



JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 35th YEAR!

J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2018 Vol. 25 No. 8

NATURE HISTORY RECREATION JACKSON PARK- BE THERE!

BOARD elected 11/2017
Louise McCurry, President
Anne Marie Miles, VP
Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary
and Newsletter editor
Dwight Powell, Treasurer

JPAC meets monthly 2nd
Mondays, 8/13, 9/10, 10/?, 11/?

DUES/ VOLUNTARY CONTR.
\$35 per person. Opportunity
levels are available
TO JPAC c/o Dwight Powell,
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MTG- AUG 13, 2018 MON 6PM 6401 S. STONY I
Guests, minutes, reports, old and new business

CONTENTS p1 About/Ann'ts; pp2-3 MINUTES and appended reports
pp 4-12 features, updates, news, event reports- the excitement of
being there! p10 SUMMER EVENTS -updated online in
http://hydepark.org/parks/jpac/2018_summer_schedule.pdf

2018 MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS DRIVE

Mail checks made out to JPAC to JPAC C/O Dwight Powell, 7206 S. Luella
60649. (Memb. can be printed from online and mailed with check.) (Fiscal agent
Chicago Parks Foundation, a 501).

WEB, PICS, <http://www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org> &
<http://www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org/events> (cal.- add /2018-01)

FACEBOOK. <https://facebook.com/JacksonParkAdvisoryCouncil/>

Jackson Park in Your Pocket mobile app- From our website, apps.

BACKPAGES ARCHIVE www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac. HOME
<http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac.html>

NEWSLETTERS ARCHIVE www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters

THIS NL: <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters/Aug2018.pdf>

MINUTES ARCHIVE <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/minandresolu.htm>

Keep current + **NEWS** details: <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/jpnewsbul.htm>

BOBOLINK website <http://www.bobolinkvolunteers.org>

FRAMEWK PLAN-OBAMA CTR-GOLF- www.southlakefrontplan.com

106 REVIEW- <https://tinyurl.com/JPIImprovements>, our analysis:

www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/Section_106_OPCMobilityHistoricReview_2017.htm

GOLF <http://chicagoparksgolfalliance.org> www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/golf.htm

OPC <https://obama.com/>. CITY info <http://www.cityofchicago.org/OPC>

JPAC's Obama Center page www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPLibrary.htm

ACE Wooded I- info and links- www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ace2014.htm

Project 120 www.Project120Chicago.org , www.gardenofthephoenix.org

Friends of the White City (free tours): <http://www.friendsofthewhitecity.org>.

www.JacksonParkWatch.org . www.fotp.org. www.chicagoparksfoundation.org

ELECTRONIC DELIV OF NEWSLETTER- garyossewaarde@yahoo.com

The purpose of the JPAC is to provide a forum for ...users of Jackson Park; to advise and make recommendations to the Chicago Park District on park improvements and programs (and create/ ensure programs); to encourage long-range planning; promote community utilization and awareness of park and program and participation in planning and seek alternative funding sources.

MINUTES OF THE JULY 09, 2018 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MEETING

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

(Later in the meeting) June minutes were moved by Fran Vandervoort, 2nded by Jake Young and approved. Gary Ossewaarde gave the Treasurer's report for Dwight Powell (who had a surgical procedure that day)--\$3,912.91. Dwight thought we will be able to provide lunch for the senior and junior camp counselors from donations and will consider what to give to the day camp kids at the end of the summer term.

Brief introductions were given.

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

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

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

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

Several donated items were raffled off.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDICES TO THE JULY MEETING MINUTES

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

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

Gardens, plantings inside and out

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bike rack, or bike concession

Picnic table(s)

Keep it clean

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

Promoting for receptions etc.

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

[Ed.: READ MORE ABOUT THE 'IOWA' BLDG. HISTORY, PREVIOUS IDEAS FOR REINVENTION, AND THE PEACE SCULPTURE INSTALLATION at <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/iowa.htm>.]

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

On the Table and other conversations/outreach

Make Music Together and the piano in the park

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

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

Workday activities, especially large groups coming to the natural areas

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

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

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

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

Wonderful beaches, recreation and other amenities

Big events especially last year at 63rd beach house

Bringing adaptive and access sports to the park

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

3. FUNDRAISING IDEAS SHARED AT THE JULY 9 JPAC MEETING

Aiming Very high- Our own golf tournament

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

Middle- a soiree at one of the yacht clubs

Low- Sell bottled water or treats on lakefront etc.

