCurry: Beavers have been seen again at the Driving Range house and LaRabida Hospital. Humane removal is planned. LaRabida area- most of this year's cleaning, cut back and path renewal work is done- thanks to large groups. Frederick Douglass memorial boulder was moved 30 feet- by whom is unknown.

Safety committee- Kenneth Newman is reporting bench breakdowns and vandalism.

Fieldhouse and programs. McCurry said that mold-infected areas have been isolated from water sources. Pictures were taken for reporting of remaining broken windows in the South Room.

Pierre Nealon, instructor, thanked JPAC for the 12 turkeys and other goodies for the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot. The holiday party is next. The wrestling team competed in qualifications at Ogden Park and will move on the regional meets in January. The tumblers also participated in qualifications. Participation in the Teen Club is now a requirement for basketball. Winter programs at the track are highly popular.

McCurry requested without dissent that she submit at the upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting the petition of JPAC and others to name the former Coast Guard rescue station for Jesse Madison, who managed CPD and its reform under the Harold Washington Administration and secured funds for both the station and harbor upgrades. She explained that renaming the 59th Marina had originally been proposed, but that stakeholders had suggested the Station would be more appropriate and might help attract funds for repair and restoration work. After CPD does its diligence and recommends, the Board will start a 45 day comment period.

Section 106/Framework; next JPAC Meeting. McCurry reported some highlights of the Section 106 Historic Review and the 3 scenarios presented in the latest South Lakefront Plan meetings,

for example varying degrees of shoreline protections and additional parkland by harbors and LaRabida and various scenarios for coordinated moving or concentrations of recreational facilities and a new dog park. Sharon Lewis, Transportation/Connectivity chair, said she was excited about commitment to rebuild and add paths in all the scenarios. Because a closed meeting requiring presence from JPAC is expected to be set for January 8 , moved, seconded and approved to MOVE THE JANUARY JPAC MEETING TO TUESDAY THE 9TH.

Chicago Parks Foundation is among those organizing free community conversations, Come to Supper. McCurry proposed that JPAC host one January 19 6 p.m. in the fieldhouse on the topic of strategies to stop bullying and harassment among kids and youth. Approved by consensus. Details will be announced including invite and whether it will be potluck—Chicago Parks Foundation has offered food.

Election of Officers. Jerry Levy, nominating committee, reported the slate approved at the November meeting (all of whom agreed to serve) and opened the floor for other nominations. Hearing none, he moved for approval of the slate by acclamation. Of 10 qualified voters present- 10 voted Aye, with no nays or abstentions. President Louise McCurry, Vice President Anne Marie Miles, Secretary Gary Ossewaarde, Treasurer Dwight Powell.

Sharon Lewis donated a bullhorn to use on our tours and other programs.

Moved to Adjourn. Next Jan. 9.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

#### MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 13, 2017 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MTG

Louise McCurry convened the meeting, at 7 10 p.m., a quorum being present. Several new attendees were welcomed. Total was about 30.

Minutes of the October meeting were corrected and approved. Apologies to Sharon Lewis and Margaret Schmid re: misidentifications.

Treasurer's report. Dwight Powell reported \$3,981.44 bank balance in the latest statement. Goods were bought for the Halloween party.

The officers presented Fran Vandervoort our Bertha Palmer award in thanks for her project Jackson Park In Your Pocket app video and for many other services to JPAC.

University of Chicago Police officers led by Zachary Ramey came to address issues of the PAC. They recently held joint open training seminars for community members and officers (COPP)- a real eye-opener according to Louise McCurry. Public safety really requires residents and people who use places such as parks who can tell when a situation is not as it should be and notify police promptly. 911 calls are needed- from everyone who observes a situation because the Chicago Police count the calls. However, also call UCPD 773 702-8181. Bike patrols are a growing resource, targeted at particular locations and issues. Members asked about UCPD

boundaries and whether police can go into parks outside such as Jackson—they do as needed, but would need support to have the boundaries changed such as to Lake Shore Drive. They are aware that the park is becoming more active and added facilities are proposed. Anita Westbrook noted that parks in the boundary (such as Huckleberry in Woodlawn) are forming PACs around safety issues.

Environmental and Section 106 review and surveys of historical/archeological resources/ environmental impacts of proposed projects. Eleanor Gorski of the Chicago Department of Planning described the scope of the work, required by law when funds are to be spent in public spaces that are on the National Register of Historic Places (i.e. Jackson 1972) to assess resources and what might be adversely impacted and need mitigation. The two reviews will be led by the Federal Highway Administration, but a host of federal, state and city agencies including EPA and Illinois Archeological Survey are involved. The Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development, with Transportation (together the “Applicant”) will do the heavy lifting of the survey and the task force that includes a large number of Consulting Party (CP) organizations and groups and the public hearing. JPAC is among nearly 60 participating CPs. The boundary of historic resources extends 1 to several blocks beyond Jackson and South Shore parks and Midway Plaisance east of the railway, areas that are or may be eligible to be in historic districts or the National Register. Foundations of former historic structures on the Obama Center proposed footprint, work-affected roadways and a set of spots throughout the park will be bored and probed at the 6’, 12’ and 24’ levels. The physical work (started) is expected to take at least several months. Task Force kickoff invite meeting is December 1. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/JPIImprovements> where reports and meetings will be posted and comments taken. Members said they welcome not only the review itself and the chance for the public to weigh in on a new set of matters but also the opportunity to learn more of the park’s great past, many incarnations, and design principles.

Special places. Wooded Island. (See attached report by Jake Young.) Jerry Levy reported most of the fences are down. Much mulching, including of oaks was done this fall by the contractor, often using U of C students.

Bobolink- a very successful workday was held last Saturday and another is scheduled for December 9. Norm and Gail expressed appreciation for the large groups from schools and universities who worked this year removing debris and invasives, planting, collecting and spreading seed, and ecological learning.

McCurry noted the cleanups and improvements on LaRabida peninsula, praising E-On, Google, Apple, Scout and more. Other cleanups were done at beaches. The Iowa building still has leaks and other problems, but the 3rd District patrols it and ideas for teaching and storytelling programs are being explored.

Esther Schechter cited several areas in the south part of the park, that are overgrown and have concrete debris. Work groups should be organized.

There may be upgrading in the Japanese Garden- plantings, repairs to deteriorated materials, repairs to shoreline and possibly irrigation. McCurry said there needs to be better patrol to guard against vandalism.

Fieldhouse and recreation. Pierre Nealon said tumbling, pickleball for seniors, and volleyball are popular. A turkey trot foot race for age divisions is planned (JPAC is sponsor). A collection is being taken for needy kids. A problem is that many kids are not sports-ready—so safety sessions with parents in attendance are held, utilizing a program with Lurie Hospital. Our fieldhouse at times has power failures and flooding—a major outage led to Halloween party postponement. Ernest Radcliffe reported on the large varsity Wolf Pack program that utilizes Jackson Park- they will play in Florida nationals.

Tracy Raoul of Jackson Park Golf Association reported on a largely-attended gala that honored inter alia this year's golf caddies and a new set of opportunities for youth to get into college and sports industry through golf. JPAC worked hard this year to recruit kids and schools for the caddy program, and AYSO soccer and the youth golf groups are partnering. Raoul cited extraordinary golf and soccer figures in Chicago's past including the Speedy's, who sued the Park District for the right of African Americans to play the Jackson Park course.

Sharon Lewis, transportation chair, reported on a One Woodlawn convening that focused on presentation with more detail by CDOT on traffic mitigations in and around the park that they would like to see with or without the OPC and golf consolidation. One Woodlawn is developing a general plan that includes more parks and coordination among parks. JPAC has been consulting with adjacent PACs about OPC, golf proposals. Ossewaarde said task force and public meetings will be coming early next year on Darrow Bridge.

Education programs. Dawn Posey said we will host another One Earth Festival screening in March- this will require a video rental fee and outreach for vendor tables (environmental/sustainability groups). Also next year

Tiny Trikes, South Chicago Dance, Summer Dance, Play for the Parks are likely, maybe Adaptive sports, and a White City themed foot race. We noted the highly successful family Halloween Party at South Shore Cultural Center and are considering helping (along with the 5th Ward) even more with theirs next year- for various reasons such a larger event for more than the day and sports camp works better there. The committee will be looking at very long list of program suggestions we have received. One program still to be held this year is an innovative park nature area tour and training in identification and tracking of wildlife and nature experiences through sounds. November 25 at 1 p.m. starting at the Japanese Garden. Infernal Sounds is the presenter.