LOUISE MCCURRY'S COMMENTARY ON THE JULY 9 MEETING

Thank you all for coming to our Annual JPAC Iowa Building Picnic. Thank You for participating in our envisioning and planning exercise for revitalizing the Iowa Building & Lot. You saw the major improvements we have made this year and we ask you and your team to walk through the Iowa and lot and envision future improvements and events and activities. I will send out the list of the Iowa Building visions we compiled together. Now we need Positive Activity at the Iowa site to call attention to this resource and secure funding for restoring the roof and bathrooms. Please plan and write a permit for an activity at the Iowa Building this year. Jackson Park is Rising with our awesome combined Team of The Chicago Park District, The 5th Ward Alderwoman and her team, The JPAC Team, and the many community and U of C team members who volunteer in our many Jackson Park Projects. Thank you Spencer [Bibbs} and Jake [Young] for getting JPAC pictures, events, and project information to the social media sites. We are proud of our world changing history and looking forward to our continuing revitalization of Jackson Park. Great Parks (like Jackson) build Great Communities! (Pictures accompanied the above letter.) Barry Rapoport (on left) JPAC member and retired Hyde Park High School teacher, who organized the Jackson Park historic plaque and boulder honoring Frederick Douglass' historic civil right's and suffrage projects at the Haitian Pavilion during the 1893 World's Fair, is describing his current project to focus more attention on the site.

Tom Snooks (on the right) Director of South Lakefront Park Security described his many successful projects improving the Jackson Park Safety and Security this year. Members of the Chicago Police 2nd District described their work in Jackson Park and answered audience questions.

5th Ward Alderman Leslie Hairston and 5th Ward Aldermanic Park Specialist Lanita Ross were honored for their critical roles in rebuilding and revitalizing Jackson Park with the 2018 JPAC Bertha Palmer Award. Bertha Palmer was the brilliant and politically astute leader who brought women of every state and many nations together to establish the Women's Fair Board, Women's Building which was the site for organizing US and International women's suffrage organizations, and was the showcase for Women's Art, Music, and Literature, and the International Women's Rights Symposiums. She also created the Children's Building showcasing equality of mental and physical education of boys and girls and providing international education and daycare which enabled women to work full time jobs.

JPAC historian and secretary [Gary Ossewaarde] holding the Anniversary Cake honoring the 125th Anniversary of 1893 World's Fair in Jackson Park and the 35th Anniversary of JPAC. Cherry Theard organized a team to plan our 125th Anniversary JPAC Community Celebration.

NEWS ITEMS AND FEATURES

OBAMA CENTER and new track and field work. – **THIS FEATURE AS UPDATED TO 8-9-18 AND EXPANDED IS APPENDED AT END OF THIS NEWSLETTER. OR VISIT as updated later in http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/Newsletters/Obama_Center_Reviews_Updates.pdf.**

In process of being addressed: perennial flooding and other problems at the 59th underpass. Temporary wood path has been constructed inside. Pumps are on order.

The loop of the lagoon south edge nature path-- the emergent-wetland nature path and bridge southwest of the Driving Range, remains fenced off since the Chosen Few festival. Park District is working to get it removed.

Problems were noted by our safety committee with 63rd beachhouse doors unsecured and blown sand at playground, structural problems to 57th south end of the beach and the bike trail.

To be launched August 18 is an intergenerational program at Montgomery Place and the Iowa Building by Montgomery Place, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Changing Worlds ,and JPAC bringing together elder residents of MP, youth from the Jackson Park junior counselors program and other youth and possibly mothers who have lost children to violence on the theme of Courage-- to share and compare memories resulting in a product of spoken and written word, music, and performance.

August 3- final day of Day Camp- games etc., food by JPAC made possible by generous gifts. Students and staff signed a lovely card to JPAC. Followed at 6 by the annual.Showcase.

Schedule is available at the fieldhouse for Fall classes- Decorative Arts, Textiles, Tumbling, After School, Teen Club, Basketball, Stop the Trafficking, Pickleball (free!), Fitness, Walking Club.

Another great sports day in the park August 4 - tournaments in tennis, volleyball, plus White City tour at 11 and a piano concert with our piano at 1.

RESTAURANT-BAR CONCESSION GRANTED PERMIT FOR 63RD ST. BEACHHOUSE. According to the Hyde Park Herald July 18 (Aaron Gettinger), a license was granted June 13 for a project first publicly announced spring of last year at one of Alderman Hairston's monthly ward meetings for a restaurant concession with full bar with window and waiter service on a 50x60-foot patio to be built on the east beach sand corner of the 63rd St. Beachhouse, 6245 S. Lake Shore Drive. (JPAC was subsequently informed last year that no further information or prospectus was provided for the project.) The establishment, Reggies on the Beach, will be a branch of Reggies club (South Loop) owned by Bobby Glick. It may partially open this season, if not, then next year and to run year round with, it hopes with locally-hired staff. Menu includes hot dogs, brats, wings, salads and vegetarian dishes. Alcohol will be served. It's to be presumed the setup will prevent bringing drinks on the beach. Incidentally, one of the most frequently-expressed desires we hear is for some kind of restaurant in the old Coast Guard Station further south. GMO

DARROW BRIDGE STILL ON TARGET FOR 2019, COMPLETION IN 2020. According to CDOT responses to media, the project has \$6M in funding in hand and is still in design phase. The project is under guidance of the Illinois Historic Preservation authority under an agreement of terms with CDOT. GMO

SPRUCING UP PLAYGROUNDS by Gary Ossewaarde

June 16, JPAC members Louise McCurry and Gary Ossewaarde cut down the overgrowth along the fence of the 67th/Jeffrey playlot, not only making the place more inviting but allowing more light in to discourage adult loitering and illicit activity at night. Park and city police have also worked in the area to return the playlot during the day to kids- engaging and persuading many of the adults and older teens that this was not the place for them. On the week and weekends of July 4th, families were seen heavily using the playground and that at 67th and Ridgeland. More needs to be done, including renewing the wood chips in the playlots.

July 7. Louise McCurry writes concerning the re chipping of Earl B. Dickerson and Chrysalis playlots at 56th Street and Stony Island and Cornell respectively. (Earl B. Dickerson was a civic, business, civic, and political leader of the African American Chicago community from the 1920s into the 70s.) In the 1970s the Hyde Park Historical Society led the move to name the original playground built by the community at 56th and Stony for Dickerson. The community also requested and participated in its recent modernization under the park district collaborative grant program (led by Maria Stone). A part of that program is commitment of communities to annual maintenance work in the playlots.

As in the Hyde Park Herald, July 11 2018 Hyde Park Herald, Louise writes: "Thank you for the help with Dickerson Play Lot Workday. Thank You, JPAC members, community members, parents and children for helping us repair Dickerson Play Lot in Jackson Park. Thank you, Spencer Bibbs for recording our workday and live streaming it. Thank you my role models, Fran Vandervoort and Gary Ossewaarde for showing our young parents the skills for chipping their kids playlot. This was one of the new play lots that JPAC [re]designed and spread the first chips six years ago. Thank you to Christopher Watson, our positive and hardworking Eagle Scout Candidate. We admire your energy, strength and great work. Thank you to Michael Brown, our Chicago Park District Natural Areas Supervisor, who got the wheelbarrows, chips and forks to us. Thank you, Park District Staff members who delivered and packed up the equipment. Thank you to Cherry Theard, super JPAC member for organizing a raking plan and for bringing a spirited canine buddy (Mr. [Winston]) to [participate] in the Canine Cheering Squad. Thank you to the over 20 community members who came to help chip their kids' play lot. There were foot deep holes under the very popular and always in use play equipment, where playing kids have worn away all the chips, the dirt and ground cloth have been exposed, and the weeds were popping up through the openings between chips. JPAC monitors the lot and was proud to bring our community together to improve their play lot in Jackson Park. We shared the morning cleaning up the bottles and cups from a late night playlot liquor party. We recruited neighbors who came to play, to help rake chips. They all want to join JPAC and help us again, and were invited to our JPAC meeting on Monday at the Iowa.

"We finished chipping Dickerson Play Lot and it looks really great, but we still need to finish Chrysalis and will be doing the other playlots."

OUR WATERS and BEACHES. By Gary Ossewaarde. OBSERVED IN THE LAKE: OUTER HARBOR YOUTH **SAILING CLASS** practicing maneuvers, survival and rescues. This is a joint endeavor of the park district, outer harbor yacht clubs and others, encouraged by JPAC, which steered several school youth toward scholarship admission. JPAC treasurer Dwight Powell, along with vice president Anne Marie Miles (also an officer in the **5**

Jackson Park Yacht Club) and the club commodores have been especially diligent in encouraging the program locally, which grows from an endowed program. Youth must have passed the Red Cross test of swimming/ability to float safely in order to enroll in sailing. Swimming classes occur year round at park district facilities including locally Don Nash Center and in the summer at Washington Park.

AND... **NOT SO GOOD NEWS ABOUT BEACH SAFETY.** Media reporting on swimming deaths and rescues reveals an apparent thinness in summer beach protection. Monitoring and concerns about various beach conditions has had the attention of JPAC since its founding.

The physical presence of lifeguards is critical both when people are in trouble in the water (including situations that need marshaling and direction of rescue personnel) and also in general to monitor conditions and beachgoers and warn or forbid entry during unsafe conditions, whether due to weather, currents, or rough-water, or for high e-coli and pathogen presence. Lifeguard hours at Chicago beaches have been seriously reduced for the past 9 years, starting as late as 11 a.m. and generally ending at 7 p.m. rather than 9 to 8:30. In response to media reports and JPAC inquiries, lifeguards at 57th St. Beach may now start at 10 a.m. rather than 11, but so far CPD is in general holding to 11 to 7. Some advocates and media say hours should run from daylight (which at midsummer can be as early as the 6 a.m. time the parks open) to dusk or at least the old time of 8:30 or to when beaches close at 9 p.m. Swimming is currently supposed to end at 7 p.m., but beachgoers and swimmers are often still present (as they are in the morning well before 11. There is an online petition by Halle Quezada of Rogers Park for longer hours and other changes. Perhaps the allowable swimming season is too short given climate change.