A winter talk series ahead of JPAC meetings. McCurry noted that we had a trial run at 6 p.m. in the room south of the entrance: programs on topics of general interest. This month Karen Szyjka of Chicago Park District planning and in charge of the Japanese Garden presented a slide program of recently discovered striking, historically and architecturally informative old photographs of the Japanese buildings and grounds and presence from the Columbian Exposition through the facilities added in the 1930s and beyond. She was thanked and has

offered to present to a larger audience if there is demand. Our series will be evaluated but is expected to run at least through the winter when it's harder to have outdoor programs such as our Columbian Expo and nature/history tours.

Our latest addition to expert docents and a new member, Trish Morse reported on well-attended tours she gave on Saturdays, recently concluded. Hopes are to add Japanese Garden and Midway tours.

Media. Jake Young said we share materials with other PAC, post photos and tweets. We need to promote youth engagement.

Nominations for the election December 11. Jerry Levy offered a motion to nominate the current officers as a slate, which passed: For President- Louise McCurry. For VP Anne Marie Miles. For Secretary Gary Ossewaarde, For Treasurer Dwight E. Powell. [Ed. Note, according to the Bylaws "nominations may be taken from the floor" at the election meeting.]

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting December 11, Monday, 7 p.m. at 6401 S. Stony Island. Election of officers shall be held.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

#### MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2017 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MTG

Louise McCurry opened the meeting at 7:15 p.m. at La Rabida Hospital, which was thanked for its hospitality. Curry noted that this was Chicago Day at the World's Fair in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, and this area of the park both housed replica ships and memorabilia of Columbus' voyage and important innovations at the Fair including early wind power.

September minutes were moved by Sharon Louis and Esther Schechter and approved.

Gary Ossewaarde gave the Treasurer's report- \$4,267.17 in latest statement. Moved and approved to pay \$107.24 to Jake Young for IT costs, Louise McCurry \$100 for supplies, and to pre-authorize purchase of foods for the day camp Halloween program.

Workdays continue. In addition to Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow, work groups have included U of C students (and since July 8 different colleges as well as Mt. Carmel high School), A-ON company (250 expected on the 18th). There remain several overgrown areas in the park.

Activities- Program chair Sharon Louis moved to start planning for another One Earth film festival program next spring- approved. Saturday park historical tours have had regular attendance of up to 20. Recommended: each go to [hydeparkhistory.org](http://hydeparkhistory.org) to learn how to participate by voting in the Historical Society's restoration campaign for its cable car house headquarters. Many children's and historical books have been donated to the fieldhouse library. Consensus was to consider hosting another community conversation supper later in the year.

Moved by Sharon Lewis, 2nd by Jake Young to postpone the election a month by opening nominations at the November 13 meeting, and hold the election of officers December 11, both at the fieldhouse. Approved

Recreation- Pickleball- 60+ (aged up to 84!) play in the fieldhouse 3 days a week. Football is the most popular youth sport; 22 in cheerleading. Summer camp was fully booked. Kenwood's boy's golf team plays. The disabilities golf tournament was a smashing success.

Wooded Island. Jerry Levy reported that 30,000 plants were put in, but some were trampled by members of a hunger march. The fence along the lagoon is nevertheless expected to come down later in the fall. Several safety and repair issues were addressed or reported. The 3rd District and park security held a roll call on the island and have a strategy for recurrent misbehavior. Sharon Louis said we should remember that indecent conduct, even when not explicitly violent, is intimidation and takeover of spaces. Norm Bell: Baker College Prep is among those who helped remove invasive goldenrod from Bobolink. The meadow is high and luscious thanks to this year's controlled burn; critters include turtles. Final workday- October 28 rather than the 14th.

Ward Miller of Preservation Chicago expressed concern that a large number of mature trees may be lost on the Obama Center and golf course sites. Those involved in tree inventories disputed the numbers suggested, the park value of certain invasive species (although many examples are mature and stately), and any danger of cross pollination between native replacements and existing new natives. McCurry said she will ask the Foundation and SmithGroup JJR to supply/compare specific replacement numbers, locations, and groupings.

Esther Schechter opened discussion of letters in local media about JPAC, some with a hostile or accusatory tone both about the proposals and also saying JPAC gets nothing done. Members vigorously defended what JPAC accomplishes with volunteers and via reporting problems-- often getting immediate or timely repairs but that much is postponed for this large park in a district that must budget and has limited funds and crews spread thin. Partnerships/endowment could help? Some issues require inter-agency planning and funding process.

Re proposals, Margaret Schmid expressed concerns about lack of specifics and affirmative responses to concerns widely expressed in feedback and asked JPAC submit a set of questions to the planners. McCurry took down several and will submit and report back, including about trees, fieldhouse, nature sanctuaries, golf if not PGA, expanded footprints and whether all proposed is needed, alts. to road changes and parking.

Moved to adjourn- Andy Carter and Esther Schechter. Next meeting November 13 at the fieldhouse includes opening and process of nominations. Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary.

## MINUTES OF THE SEPT.11, 2017 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MEETING

Louise McCurry opened the meeting at 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse, a quorum and total of 22 present.

Minutes of the August meeting were moved by Jerry Levy, 2nded by Dwight Powell and approved.

Treasurer's report. Dwight Powell said we spent much for the kids at the fieldhouse. He commended the supervisor and staff. A generous gift from Hyde Park Bank enabled us to give book bags filled with school supplies to every child in day camp. Ahead of deposit of that check, the most recent bank balance was \$3,874.41. Also, a check was written to Jake Young for software costs. At our wonderful Eclipse celebration at 63rd St. Beach August 21, we sold enough bottles of water to pay our DJ. Powell noted the help and cheerleading at that event by elected officials and others, especially Lanita Ross of the 5th Ward Office.

Supervisor Bobbie Beckam invited all to sign up for pickleball class this fall. Indoor and outdoor- it's the fastest growing sport. Beckam will teach. There was a discussion of sports in the park. Fishing is popular, especially at snagging and trolling spots. Fishermen say they would like more. Kenny Newman asked we inquire about stocking the lagoon with game fish, as is done in Columbia Basin and was proposed in the GLFER project.\* McCurry suggested we gather ideas for sports needs including additional sports for the park. These could be given during framework planning sessions, including at a meeting for coaches and other recreation persons with the Park District and consultants Wednesday at 6 and succeeding days in the fieldhouse.

Gary Ossewaarde reported on a public open house held by CDOT August 22 at the fieldhouse regarding design concepts for rebuilding Darrow Bridge and the paths to it from stony Island to Lake Shore Drive, slated for 2019. JPAC members and community residents shared ideas including for security to optimize the product.

Golf proposal. Jerry Levy, chair of the JPAC committee, said the committee will meet again after we see what changes are presented at next meetings [September 25 and 27]. He noted the media reports and commentary, petitions and letters to editors for and against or proposing changes. He recited some of the committee's concerns—such as the Driving Range, including potential effects if it is expanded (and in which direction) or relocated- impacts for the interface with Bobolink Meadow we suggested could include a new, attractive bird-friendly fence, and for the present dog friendly area and tennis/pickleball courts. (Discussion noted that the present dog area is temporary, not approved and lacks a water line but fulfills a real need.) Another concern is for the nature/butterfly area at the s.e. corner of South Shore Cultural Center. Members who have visited noted that it's overgrown and it and shoreline needs improvement even if all or most of the present is kept.

The Obama Foundation will hold its first public open house September 14. Buses to and from are provided.

History tours. Our Saturday 11 a.m. history tours focusing on the Columbian Exposition plus, have been popular. Louise McCurry said we need to train more docents (we presently have Ray Johnson, Trish Morse, and Louise). Suggested: recruiting high school students, who need service hours. Some evidence of overnight illegal activity has been found on tours and reported, so close inspection of the park from tours is valuable.

Safety. Esther Schechter said the fallen sign by the bridge on Hayes Dr. has been reset. Jake Young reported flooding in the 59th underpass and various problems with the 59th bridge and pier, also noted by Kenny Newman. Both said the 63rd beach and pier are topped by Lake water at times. Newman said there is deterioration along the harbor inlet walls. Noted- damage was done along Marquette and 63rd by a bicycle racing group that in the past has been banned from the park but comes anyway. (A strong letter was sent.)

McCurry announced that the Park District Framework Plan team and consultant Smith Group/JJR will meet with a set of members of JPAC, South Shore CC PAC, and local coaches about priorities, needs, concerns from values to uses and needs, starting Wednesday at 6 at the fieldhouse. In light of such meetings (ongoing), committees and point persons need to be recruited, McCurry said.