Also, there have also been **incidents at 57th St.** at least when colored warning flags ("red" means no swimming even if the fine-print policy is "at one's own risk") and signage have at least temporarily disappeared, may not be seen, or the meaning is unclear. Many people do not know of or think in the moment or have internet access to check daily updates in www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or <http://www.cpdbeaches.com>. The park district **has changed the flag policy to leave the red "don't swim" flags visible** from when lifeguards leave until they are on duty again in the morning. **Signs** have been installed on the lifeguard perches saying there is swimming only when guards are on duty. More educational materials will be available including to schools. Is this sufficient? Perhaps the budget needs to be increased and or new steps taken.

Indications that the wave or underwater action may be unsafe may (but don't necessarily) include one or more paths of debris into the water, whitecaps, or sandy stirred up water. If caught in a riptide, try floating until you have caught your breath then swim parallel to the beach until you're out of the riptide. Life guards are trained well-- a regional training center is at Rainbow. This is a good opportunity for youth. Still, youth and adult education in safe use of the water is crucial.

By the way, our **beaches are vulnerable.** During a recent high wind, wave and current episode much of the 57th St. Beach temporarily disappeared. There has been a severe loss of natural sand transport along the shoreline necessary for beach replenishment, and we are in a high lake level phase (partly due, allegedly, to opening gates to drain also-high Lake Superior). Some other areas such as along the La Rabida peninsula and south of the park the washing away of mostly-wooden breakwaters over the years may be a contributing factor--the lake wants the land back, thank you. We have asked and the park is inquiring of the Army Corps what are the facts and what can be done at what cost. There appears also to be problems with placement of the main breakwater at the Outer Harbor-- suggested changes are in the South Lakefront Plan. We are grateful that the park district now employs a fast, closer-to-real-time assessment of unhealthy water at beaches, but the public is allowed to enter the water at its own risk and the warning mechanisms may be weak. All of these factors affect beach safety and enjoyment as well as the physical integrity of what Olmsted called our greatest asset, the lake and its shore.

And a shout out to the 57th St. lifeguards. Noted by Kenneth Newman and Gary Ossewaarde, on Sunday July 15 a bad accident on southbound Lake Shore Drive at about 5800, SE of the museum, as Newman observed, "resulted in some excellent lifesaving work by some of the 57th Street beach lifeguards, as well as those who witnessed the accident, who came across Lake Shore Drive and rendered aid to injured car passengers for quite a while, even after firefighters and ambulance crews arrived on scene... Great to see some CPD employees put their lifesaving skills to work in an extreme emergency situation."

THEY PLAYED FOR THE PARKS. By Gary Ossewaarde.

The Chicago Parks Foundation held at Jackson Park Golf Course its annual Play for the Parks fundraiser for amenities and service and public programs in Chicago Parks. The Foundation is the nonprofit partner of the Chicago Park District. Executive Director Wilma Iglitzen Lang wants PACs and all friends of our parks to know that the Foundation's intent is to be open and equitable in sharing funds and involvement and wants to hear ideas and needs for all the parks. One of its major activities is funding and developing suites of programs such as Night Out in the Parks. CPF has helped Jackson with organizing numerous public events, especially over the past two years. When we come to them with a clear idea, they help put us in touch with promising partners, help organize, publicize, and come to cheer us on. Or they come to us with ideas. The programs and activities range from environmental awareness and cultural programs to putting us in touch with groups and organizations that want to do workdays in the park or give for the park.

July 12, 140 signed up to play golf for the Play for the Park general fundraiser and there were many corporate, union, nonprofit and individual donors including for the prizes. Especially noticed were the youth caddies-- shout out to Reggie Seay of Chicago Golf Course management, First Tee of Greater Chicago, Chicago Parks Golf Alliance, and JPAC members Dwight Powell and Fran Vandervoort for recruitment et al. JPAC members served at Play for the Parks as greeters and handed out refreshments to players at the 10th hole.

JACKSON PARK CONTINUES TO EXPAND ADAPTIVE SPORTS IN THE PARK GMO

The Chicago Park District's adaptive sports program under leadership of Larry Labiak this year offers a two-day Dare2tri Kids Camp Para-triathlon developmental training for youth with primary physical disability or vision loss- at 63rd St. Beach July 17 and 18. Also on September 18 they will for the second year hold the citywide Adaptive Golf Tournament in Jackson Park. Volunteering at these events, such as by helping escort or transport participants is highly rewarding as JPAC members can attest. There is a large set in Chicagoland who regularly play adaptive sports; their camaraderie is infectious. Contact larry.labiak@chicagoparkdistrict.org about becoming involved or to give suggestions on expanding offerings.