Sharon Lewis has agreed to chair transportation. She asked for new ideas on and comments about access to and in the park to inform input in framework planning and proposals. Dawn Posey is already chairing a program committee- one idea is environmental films. Suggested today-- "Shifting Sands" about Indiana Dunes, the se side and Great Lakes history, shores and environmental challenges. Ossewaarde chairs Darrow Bridge.

Natural areas. Norm Bell announced that the October Bobolink workday will be on the 4th Saturday, October 18, 9-noon, rather than its usual 2nd Saturday. On September 9, the usual crew pulled invasive goldenrod and buckthorn. On August 29, a group of 30 from DePaul also pulled invasives. Our Meadow, he said is not overgrown. There is seasonal succession in this long-established nature area, so the look keeps changing- so visit. He noted a problem with broken signage- the wood is deteriorating (a problem seen elsewhere).

Jerry Levy reported the Wooded Island contractor crew of 4 led by Russell Heinman and supervised by Forrest Cortes of the Park District is busy putting in 30,000 new plant plugs and removing low invasive plants. Groups, and students earning eagle scout badges have helped with removals. For example, volunteers from ASPINA further opened out and mulched the internal chip trail. Others have been pulling out overgrown grape ivy. Fences may come down later this year. Levy hoped this will not enable damage, especially to young plants—some already occurs, especially from young children who do not know. If you see someone walking off path, say something, Levy said. He also noted successful regeneration of native plants in the old Rose Garden—search for it off the east path. Workdays are usually on the 4th Saturdays, 10 to 1.

Jake Young said he looks forward to the dance performances in the Skylanding and Garden of the Phoenix September 15-17 at 6 p.m. by Hejla Yarkin and the South Chicago Dance Company. Also seen – fashion photographers and models.

Other work groups: Sept. 11, 50 U of C Law students pulled ivy that is impacting the 63rd beach house walls.

Sept. 15, American Academy of Pediatrics will work at the Driving Range lot and fence. Sept. 16, 250 from Roosevelt, for the afternoon beach clean and in other parts of the park. Sept. 19, 190 Mt. Carmel students. Sept. 23, 2 pm 30+ UC incoming. And ongoing well into October.

This has been our most successful year in many recruiting work groups and was called our most successful activity and outreach this year. Note- we couldn't have had so many without the help of Chicago Parks Foundation. McCurry asked for more, experienced JPAC members to step forward to manage larger groups.

There were also more public programs in the park and better enrollment for fieldhouse programs than in at least 20 years. Members said we need to step up outreach beyond our major web, email and social media expansion to actually recruit and tell what we do, including at events like the Hyde Park Jazz Festival.

Announcements and introduction of visitors and new members was made. Moved and approved to adjourn. Respectfully submitted, Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary. Next mtg. Oct. 9 7:15 p.m. AT LA RABIDA east conference room- from main entrance, 6501 S. Promontory Dr.- access via Marquette east of Jeffery/LSD.

\*Editor- JPAC asked and was informed by the CPD planning dept. that fish stocking in the lagoons is not possible at present because of murky waters- many storm drains empty into the lagoons. (JPAC has been asking for the past 20 years for remediation.) JPAC is asking that the framework plan be sure to include among goals a strong commitment to actions needed to improve water quality in the lagoons and throughout the park.

## MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 14 2017 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MEETING

Louise McCurry opened the meeting at 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse, a quorum and total of 26 present.

Minutes of the July meeting were moved by Jerry Levy, 2nded by Norm Bell and approved.

Treasurer's report was given by Dwight Powell. Latest bank balance was \$3,990.87. Checks were since written for book bags for the day and sports camp kids, which were covered by a gift from Hyde Park Bank and donations from individuals, to whom JPAC and the park staff are deeply grateful.

Safety. Esther Schechter reported a broken bench, a fallen sign at 63rd Hayes bridge, overgrown obscuring grass near the marina, and poor condition of fieldhouse tennis courts. These were or will be reported. Kenny Newman noted ongoing problems with rising Lake water and with paths such as the west side of Cornell.

Fieldhouse and program. Supervisor Bobbie Beckam noted that highly successful summer camp is winding down. Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport now; indoor pickleball programs will be added. Girl's basketball (for age 14 and under) will be offered. Being explored is help from Chicago Sky, which is moving to the South Side and is interested in helping our area.

Work: Bobolink Meadow. Norm Bell said wildflowers and grasses are in full bloom. A workday was held. August 28 DePaul students came to work, for the third year. These groups are really enthusiastic.

Wooded Island. Jerry Levy reported numerous workdays held and scheduled with large outside groups. The focus is on invasives. Native plants, flowers are in bloom in the old rose garden, which is worth the search via the east paved path. Workdays are on our website and Facebook page- the project manager posts daily.

People take- and use on their visits- our virtual tour of Jackson Park [see links in page 1 of this newsletter].

Eagle Scouts are earning service badges in the park; other scout levels are active.

McCurry asked for volunteers to help manage several large groups coming to work in the park.

Golf. Jerry Levy reported that the Alderman's leadership committee on golf and park changes is in consensus to support the project but expecting changes to the plans, including from the park district taking into account public and stakeholder input and its own views of park needs. It is hard to guess at timelines/deadlines in light of evaluations of the same and of needs and problems discovered in design studies and basic decisions needed. A next round of public open house presentation and comment-gathering will occur on September 21 and 25 4-8 p.m. at South Shore Cultural Center.

Reggie Seay reported that the new youth caddie program is in progress, growing, and recruiting at high schools. Efforts are being made to grow golf teams at the high schools. Lines of communication are not always easy to navigate to and within high schools. Dwight Powell asked questions regarding involving kids as young as 8th grade and about outreach at Hyde Park Academy.

An adaptive golf open tournament will be held in the park September 15. For information and registration email [ddaniels@sralab.org](mailto:ddaniels@sralab.org). All are encouraged to volunteer or come and cheer. From the Clubhouse- tee-off 12:45.

Reuben Lillie described a petition drive to restore Green Line el service on 63rd Street as a way inter alia to bring people to the park (as it originally did from 1893) and to the new amenities as well as to help with traffic and local growth and development. Discussion elicited various perspectives and need to consult all interests.

Park events. Lucky Trikes held the first of four August children's story read and performance programs Tuesday evenings at the 67th Ridgeland playground. The families, especially toddlers were enthralled. Books will be given to the children at one of the upcoming events. Moved by

Sharon Lewis, 2nded by Dwight Powell to ask them back for next year. Approved. Likewise, Summer Dance in the Music Court was well attended and received. Moved by Powell, 2nded by Schechter to ask them back again. Approved.

JPAC's next large event would be at 63rd St. Beach for the Solar Eclipse August 21- volunteers needed. Several organizations including Adler Planetarium as well as the Park District and Parks Foundation will be involved. We have the right glasses and a huge banner that McCurry showed, and a live media stream will be screened. [Other upcoming events are in the calendar below.] A teacher at Hyde Park Academy asked for mentors, especially for young men at the school.

Important upcoming meetings: August 22, 5-7 p.m. at the fieldhouse Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) will show and seek input on plans for Columbia (Darrow Bridge) reconstruction. There was consensus that we should have a committee to deal specifically with that- Gary Ossewaarde was appointed chair, and committees on other subject areas that have proposals, are in flux, or we have wish lists for. Chairs will be appointed.

August 23 and 24, 4-8 p.m. at South Shore Cultural Center, CDOT will present/show and take comments on its transportation proposal for the park and surrounding streets in light of proposals.

September 21 and 25, 4-8 p.m. at South Shore Cultural Center the same will be held for next step in a revised Framework Plan and updated plans for the Obama Center and the golf courses.

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting September 11, Monday, 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE JULY 10 2017 JPAC MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

Louise McCurry opened the meeting at 7 p.m. at the Iowa Building. A quorum was present. Introductions and thanks for the wonderful picnic fare. Minutes of the June meeting were moved and approved later.