THEY LOVE A PIANO. By Gary Ossewaarde

Our piano's lessons are very popular with the kids. Our piano was at first a bit hard to move around (needing to go inside at night or during bad weather), but park district trades eventually installed a sturdy set of wheels. Then our president Louise McCurry got the idea of taking "exposure" to the piano to another level by asking that the back be made removable. The kids just love watching the hammers strike the strings when the keys are struck. Pianos in the Parks is the inspiration of Make Music Chicago (www.makemusicchicago.org), which is moving beyond the idea of "citizen musicians" making music around the world on the longest day. Heading the program with pianos in 5 parks this summer is Make Music Chicago's artistic director Kuang-Hao Huang. Persons of all ages are invited to play on the piano or take short free lessons, which we hope to make a regular year round program after the piano becomes a permanent fixture at the fieldhouse. This summer's teacher, jazz artist Thaddeus Tukes was interviewed by the Tribune and some of the kids involved in the programs agreed (i.e. their parents did) to have their pictures taken for the Tribune. The feature, by Savannah Eadens, appeared in the Tribune July 17. The object is to stir the imagination of kids, who no longer usually find a piano in their homes-- it's generally another forbidden big object and so it's hard to imagining themselves a piano player, especially with piano lessons these days rather expensive. To see a piano outside in a park... and themselves pounding it, or taking a sampler "lesson"- that's something--certainly a hit with the 175 kids in our summer camp. As president Louise McCurry told the Tribune, "These kids will walk away from their 10-minute lesson calling themselves a piano player." Thaddeus Tukes recalled his own exposure to the piano then to keys, piano and vibraphone education- he is now a scholar as well as inter alia playing in and forming bands, giving lessons at Kenwood Academy and St. Benedict Preparatory. He is composing a piece to perform at the upcoming Hyde Park Jazz Festival September 29 and 30 (www.hydeparkjazzfestival.org). He thinks of this as inspiring to learn music -- not "giving back," but giving cultural access , which may well in general be an inclusionary/participatory and superior way of designing programs in the parks.

AND SHEDD AQUARIUM. By Gary Ossewaarde.

We looked forward with enthusiasm and curiosity to the visit of a 15-foot aquarium in front of the fieldhouse July 17, accompanied by experts (obviously very devoted to their piscine charges) and by interactives and lots of facts about the Aquarium, fish, and the Great Lakes. Families and a toddler camp from the South Side YMCA were among those enthralled, although the youngest were sometimes a bit cautious. The tank came with its own set of filters and temperature controllers for up to 48 hours in case of a breakdown. Among interesting facts is that at the Aquarium there are many times the number of fish of each species in tanks behind public viewing tanks than are on view. It rotates the individuals (partly to reduce stress on them) and is always breeding and growing young replacements. In addition to expanded visits throughout the city, the Aquarium has transformed much of its permanent exhibits this summer into a special experience of Underwater Beauty.

The Shedd and CPD Jackson Outer Harbor, with Jackson Park Yacht Club and the sailing program, organized a set of learning boat rides July 17 and 18. The rides were also opened to JPAC and community members. Specialists and experts were on board leading participants in hands-on activities including water testing and underwater robotics, connecting to nature and discovering the wonder of animals living in our local waters. Here is some of what Louise McCurry saw and photographed: Aquarium scientist guides; boat builder who described building this boat; bird guides finding birds on the shoreline; looking for currents; underwater observation vehicle with camera, lights, propeller revealing lake fish, shellfish, plankton, vegetation and trash; the best operator, [a] teen; studying the food chain by sampling with a funnel device and IDing via microscope and iPad. The Aquarium boat tour of our own Jackson Park Harbor is an exciting educational science adventure that works for both adults and children and leaves a lasting awareness of our role in maintaining our lake and water ecology. Thank You on behalf of all on the tour, for this wonderful Lake Michigan & Jackson Park Harbor experience today. I recommend it for everyone 9 to 90.

DANCE COMING TO JACKSON PARK; AND THE DANCE IN THE PARKS STORY. By Gary Ossewaarde.

As part of a large set of Night Out in the Parks in Jackson this year, Two SummerDance programs are scheduled July 25 and August 15 (Wednesdays, 6-9 pm) in the Music Court area south of the Museum of Science and Industry and adjacent to parking and accessed from Lake Shore Drive at 5800. In cooperation with the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, Dancing in the Parks lets patrons enjoy a free dance class and dance the night away in the evening's selection of genres. These are big draws from all over the city. Also, July 28 DJs were scheduled to lead dancers and dancing under Cultural Arts (formerly Donda's House); either in the Music Court- or fieldhouse- check with the fieldhouse, 773 256-0903.