Park Safety with 3rd District Commander Darren Doss. McCurry and others, including our safety committee members Kenneth Newman and Esther Schechter, gave a description of continuing and new problem areas and conditions in the park that need specific actions, while thanking the commander for ongoing police diligence and service making specific locations safer than before. Areas requiring attention especially at night, include Iowa building, 56th and Stony, Darrow Bridge, Wooded Island and south, lots et al along Hayes Drive, 63rd St. Beach including traffic control weekends and special events (bike patrol was suggested). 3rd District does a lot of towing for vehicles left after curfew in the parks. JPAC has been removing aggressive grape-ivy growth on Wooded Island that serves as covers for illicit activity. Several matters near the park

in the 2nd District (north of 56th and west of Stony to c. the Midway) were also brought up- Cdr. Dawson will bring these to the commander there, Gail Crystal-King.

Ashley Munson of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago discussed and took questions about its conservation, health, and drainage/counter-flooding initiatives. Concerns include lagoon and harbor water circulation and aeration. She said MWRD not only controls infrastructure in parks but also is absolutely in the loop on evaluations of projects in the parks.

Park places and issues. McCurry-The Park District planted new bushes including roses by the golf driving range and Lake Shore Drive. Clearing was done around the golf clubhouse by the contractor, which does an excellent job with course maintenance.

Areas that have been or will soon be addressed by JPAC or community service groups coming to the park include Wooded Island invasives, pickleball area, LaRabida peninsula wheelchair paths, graffiti and more, overgrowth at the track comfort station, and beach cleanup days.

Anne Marie Miles discussed in brief a harbor improvement concept (presented at a meeting called by the Alderman) prepared by Jackson Park Yacht Club, which was unable attend to tonight's meeting. Harbors (including problems cause by high waster and approaches to the inlets) and beaches need to be taken into account in the framework evaluation and planning process. An example of inconvenience to serious swimmers is that at the outer perimeter for swimming at 57th St. beach is only waist deep despite rising lake level. The sailing program is going well, but the word needs to go out better to South Siders. The Park District pays the YMCA to teach kids to swim. Miles agreed to chair a committee on these harbor-beach-swimming issues.

Reggie Seay pointed to substandard conditions in the fieldhouse including lack of central A/C. He said the possible recreation center at the Obama Center would be an inadequate and unacceptable substitute for a new or better fieldhouse in/by present location accessible to the neighborhood. Members said the Park District needs to be pressed for a commitment for that.

New JPAC initiatives discussion. Dawn Posey proposed an education programming and activity initiative, with a major goal being a corps of people committed to take ownership when in the park and care of the park. Agreed to set up a team led by Dawn to develop programs and options.

Coming events and workdays [see attached schedule] include Eclipse Viewing and disabilities golf.

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting August 14 at the fieldhouse.

Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2017 JPAC MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

Louise McCurry opened the meeting at 7 p.m. in the fieldhouse. A quorum was present. New attendees and guests introduced themselves.

Minutes of the May meeting - with a clarification, the minutes were moved by Jerry Levy, 2nded and approved.

McCurry reported for treasurer Dwight Powell that we have about \$4,000 in the account after purchasing large fans for the fieldhouse at \$1,107.

### Reports and guests

Adaptive Golf. Larry Labiak and associate described the park district mission that parks be accessible to persons of all abilities, including wounded veterans and survivors of gunshot wounds. Larry is the first department-level manager of programs for such persons. They work extensively with the Ryan Rehabilitation Institute and the Ability Lab and are seeking a place participants can go for mentoring. Several sports now have competitive teams and leagues in the parks for persons with special abilities and needs, including with wheelchairs, and is continually expanding to new sports. This includes a veterans golf camp in conjunction with the Ability Lab. For golf, they have accessible golf carts. They practice at Jackson Park and Diversey Driving Ranges Mondays and Wednesdays. A tournament will be held September 15, Friday, 1 p.m. in Jackson Park. There will be 24 golfers; visitors are encouraged. Volunteers are needed to attend a planning meeting (several volunteered, for information on this or for registration information on the event, contact [larry.labiak@chicagoparkdistrict.com](mailto:larry.labiak@chicagoparkdistrict.com)).

Golf and park coordinating committees. Jerry Levy, chair, said the committees will meet again after the public meetings presenting the engineering and design reports and proposed golf layouts. Alderman Hairston's golf and park advisory council toured the parks last Thursday. The Alderman spoke of infrastructure and shoreline needs for park and community that should in any case be addressed. CPD Superintendent and CEO Mike Kelly assured that the parks are being evaluated in their entirety, potential plans being coordinated, and public input process being set up leading to comprehensive park plans. He emphasized that the Obama and golf proposals are turning points in really discussing, looking at these parks. Committee members gave feedback.

Program and fieldhouse. Supervisor Bobbie Beckam said that summer camp will have at least 160, more than in recent years. New opportunities will include pickleball for kids and seniors in the fall, including in courts by the fieldhouse and in the gym. He was asked to look into developing a regular adaptive golf program here.

Area Manager Farah Tunks called attention to new welcoming flower box plantings and rose bushes at the fieldhouse. The memorial bench will be dedicated at 67th and Ridgeland June 17, noon. She also encouraged people to attend and promote the many Night Out in the Parks and other events in Jackson this summer, fall.

History tours. Ray Johnson talked about the Jackson Park history and Columbian Exposition tours he (and occasionally others) leads every Saturday through October at 11 a.m. from the east side of the Darrow Bridge (south of the MSI basin) at the parking lot. Numbers vary to quite large and can last up to two hours, depending on participants' interests and stamina. They are free. Specials can also be arranged, contact [friendsofthewhitecity@gmail.org](mailto:friendsofthewhitecity@gmail.org). They have a website. Suggested was a box for flyers.

McCurry showed impressive poster panels by George Rumsey that will be installed on our "history wall."

Safety. JPAC will have a golf cart drive through of the park, including of back areas with Bobbie and Farah Friday to examine and evaluate safety, security, graffiti and repair issues and places. McCurry said JPAC continues to work with very cooperative 3rd District police and park security regarding problem places.

The 63rd Street Drummers groups, who drum 7 days a week east of the beach parking lot, asked better marshalling of trash cans and delineation of fire lanes in the lot so people won't miss-park and get tickets.

63rd Street Beach was cleaned by JPAC members, teachers and students from Muchin College Prep, and Miss Great Lakes, from Indiana, who is competing in a national water environmental NGO's competition. The beach sweep was assisted by Alliance for the Great Lakes. McCurry asked appreciation for the many large groups from colleges, businesses and service groups from Chicagoland volunteering this spring and summer in Jackson Park. The next will be June 17 It's Your Park Day in Jackson and the Midway inter alia. Missionaries from the local congregation of Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints offered to organize work groups.

New business. Jerry Levy expressed concern and queried whether JPAC should discuss an implication he saw in Preservation Chicago's position (article and letter in the May 31 Hyde Park Herald) that the Obama complex be repositioned in the park to 6300 block of Stony Island, that this would eliminate the fieldhouse or downscale a replacement. Margaret Schmid said this was a misconstruction of the position. Consideration was deferred pending request to take a closer look at the position. [Ed.: The fieldhouse is not mentioned in the letter's paragraph listing the "existing and underutilized" facilities in that block now, but in a following paragraph describing what the complex could include as a community center, "and include a fieldhouse" is stated.]

July 9 afternoon, On the Beach: Remastered- concert at 63rd St. in the beach house to honor 50th anniversary of Phil Cochran's (inter alia co-founder of AACM) pioneering jazz series there. [Ed.- Cochran since passed June 28 aged 90- the concert will celebrate his life and career.] Dr. Carol C. Adams introduced the coming event. JPACers will use the occasion also to reflect on the life of its former president Eric Hatchett, who was inter alia sparked the restoration of the bathing pavilion- a plaque has recently been placed naming the upper stories for him—and the Schiff Legacy that funded the interactive play fountain and the serenity garden.

Among the many events offered this summer in the park [see attached schedule] is a series of storytimes with Music for all Ages Tuesday evenings in August at the 67th/Ridgeland playlot.

Members of The Lucky Trikes described their program, which has been in 2 other parks this season. For these and other events visit the park district or [www.nightoutintheparks.com](http://www.nightoutintheparks.com) website.

Robin Kaufman asked that we continue to be vigilant about private and outside groups wanting to use or locate in parks, citing recent Friends of the Parks Conference sessions attendees from several parks about problems.

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting is expected to be the annual planning picnic at the Iowa Building.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

#### MINUTES OF THE MAY 8, 2017 JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Louise McCurry called the meeting to order. A quorum was present, and attendance 30. Introductions were made.

Darrow (Columbia ) Bridge. Tanera Adams from the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) provided an update and answered questions. The bridge is formally Columbia Bridge, as an extension of Columbia Drive to the east. It was originally built in the 1880s, 28 feet wide, and rebuilt for the Fair the in 1895- 56 feet wide and long. The bridge was rebuilt in 1941 and 1961. Phase I evaluation and planning is still underway. Work is funded 80 federal (SAWA program) and 20 state at \$6M and will commence and be completed in 2019. It will be usable for ambulances and police as well as bikes and pedestrians- but will not be able to accommodate fire trucks. Work will include removal of the existing structure and abutments, steel beams and wall and replacing them (exact options are under consideration--access to the abutments, reestablished about 2002, may not be provided). The bridge will be rebuilt historically, under ongoing approvals by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, including the railings (part were used on the grounds of the Columbian Exposition). Paths will be provided (promised provisionally) as far as Stony Island.

April minutes. Members noted that a news item following the minutes, concerning crossing signals desired at the difficult, dangerous set of intersections of Cornell Drive and 59th/60th, is confusing. McCurry said she would clarify and seek a site meeting with CDOT, noting that even if Cornell Drive is changed, that is over a year away.

Wooded Island and ACE ecological project. Jerry Levy reported per project manager Lauren Umek that most of the plastic water piping will be removed this spring. The contractor is on site working. The Island is starting to flower. Many groups visit from the south end. The next workday is May 27, removing invasives.

Bobolink Meadow workdays are 2nd Saturdays 9-12 from the south end.

Fran Vandervoort announced the Jackson Park in Your Pocket is up as an app accessed from smart phones and other devices. Go to [www.vamonde.com](http://www.vamonde.com), make password, and find Jackson Park in Your Pocket.

McCurry showed photographs of a broken-stone breakwater that decades ago protected LaRabida Hospital and shore from wave damage. Today, groups of Eagle Scout, University of Chicago, and corporate (Exelon) volunteers come frequently to remove washed up rocks and debris and maintain wheelchair paths for patients. Groups will be coming to work on May 22 and several days in June, as well as at 63rd St. beach. June 4 U of C students and alumni are expected for a workday and a walk through Wooded Island.

Safety issues. Kenneth Newman and others discussed a broken drain pipe by 57th St. beach, drifting sand on the bike path at the south end of 57th beach, paths along Cornell opposite the Lab School, and curbing by 59th St. pier. Roberta Siegel noted that stop and other signs often are hidden by vegetation in summer- these should be reported to the 5th Ward.

Jackson Park Projects Coordinating Committee. Jerry Levy described the committee of about 15, made up of stakeholders, Park District leaders, the city, Obama Foundation, and Golf Alliance. A second meeting had a good discussion early in May, but there was nothing yet to look at. (The first presentation of the preliminary Presidential Center design occurred after the meeting.) The golf engineering studies and drawing of possible layout were held up by the serious deterioration found with the shoreline, especially at the south Shore golf course and by dilemmas presented by the water table at the pinch point at 67th St. It is hoped the committee can meet in June.

Fieldhouse and program. Supervisor Bobbie Beckam and Area Manager Farah Tunks gave the news that, thanks to the Obama Center project, there will be a new, state of the art Jackson Park fieldhouse (details to be developed collaboratively).

Tunks reported that coming to the current fieldhouse is a new program for ages 8-12, known as Kiddie College, similar to one at Ping Tom Park, to run September through June. Also, kid's gardening classes in new raised beds north of the fieldhouse. McCurry said JPAC is in contact with those running the community garden program at Dyett High School (run by the students and that helps fill a food desert), to see if it could be adapted here.

The park district hopes to work out an arrangement for kids to swim at the YMCA across the street—they now go to Nash and Rosenblum. There was still room in the summer programs, and scholarships are available. Football now runs spring through November. The range of sports is now quite large- pickleball, golf, croquet, lawn bowling, tennis. More kids are being drawn from the 67th area. Instructor Andria Frink has returned from illness.

Treasurer. Dwight Powel reported \$5,719 in the bank. Current purchases: binoculars and other supplies for the Migratory Bird Festival, and replacement fans for the fieldhouse (latter moved/approved up to \$1,000).

JPAC and partners have been busy. Past events included Earth Day work projects April 22, which refreshed the Wooded Island chip trail, netted about 180 pounds of trash at the 57th

beach and similar in the Music Court- Columbia Basin edge area. A large group from the Chicago Children's Choir sang at Sky Landing and in the Music Court and did a work project. A highlight was the late afternoon One Earth Festival screening of "The City Dark" about the consequences of light pollution and nighttime blue light.

Migratory Bird Day Festival provided bird ID tours and the making of bird houses and feeders by lots of families on a very cold morning. Meanwhile, bird organizations did an annual count. That day also had the season's first JPAC/Friends of the White City park tour, and a Jane's Walk flashlight tour with 87 guests.

Obama Presidential Center. The initial design and model was rolled out at a big, invite event at South Shore Cultural Center. There is much to think about and changes in response to input are already being made.

Jackson Park Watch distributed and summarized a sheet of questions and comments worth considering and asking answers to- available at [www.jacksonparkwatch.org](http://www.jacksonparkwatch.org). Examples (condensed and extrapolated): What is the actual amount of parkland gained or lost and what new parkland off-site could be created? How do we balance the new provision for children and activity with the need for peacefulness and the needs of wildlife in the adjacent core area? Who would pay for infrastructure work including to Cornell Drive? How will the input process be made broad and robust?

Lanita Ross, aide to Alderman Hairston (5th) said the Center should provide as broad a service to the community as possible, and not just be for visitors for a few years. She liked the idea of youth instruction, preparation and exposure to all the possibilities open to them, and that the programming starts right now. We have to make sure that CPS and more are bought into to the programming now.

The process and planning are just at the start, Mr. Obama said. The purpose is to create a Center for the community and for training the next generation of changes, as well as to reinvigorate the South Side. McCurry said that Mr. Obama called her and other stakeholders personally and sent a signed portrait- it will be placed in a cabinet in the fieldhouse.

Fifth Ward news. Lanita Ross noted especially a water safety demonstration by the Chicago Fire Department June 6 at 11:30 a.m. at 57th Street Beach and The Jackson Park Classic 5K run and walk June 15, 5 pm to support youth triathlon training and the South East Chicago Commission neighborhood enhancement grants. Also, there will be a memorial event for Sue Purrington, who inter alia worked for parks, at Promontory Point May 20, 4-6 pm.

COMING EVENTS. May 16 On the Table 6 pm at the fieldhouse.

May [27] Bench dedication and picnic 12-2 at 67th Ridgeland Playlot.

May 27 Wooded Island workday 10-1 from south entry.

History tours, Sats at 11 east side of Darrow Bridge.

June 3 63rd beach clean 12-2 or 3 meet at east end. Preferred: register with [www.greatlakes.org](http://www.greatlakes.org).

June 10 Bobolink workday 9-noon at south end.

June 17 It's Your Park Day-(Help needed w large groups) 9 am around fieldhouse, 1-3 La Rabida. Reg. [www.chicagoparksfoundation.org](http://www.chicagoparksfoundation.org)).

June 24 Wooded Island.

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting Monday, June 12, 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse.  
Respectfully submitted, Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary

#### MINUTES OF THE APRIL 10, 2017 JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

[At the May meeting, members noted confusion about where a pedestrian signal is requested at the Cornell Drive crossing(s) in the 59th-60th area. McCurry will look with CDOT.]

President Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m., a quorum and total of 22 being present. Intros. March minutes were moved and approved. Noted as clarification by Dwight Powell re: our minutes and a Hyde Park Herald Article—The caddie positions offered by Chicago Parks Alliance starting this year are for freshmen-seniors but freshmen and sophomores are especially encouraged so the youth can receive an optimum of training and mentoring and qualify for college scholarships.

Treasurer. Dwight Powell reported an end of March balance of \$5,793.81. Significant membership renewals and contributions were received, including \$100 from LaRabida Children's Hospital—thank you.

Committee and special reports.

Golf Alliance communication: Four tournaments will be held this year by area clubs, including Women's. Encouragement of high school student sign up for the caddie program was asked so a full contingent can start this spring. McCurry reported on a large meeting of golf clubs, city and park officers, and some stake-holders with the Alliance to share ideas and suggestions and concerns.

Wooded Island workday is coming up – there is lots of trash.

63rd beach house area and beyond- Saturday 62 volunteers from the University of Chicago Service Center picked up trash, mulched trees there and mulched new shrubs by the driving range. More UCSC teams will work in the park monthly. UCSC is heartily thanked.