FOR OTHER PROGRAMS IN JACKSON SEE OUR SUMMER PROGRAM SCHEDULE ON PAGE 10 or visit http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/2018_summer_schedule.pdf.

THE STORY OF DANCE IN THE PARKS. (The following draws upon a feature by Lauren Warnecke in the Chicago Tribune July 6, 2018.) Dance in the Parks is a nonprofit collaboration that evolved starting in 2004 between the Chicago Park District (under the division of Culture, Arts and Nature led by Krista Bryski-Richard) and dance organizer Katie McCann, currently director of Dance in the Parks. As recently as 10 years ago, the dance scene in Chicago was virtually dead in summer. A few years after its founding and major growth, Dance in the Parks was partnered with Night Out in the Parks (a nonprofit launched by the park district as a result of the 2012 Chicago Cultural Plan developed under the city's Department of Culture and Special Events). Night Out in the Parks and its larger program umbrella Dancing in the Parks that also produces SummerDance, presents or serves as umbrella for over 2,000 events a year, including the wide-ranging series of 14 performances under Dance in the Parks. SummerDance, managed by DCASE, has now-citywide free programs of a dance lesson, live music, and social dancing in several genres. Jackson Park has two SummerDance and one specialized Dance in the Parks this year. Last year we had a three-performance participatory ballet by Chicago Dance Theater; we are working for such for next year.

Over the years, Dance in the Parks (DitP) is said to have reached over 10,000 patrons in 32 parks in 29 neighborhoods. What that statistic means is that dance, largely with a downtown and scattered North Side presence serving a specialized as well as largely elite audience, is gradually gaining exposure among new audiences including children and youth. First priorities, according to DitP is that the offerings be quality and able to engage, and also that each participating park gets the same program, and as many parks and

communities as possible get them. (Included is ticket giveaways to the performing company's regular season performances.) It's my observation that the programs and the art inevitably become more innovative (even seat-of-your-pants), multimedia, and informal in the best sense-- and become participatory (shouldn't audiences have a part and say in the evolution of arts?). This in turn can reflect back into the larger dance scene, while emerging dancers and choreographers-- and the companies--gain experience and exposure, just as is happening with music, theater, and opera thanks to their programs in our parks (indoor and outdoor) and cultural centers, and (yes) in schools. What's the giveback to the parks? The park district says its data show what we observe--active parks are safer parks where neighbors want to be and to take ownership and responsibility for their park.

JPAC and the park and park district staff are highly attuned to these trends and having more of these cultural events in our and other parks-- and to removing barriers to such programs and ability of youth to access them. We are thinking together of what the right mix might be as far as types and quality of kids and adult classes, one-on public performances, and joint programs or instruction with other parks such as South Shore Cultural Center. This was a high priority expressed at recent JPAC meetings including the On the Table conversation and the July 9 picnic at and about Iowa Building potential.

NO BLACKS IN THE WHITE CITY? FREDERICK DOUGLASS AND THE HAITI PAVILION. Gary Ossewaarde

Friends of the Parks (FOTP) with Hyde Park Historical Society held a panel discussion at HPHS headquarters followed by a tour July 15 on how and which African Americans and others were excluded, included, or presented at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. The program was part of FOTP's Walter Netsch Series, this year focusing on the 125th anniversary of the White City and the question of black and white in the parks and the city. The Fair's background, context and story were presented by panelists, Christopher R. Reed, PhD and Professor Emeritus at Roosevelt U., author *inter alia* of "All the World Is Here" about Black participation in the Fair; Rebecca Graff, PhD, archaeologist at Lake Forest College who has excavated in Jackson Park and studies the material culture of cities, and Courtney S. Pierre-Cain, PhD, an expert on the Diaspora and Haitian community at Lake Forest College. Dwight Powell, PhD, Jackson Park Advisory Council treasurer gave commentary.

We learned many nuances, including the role of class, money, and social connections in decisions and participation in the Fair. Black people (a very small population in Chicago at the time) who were most satisfied were working class laborers and craftsmen who were hired and the members of the many churches and social clubs who threw welcoming parties for visiting relatives and visitors from their home towns. Least pleased were the well-educated and elite, who had little voice in Fair committees and decisions and no dedicated space to showcase black progress and achievements. But Frederick Douglass and activist and journalist Ida B. Wells and her future husband Ferdinand L. Barnett didn't just complain very eloquently about this, they also acted by using the Haitian Pavilion (the first pavilion completed and opened at the Fair with a speech by Douglass) as a welcoming and safe space for people from around the world and especially the Diaspora, and as a base from which to talk and engage and distribute literature about the situation of people of color in America, especially the lynching crisis, and also African American accomplishments and progress left out of the usual narrative. Frederick Douglass had been American ambassador to Haiti in the late 1860s (charged with finding out how the U.S. could take it over!) and there developed close ties to Haitians that led to his serving as Haitian representative, including at its pavilion at the Fair. Douglass gave important addresses at the Fair and called attention of the world and the U.S. to the Black Haitian Revolution that led to the founding of the first modern, ex-colonial nation of Black ex-slaves. The pavilion was part of a suite of national and state pavilions in the northern sector of the Fair, large structures although dwarfed by the main buildings of the Fair.