Park in Your Pocket Ap. Fran Vandervoort asked members to view Draft in Vamonde.com (password creation is required) and give her feedback. Once final additions are made, the app will be made public. Fran was heartily thanked for her vision and hard work on the project.

Bobolink. Norm Bell and Gail Parry reported that 25 kids aged 6-12 from Project Vision in Chinatown joined other volunteers for the hard work of re-chipping the path and removing invasives in the wooded area. They also described the nature play space created in Cornell Playlot Park. (Members were asked to think about having one at one of our playgrounds.) Cornell held a wildly successful “play date” for toddler through primary age children and their families April 8. Pictures- [www.bluestem.info/natureplayspace](http://www.bluestem.info/natureplayspace).

Sailing Program. Edmund Gueringer, Jackson Park Yacht Club Commodore, said they can teach 100, but there is already a wait list for this year’s sessions. Ages are 8-14. They use what is called bug boats. (The PD program at Northerly Island goes up to age 18- but there is also a Sea Scout program at Jackson. JPYC so far has to charge more than the PD.) The Club, whose membership is going up, is really involved. Next step is a swimming program –people can spread that word and create a demand. Noted: insurance cost for swimming and sailing instructors is high. Learning to swim is important in itself for youth and also is a prerequisite for sailing and boating lessons. Meanwhile, there are swimming learning programs at various Park District facilities—these do fill up right away. Members note there used to be swimming lessons at 63rd St. beach. Rental hours at the South Side YMCA could be explored. The harbor also has kayaking groups.

Park and fieldhouse. Registration for summer camp and programs opens online April 25 and in person May 5. (Unlike at some other parks, ours do not fill up immediately.) Programs start June 26. Pickleball by the fieldhouse is ready to go. 22 girls are in spring break camp—the boys are on a trip to Orlando.

On the Table. Jackson Park will host one of these community conversations May 16. [Ed.- in the fieldhouse 6 p.m. More information will be in the Newsletter.]

Social Media. Jake Young reported our posting program is robust (website, Facebook, and Twitter) but we need more of both news stories and pictures. Send Jake your ideas at [jake.r.young@gmail.com](mailto:jake.r.young@gmail.com). For both the website and Facebook use JacksonParkAdvisoryCouncil.

Lakeside Lawn Bowling Club. Open House is Sunday May 21 afternoon. The club bowls Wednesday evenings. While it is a wonderful activity for seniors, they encourage younger people and children and seek new members. Lorrie and Tom Michael reported difficulties with getting needed lawn tending and asked JPAC’s good offices. Tom handles club communications-- [bigguylor@comcast.net](mailto:bigguylor@comcast.net).

Earth Day April 22. Louise McCurry described the evolving day-long program, including work at Wooded Island, 57th St. Beach, and the Music Court area, also singing and stories.

One Earth Film Festival will also screen “The City Dark” with community speakers and discussion at the fieldhouse at 4:30- Dawn Posey and others described that program and the city- and community-wide One Earth Film Festival held every April-- [www.oneearthfilmfest.org](http://www.oneearthfilmfest.org).

May 6. International Migratory Bird Day will be celebrated May 6, 9 a.m. to noon at the South entrance to Bobolink Meadow (see details in the Newsletter—to volunteer contact Louise

McCurry at 773 844-2225). There will be a foot race in the park that day. Also on that day in the afternoon: our first White City/history/ nature tour for the season takes place (see the Newsletter).

May 20- 67th /Ridgeland Playground. Big block picnic party and named bench dedication by Chicago Park District takes place Saturday, May 20, 12-4 p.m. This has been organized by Sylvia Brooks and friends. A storytelling program for July Saturday noontimes there is being organized.

Coming in June—June 8, 11:30 a.m.: Chicago Fire Department water safety demo at 57th St. Beach;

June 15 evening: Jackson Park 5K Classic Run and Walk, funding the Tri-Masters and South East Chicago Commission. (Report by Lanita Ross of the 5th Ward Office)- contact the office regarding participation 773 324-5555.

June 17 is It's Your Park Day- details on work projects and activities are coming.

Golf and park coordination and planning. Chicago Parks Golf Alliance reported meetings with numerous high school coaches and kids in local public and private high schools to promote the caddy program and creating golf teams to play in Jackson and South Shore courses. Golf will remain free to youth. Under the consolidation proposal Junior Golf will have a new facility and the many teams and leagues using the courses will have preferred tee times and low pricing. There will be four tournaments this summer, including Women's. A large meeting was held today by the Alliance and its supporters with representatives of the city and park district, the various leagues, and stakeholder and youth groups—many ideas and concerns were shared. Alderman Hairston's advisory Council and JPAC's Park and Projects Coordinating Committee continue to meet.

Pictures of damage to and needs of the fieldhouse were shared with the Alliance and the Obama foundation, which say that the fieldhouse issue is in their planning. Brenda Nelms asked that JPAC set up a fieldhouse committee to start gathering ideas on what the community wants in the fieldhouse and to call attention to the fieldhouse as a high priority. Kenny Newman urged people to think big for the fieldhouse.

William Hill of William Hill Garden and Gallery reported that he will manage reconstruction of the ecology garden of Hyde Park Academy High School, which is across from the park at 63rd, and has grants to create a community mural project under two artists in the 64th Street rail underpass.

Safety items included sand drifting at the south end of 57th St. Beach impacting the Lakefront Bike Trail, storm damage around 63rd St. and La Rabida areas, and Marquette Dr. underpass still flooding. James Farmer expressed a desire for higher priority for security matters in the park. McCurry said it's always on our radar, and security forces have been quite successful in heading off problems as they emerge.

Moved to adjourn c. 8:45 p.m. Next meetings May 8 and June 12, 7 p.m. in the fieldhouse.

Respectfully submitted, Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary.

## MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2017 JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

President Louise McCurry convened the meeting at approximately 7 p.m., a quorum and a total of about 30 being present, several new.

February minutes were moved by Dwight Powell, 2nded by Pat Harper and approved.

Treasurer. Dwight Powell reported end of February balance of \$4,958.81 in our account One membership check is to be deposited.

Committee and special reports.

Nature app (Jackson Park in Your Pocket). Fran Vandervoort says after final approvals it will go live.

Wooded Island. Jerry Levy announced a workday Saturday March 25, Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (4th Sats) Kenny Newman found a car driven onto the Island and parked at the Garden. He noted that people doing something plainly wrong in the park should be reminded and park security called- they respond promptly and regularly circle through the golf area. PARK SECURITY- 312 747-2193.

Earth Day. A group of 65 will be working at the Garden on April 22. There will also be a general project on the Island under Jerry, 10-1; Beach and shore cleanup 57th to 59th noon-2 pm and cleanup on the Midway Plaisance interface from Stony Island to the tracks with storytelling, 2-4.

Bobolink. Jake Young reported lots done on a very cold day, including in the woods. Workdays are 2nd Sats. The controlled burn in the meadow earlier uncovered a huge number of golf balls from the driving range.

Iowa bldg. A team that wants to fundraise wants to meet JPAC with revised ideas then with Chicago Parks Foundation. McCurry said that Montgomery Place security is watching over the Peace sculpture heads, doing a good job. JPACers will present at Montgomery Place March 17 6 p.m. on Sky Landing.

LaRabida. Beavers took down some large trees- beavers were relocated and the trees are being removed. McCurry asked volunteers for trash removal in that area in early April. commissioner751@comcast.net.

Fieldhouse. McCurry asked for volunteers for a committee planning for a new fieldhouse. She was informed that a funding/fundraising opportunity has arisen and JPAC should submit a needs and wish list. The board recommended a committee be formed, to start by visiting Chicago state-of-the-art fieldhouses then writing up the case and for a fieldhouse and the features it could have. If the possibility comes true, there need to be community planning process. Suggested for the first visit was Friday the 17th; several volunteered.

Park programs. Supervisory Beckam reminded that spring registration is open. Tennis and pickleball (tennis lite) classes will be offered. Two pickleball courts are north of the fieldhouse. Equipment is on hand.

Park Safety. Kenny Newman reported the playground at 63rd St. beach is still partially submerged in sand. The PD could consider moving it to a better location in the beach house area. There is also storm damage east of the building. A bench is missing on the north side of the outer harbor by the parking lot. Concrete stairs south of the 59th harbor east of the bike trail are in bad shape and there is broken concrete at the 59th harbor mouth. CDOT knows of the 59th Drive bridge problems with pillars and sidewalks.

There was consensus to ask a park drive through with staff in a few weeks.

Darrow Bridge. McCurry noted that corings were taken at the bridge for a report on the “next step.”

Golf updates and questions. Dwight Powell thanked Fran Vandervoort for working with him to arrange meetings of high school coaches and students with golf clubs and the Golf Alliance about the new opportunity to caddy in Jackson Park this year. He especially thanked her for her contacts with King College Prep. Brian Hogan of the Chicago Parks Golf Alliance said they now have a regular liaison at Chicago Public Schools. Hogan said that Dion Madkins, who spoke about caddying at our last meeting, has now been hired as a coach by First Tee of Chicago.

Hogan reported that geological and ecological survey is underway despite field conditions. He reassured that the golf season at South Shore golf course will open as normal this spring (Jackson course is open year around).

Nichole Sheehan, Chicago Park District Project Manager for the golf course study of the consolidation proposal, gave new details on the feasibility and engineering study by Smith Group/JJR.

Survey has been completed at South Shore but a document not yet delivered. Jackson's will take longer- for example the tree survey requires special equipment because the ground is so soggy from this winter's rains. Roadway coring is being done under permitting to CDOT. The permitting protocol has been decided. Asked about scheduling and timetable, she emphasized that plans and the open vetting and process by the public has to be based on studies and reality rather than rushed.

Old Business.

Jackson Park Coordinating Committee. Jerry Levy, chair reported on the first meeting (Monday March 6) of this committee set up to bring together persons in authority at agencies overseeing the park and proposed projects and at the Obama Foundation and the Golf Alliance with leaders of JPAC, Jackson Park Watch, Friends of the Parks, a neighborhood organizations and a some others from the community to learn and discuss what is happening, and what needs to be taken into account to make the park and projects work and work together no matter what is or is not done, and inform broader planning. About 20 were invited based on discussion at the February JPAC meeting and by the JPAC board. Jerry thanked Gary Ossewaarde for preparing meeting minutes for the committee. Jerry said that especially helpful was the presence and discussion with the owner of Living Habitats, a landscape design firm hired by the Obama Foundation. It has experience with Olmsted, presidential centers and natural landscaping and roof gardens

and is committed to having the Center blend in and the site be better than before. Much sharing of details and community concerns were expressed regarding how golf reconfiguration could work for all, community connections and roadways (studies are just starting- there is no preferred solution), and how replacement sports fields, existing grass fields, and the driving range would work together (field study is done but no firm decisions are made yet).

Jerry said that this is one part of community planning discussions that are going on, large and small, and people need to let each other know it is and share opinions—there's a long way to go. He noted that the Alderman's Advisory Council is discussing a wide variety of park and other issues, not just the golf. He felt that essentially the park will remain functionally as it is, divided along 63rd St.- the north half natural and open spaces and the south devoted to golf. The committee will meet again next month. McCurry thanked Jerry and the committee. Powell reminded us that many people from different backgrounds, and communities have worked together in the interest Jackson Park for decades; all of them deserve recognition.

Appropriation. McCurry said the board had determined that final payment should now be made on the Jackson Park in Your Pocket app production, and the board moves that this be authorized, up to (est.) \$3,828. Unanimously approved.

McCurry announced that JPAC under Sylvia Brooks has set up a fill-a-bag furniture and gently used clothing collection to fund street furniture at the 67th Ridgeland playlot—bring to the fieldhouse through March 25.

Lanita Ross said that the annual Darrow wreath toss and speeches were very nice (but kept short because of weather). They retired to the Museum for a talk on what Darrow might say about today's populism.

McCurry announced that Cornell Park will host an interactive nature play program March 25 afternoon- get ideas for Jackson Park. She describe the park's nature play space.

The Woodlawn Summit March 18 was discussed.

Earth Day reminders were given.

Lanita Ross from the 5th Ward Office announced Shredder Day March 18 11-1 at Revere School.

Fran Vandervoort moved to adjourn at 7:59 pm.

Next meeting April 10, Monday, 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse, 6401 S. Stony Island.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2017 JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

President Louise McCurry convened the meeting at approximately 7:10 p.m. a quorum and a total of about 30 being present.

February minutes were moved by Jerry Levy, 2nded by Esther Schechter and approved.

Treasurer. Dwight Powell reported \$5,067.31 in our account and two checks cashed totaling \$119.05.

Persons from several golf organizations providing youth with caddy, mentoring and scholarship opportunities, spoke including Dion Madkins of the Golf Academy and representatives of The First Tee of Chicago including two young girls, Jada and Riley.

Thanks to JPAC members including Dwight Powell and Fran Vandervoort, persons from the Golf Alliance and WGA's Evan Scholarship program (based in Chicago) met with youth of Hyde Park High about forming a team and caddying this year. Similar meetings are being set up with other mid-South schools. Volunteers are sought to train and mentor youth in golf. Twenty youth caddies will be subsidized in the park this year. The South Shore Excel Academy anticipates having a golf team for the first time in several years. The golf team was asked to consider kids and schools in the middle grades as well.

Brian Hogan and Michael Ruemmler of the Chicago Parks Golf Alliance answered questions—welcomed as part of an important vetting and planning process by Jerry Levy head of the golf committee. Hogan and others said that the engineering firm SmithGroup/JJR is examining drainage, soils and damage and was not yet prepared to plot the golf lies, but noted PGA requires 7000 yards per. They stressed that the golf will stay in the current footprint, that in combining 27 holes into 18 longer holes, effort will be made to provide both challenges and comfort to those who want a simpler golf experience. They would work to keep fees, if possible even lower than the Park District can, grandfather priority access tee times and events of the area and Jackson Park clubs. When work is being done at a regular spot for such a golf event, the event will be moved to another part of the course. The remake will pay attention to safety in both the golf lies and circulation in the course and to the communities. They are not ready to say what the schedule of work is, but want to go now with the youth programs. They would like to start at South Shore (not sure which hole will be recommended), which is the simpler course, working on perhaps three holes at a time. Golfers recalled that Waveland has an indoor practice facility and they would like to have something similar here.

Margaret Schmid of Jackson Park Watch and another said they want no work done until after a new plan is drawn up for all Jackson Park. Mr. Hogan Golf Alliance said such matters are in the provenance of the Park District. Dwight Powell said it is important for the people of the South Side to get things done; we need action-- but also to work together and stress the positive aspects of Chicago. Sharon Lewis said that because of these proposals other things are getting fixed.

Reports. Wooded Island. Levy announced the first workday of the season for March 25, 10 am. Meet at the south gate. New, larger tree ID tags are ready. Planting will resume in the spring.

He replied that although the Island is open, the fences will stay up because of contractor liability for the new plants.

Bobolink Meadow. Norm Bell said the next workday is March 11, 10 am from the south end. A controlled burn was held, plants should be popping up soon.

La Rabida. Soccer kids did a cleanup and looked for fossils on the limestone beach March 4.

Jackson Park in your Pocket app is awaiting final editing and Park District approval. Social media. Jake Young. The U of C team has strengthened our site and Facebook and Twitter. The online donation and blog should be going by the end of March.

Playground- A memorial bench will be installed at the 67th/Ridgeland playground.

Committees. Rules. Chair Jerry Levy reported that according to the bylaws, committees are established either by motion at council meetings or by the board; chair appointed by president.

The PAC passed a resolution at the December meeting for a committee on nature and science issues. The board determined that this will be under the general nature committee that includes Wooded Island, Bobolink Meadow that is currently co-chaired by the stewards.

Ad hoc Golf committee. Jerry Levy reported that the special ad hoc committee of 10 established by the board and appointed by the president met and heard a detailed report from and asked extensive questions of Brian Hogan the Chicago Parks Golf Alliance about the golf proposal. Members each gave detailed views and all voted to recommend support pending the feasibility and design study and that certain conditions and commitments be met, including a public course with low City and local fees, grandfathered times et al for local clubs, and that ecological standards be met. (Report is appended to the February Newsletter.)

Chair Jerry Levy proposed that, as a response to recent transformative proposals for the park and widespread requests for coordinated planning, JPAC establish an ongoing general committee to review proposed changes, projects and construction comprehensively-- how does each affect others, how and do they work together or not, do they serve and meld with the park as a whole, what broader planning is needed? Responsible agencies and direct stakeholders would be invited to join or send representatives to join the appointed JPAC members. Invited would be Chicago Park District, Obama Foundation, Chicago Parks Alliance, 5th Ward Office, Friends of the Parks, JPAC, Jackson Park Watch, and Chicago Department of Transportation. Others can be added, but initially not too big. Jerry so moved and Dwight Powell seconded to establish such a committee to review and oversee park projects and their fit and coordination with each other and the park as a whole. The motion carried, with no dissent and a few abstentions.