The program concluded with a walk with a Haitian flag to the Frederick Douglass monument northwest of the 59th Inlet (Marina) bridge and underpass, with commentary by JPAC/Friends of the White City tour guide Trish Morse. Naturally, group photos with the monument were taken of the nearly 30 of us who made the walk on a hot day. The monument consists of a cut boulder with a bronze plaque. Like other boulders placed without a **9**

concrete base to spread the weight, ours at times works its way partially into the sand beneath it, sometimes resulting in the plaque taking on an off-square angle. A correction is due again.

About the Monument. About 15 years ago, Barry Rapoport, then a South Shore High School history teacher and JPAC member began having his classes visit the site of the Haitian Pavilion (northwest of the 59th Inlet Bridge, currently at the path to the 59th St. underpass of Lake Shore Drive) to dramatize Douglass at the Fair and hand out the story. He initiated and shepherded planning for an on-site monument to Douglass and the Haitian Pavilion. After much effort, the permissions were granted by the Park District, a bronze plaque was cast and attached to a granite half-boulder, the latter planted, and an impressive ceremonial dedication was held May 2009 that included a Resolution by City Council and Mayor Daley arranged by Alderman Hairston and the Haitian Consul-General of Chicago. Read about this and more about Douglass and the monument and find a link to Rapoport's pamphlet at <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/FredDougMem.htm>.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REMAINING JACKSON PARK SUMMER PROGRAMS

The schedule is updated online at http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/2018_summer_schedule.pdf. (Pianos, SummerDance, DJs in the Parks, Movies in the Parks, Lucky Trikes, and Flowers for the Living are Night Out in the Parks programs presented by CPD and DCASE with Chicago Parks Foundn and partners.

ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) PUBLIC MEETINGS. 2nd Mondays 7 pm fieldhouse 6401 S. Stony I. (May change in October and November due to observed holidays.) **August 13, September 10**
(The CPD monthly board meeting has been moved to August 15 11:40 a.m. 541 N. Fairbanks 8th Fl.)

WORKDAYS

Bobolink Meadow 2nd Saturdays 9-noon. 9/8. Driving Range pkg. lot. www.bobolinkvolunteers.org.
Wooded Island 4th Saturdays 10-1. 8/25, 9/22. South bridge. silevy@jeromelevylaw.com.
Special workdays may occur on short notice this summer.

PARK AND WHITE CITY TOURS. Saturdays 11 am. Meet in pkg lot east of Darrow Bridge so. of MSI.

PIANOS IN THE PARKS. Anyone can play our piano outside the fieldhouse in good weather. Free short "lessons" by Thaddeus Tukes Wednesdays at 1 through August. Thanks: Make Music Chicago.

FAMILY/CHILD PROGRAM- THE LUCKY TRIKES. Tuesdays 8/14, 8/21, 8/28, 6:15-7:15 pm.

67th Ridgeland playlot. All-ages music story times. Dynamic, interactive reading of great picture books and The Lucky Trikes' own stories are backed-up with live improvised, participatory classical music and original songs. Musicians from Chicago's thriving new music and free jazz scenes join Deirdre and Kyle for each performance. This event is presented as a part of the City of Chicago's Year of Creative Youth. COME SUPPORT THIS CREATIVE GROUP AND THE FAMILIES WHO LIVE NEAR THE 67/RIDGELAND PLAYGROUND (2 blocks east of Stony Island. BOOK GIVEAWAYS WEEKLY)

SUMMER DANCE- Wednesday, August 15, 6-10. Take a lesson and dance the night away in the lot s of MSI

FLOWERS FOR THE LIVING, AT 63RD ST. BEACH. 8/17 6-8 pm. Friday. Flowers for the Living began as a YouTube series that paired spoken word with covers of popular love songs. What originally only included Harold Green, his wife Charisma and an acoustic trio, has now blossomed into a roster of over 20 Chicago's most talented singers, an 8 piece band, live visual artists, and a series of quarterly live productions and spin off shows. Harold's vision for Flowers for the Living is to spread love throughout the community and give people their flowers while they can still smell them.

ADAPTIVE/ ABILITIES GOLF TOURNAMENT IN JACKSON PARK 2nd annual. 9/14. Assembles about 11 am at the Partee Golf Clubhouse, Hayes/63rd and Richards. Volunteers can hardly have a more enriching experience. Contact and register: larry.labiak@chicagoparkdistrict.com.