New business—The Park District PAC Conference February 25 was recommended to all as a great learning & networking experience. Reg. Bill Hill was commended for his work on the event planning committee.

Moved to adjourn. The next meeting will be on March 13, 7 p.m. in the fieldhouse, 6401 S.

Stony I. Respectfully submitted, Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

## JANUARY 9 2017 JPAC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES.

President Louise McCurry convened the community meeting portion at approximately 7:10 p.m. a quorum and a total of about 150 being present.

The regular meeting was preceded by a community meeting convened by JPAC, with Park District Superintendent Michael Kelly and staff present to discuss the championship golf proposal that would combine the two courses and answer questions from the audience.

Mr. Kelly had originally agreed to come to discuss various questions that had been raised about the pets, wildlife, and signage. Mr. Kelly noted that new signage reflects long-standing Park District policy, but it is a matter that the Advisory Council can and should talk about.

Mr. Kelly said that the golf proposal is at the beginning of the process—a need and scope has been identified to address a recommendation in the 1999 Framework Plans for the two parks (to improve the golf courses) but for which there has been no money so far. There is no money or plan yet; public input starts tonight.

Questions and comments (appended to the minutes) commenced and additional questions attendees submitted on paper were taken to be answered by the Superintendent. Answers will be published on the [chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://chicagoparkdistrict.com) and [jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org](http://jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org) websites. In addition, Lanita Ross of 5th Ward Alderman Hairston's office encouraged the public to attend the January 24 ward meeting, 6 p.m. at South Shore Fine Arts Academy, 1415 E. 70th St. The Superintendent will be there.

The regular business meeting commenced about 8:20 p.m.

Minutes- there was an objection to wording about the vote establishing a nature committee. The chair ruled this a substantive matter to be discussed under old business. Moved 2nded and voted to approve the minutes.

Treasurer's Report. Fran Vandervoort reported for Dwight Powell that the balance is \$5,067.31. Checks written: \$44.08 to Home Depot for the fieldhouse Christmas Tree. Deposited: two contribution checks totaling \$120.00, with another check to be deposited.

President's and committee / activity reports. Park in Your Pocket- Vandervoort said it nears official approval. Our website and Facebook pages continue to be updated.

LaRabida workdays- groups of high school students chipped patient and wheelchair paths.

Fieldhouse—University of Chicago students will do fix ups in the fieldhouse, including if possible work on the History Wall, for ML King service day.

McCurry asked for more volunteers to walk/drive through the park to report emerging problems.

Sylvia Brooks is looking for volunteers for this year's children's garden by the fieldhouse.

Fieldhouse. Instructor Pierre Nealon reported on the wide range of programs for youth, and some for seniors. He noted a teen opportunity fair January 21 and that the PD is now providing

after school coaching in schools. 60 books from the HP Used book Sale are now available for kids to read. The kids enjoy the t-shirts we gave.

Anne Marie Miles said Jackson Park Yacht Club has raised the funds for its youth sailing program and now seeks a sailing director.

General comments from discussion of the golf proposal. Sylvia Brooks said she looks forward to an underpass at 67th and South Shore Drive so she can safely take kids to the beach, and hopes for golf alignment changes that will keep golf balls from hitting people's cars and houses.

Brenda Nelms wants the plans at each stage and public input to be posted, including tonight's questions.

There was discussion about inconsistent dog policy and signage on the Island and Garden

New business. JPAC members are participating in Network of Woodlawn's community input and planning for Woodlawn in light of the Presidential Center. The next public meeting is being planned. [January 26, 6 p.m. Apostolic Church Banquet Hall, 6320 S. Dorchester.]

William Hill said planning continues on fix up and murals for the 63rd and 64th St. Metra underpasses near JP. Migratory Bird Day/ International Bird Treaty will again be celebrated in May. We are looking for best weekend day to replicate last year's highly successful collaborative program.

On the Table discussion potlucks under the Community Trust will again be held this May. Suggested was for JPAC to host one in South Shore this time. Miles offered to be lead coordinator.

Old business. In response to Mr. Stanley's objections regarding handling of a new committee vote at the previous meeting, McCurry asked that the Board meet to review bylaws procedures for JPAC, including committees and start reconstitution of our committees. Report will be made at the next JPAC meeting. Mr. Stanley suggested an outreach committee, for example to the high schools.

Moved to adjourn. The next meeting will be at the fieldhouse February 13, 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary  
See appended below.

Questions asked orally of Supt. Kelly at the January 9, 2017 JPAC meeting. (NOTE: VISIT THE PARK DISTRICT WEB HOMEPAGE – UPDATES FOR Q & A FROM THE JAN. 9 MEETING AND 5TH WARD MTG.. [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com). Following here is ORAL Q & A only, as recorded by the Secretary.)

1. (Jerry Levy, JPAC steward and committee co-chair.) There needs to be assurance that high industry standards will be used in applying herbicides and other treatments in the new golf course and that the needs of birds and other wildlife will be served. He distributed a brochure recommended by Jane Masteson -golf courses are good for birds.

2. The Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce believes this project will grow and be good for businesses.

3. I believe this will be a job creator for kids—the caddie positions are important. I especially support an underpass into the community at 67th and South Shore for access to the beaches.

4. As a resident I am completely on board.

5. I want South Shore Drive including at 67th and other access to the park and in the community addressed regardless. And all must benefit from any changes.

A (answer). Connectivity is a high priority. The underpasses et al are costly and require funding.

6. The golfing clubs would like a meeting to which we can all come to discuss the concept and timetable, including how to keep the groups place in the golf courses and the free and reduced fees.

A. Meetings with golf is part of the process. We intend to keep fees as low as possible for city residents and hope for free to under 17. As to speculation of starting in spring, we cannot say that yet—if so, spaces will be found at Jackson.

7 As a businesswoman, I think this is good. I commend Billy Casper management. Will golf clubs and groups still get their dates? Questioned priority when cannot get a full service grocery at 71st and Jeffrey and city can't pay bills. Have many parties doing it including with Boys & Girls clubs.

A. Golfers can still get their dates this year. Nothing will be done in Jackson this year. Golf needs to be ramped up (to keep the courses viable?).

8. The PD has not used the South Shore Cultural Center as a community or arts center or keep it up or invested in equipment for quality shows—will this change? Will access to the lake and South Shore beach be improved or hindered? Will facilities at the beach including ice cream and the beach house be improved<sup>3</sup> and a high quality restaurant open regularly?

A. The Cultural Center will not be turned into a country club. We do have to charge something-it's expensive.

9.. It's about the "What's in it for us?" We need a community benefits agreement with an ongoing direct relationship, and a business plan that is sustainable to use revenues from the new facilities. A solid recreational replacement for what the footprint that is taken by and facilities displaced by the Library need to be part of the mix.

A. The fields will be displaced. The golf courses are losing money, any extra expendable revenue is doubtful. We will share numbers. This may not happen- it requires money, the community, and the golfers.

10. Rainbow Beach AC). Rainbow wants to be part of the mix, as with a practice facility or offsite parking for big events? Talk to us.

A. There may be an opportunity here.

11. Golf moves the pain out. We must provide youth opportunities.

12. It will be fantastic, especially for kids. Move the fields (without dispersing) but go beyond- a year round indoor-outdoor practice and athletic facility that will serve as a safe haven. Would like a CBA regarding these. We can help raise the money.

A. I can't commit tonight- such facilities are expensive but if you will help raise the money, we will help.

13. How do you start a golf club and get times?

A. It's easy to do.

14. Parking on the lakefront is too expensive for families and goes up.

A. Disagrees, says it's cheap is to pay for programs. Fees are better than a property tax hike. It is an ongoing debate.

14. Sports facilities don't bring youth or other jobs or bring much economic development.

(Remark by Mary Ellen Holt - Entities like WGA only provide help for youth in exchange for getting something.) A. How can you know that ("it's only because") but of course we asked and they will start paying youth caddies this summer.

16. (Lanita Ross, 5th Ward Office announcement). The January 24 ward meeting will host the Park District to continue the conversation- 6 pm at South Shore Fine Arts academy, 1415 E. 70th St.

Written questions were collected from the audience and questions sent by email for this purpose were forwarded to Maria Stone for the Superintendent. These will be posted in the Park District's and linked from Jackson Park Advisory Council's websites.

# # #