OBAMA CENTER, TRACK, AND HISTORICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS UPDATES

JPAC main pages on the matters, with links:

http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/Newsletters/Obama_Center_Reviews_Updates.pdf (this page)

<http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPLibrary.pdf>

http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/Section_106_OPCMobilityHistoricReview_2017.htm

Modified 8-12-18 GMO. This page will be periodically updated online.

OBAMA CENTER. The Section 106 and other reviews of historic and environmental effects and impacts of proposed changes, and any ameliorations/mitigations that will be required in a Memorandum of Agreement for the OPC to proceed, and for the road changes to proceed, will not be completed until early next year. The final Historic Properties Inventory is still scheduled to be released this summer. Next up in late summer/early fall is a meeting (“3rd”) that includes a report on “impacts” and on preferred alternatives for lost recreational land/fields. This fall will see: the “4th” Section 106 historic properties Consulting Parties meeting (JPAC is included), the final Memorandum on that, and the environmental (NEPA) finding that will be subject of a public meeting in late 2018. The final federal finding is due in early 2019. There are varying views about how the review process should go, and the assumptions under which it operates, and involved is lots of material, staff time, thought, and likely negotiation, not to mention the volumes of comments and testimony to be sorted. Conclusions and reaction to some or all--will likely be, or viewed as subjective.

Meanwhile: (1) The city is preparing a complete, updated lease contract/ ordinance specifying the site and terms of use for OPC operation--this should go before City Council in late summer or possibly later and is expected to factor into the lawsuit re: use of park land for the OPC. (2) In response to the review and other delays, the official groundbreaking and start are now pushed back by the OPC to some time in 2019. Michael Strautmanis of the Foundation is quoted in the Tribune that they “knew there were some things that were not in our control. We insist on going through the process with integrity and without rushing.” They have pledged that no tree removal or work on their intended 19.3 acre site (which is north of 62nd St.) will happen until all reviews and approvals are received.

The timelines of the city’s final ordinance and the Protect Our Parks lawsuit vs. City of Chicago and Chicago Park District before U.S. District Judge John Blakey

- January 2015 City Council passed an ordinance allowing the city to enter into agreement to transfer a parcel in Jackson Park for subsequent transfer. It was not specific, for example not authorizing an agreement with a user or of course what such terms could be. Also, much including the proposed footprint changed afterwards. The state also passed an enabling amendment to the parks law.
- May 2018 a lawsuit was filed by Protect Our Parks organization.
- May 17 the Chicago Plan Commission heard and approved the OPC, road changes, a replacement track and more but did not include the specifics mentioned above.
May 22 the Zoning Committee, and May 23 City Council approved the same as the Plan Commission, the new turf track, road changes and more including preliminary (“Local Partner” declaration of what it wants to do was, inter alia, said needed for the federal reviews continuing although, but, one speculates, not necessarily to their conclusion.
- In May, the judge set a status hearing for the lawsuit for July.
City and park district filed requests stating grounds (May 30 and later) for extension to file (Rule 12(b) motions to dismiss. June 4, without dissent from the plaintiffs, the judge set July 9 for defendants filing and July 30 to file responses to motions to dismiss, August 6 for plaintiffs to respond and August 9 for a motion hearing.
- July 28 the defendants asked to push back this schedule until a complete ordinance is passed-- “after an ordinance governing significant aspects of the Obama Presidential Center’s operation in Jackson Park is introduced to the City Council and the City Council chooses to enact it. [That]

would provide the necessary legislative authorization for the City to enter into an agreement with the Foundation addressing how the foundation will be permitted to use the site, and would also approve the terms of the agreement, which would be attached and included into the ordinance.” They argued in effect that the lawsuit cannot be resolved until and unless there is an action- a law implementing what the lawsuit seeks to stop and that no damage will be done to the plaintiffs because no work can proceed on the site until after the ordinance and an agreement with the OP Foundation is in effect. (A complication is that work in the new track site the site would start before that redefinition of site is officially made—work has since started, see below.) July 9 the court granted defendants’ motion to strike August 9 hearing and set the status hearing (including for case management dates) as **August 28**, 9:45 a.m. at the Dirksen Courthouse, 219 S. Dearborn, room 1203. Dates may change.

- August 14 – hearing on plaintiffs’ motion to delay/ stop work and construction on the track site and move up hearings.

Track and Field south of 62nd St. Work was started the 4th weekend of July on a new, updated artificial track and field on the northeast corner of 63rd and Stony Island. Arrangements have been made with the sports teams that had been using the ball fields on that site—they’ve been using these all summer. The replacement track and field (but not the displaced ball fields) will be paid for by the Obama Foundation. The present track and field is presently in the OPC proposed site. The new site is proposed by the city to be taken out of that site (see above). Plans were in motion before the review and approval processes were set back, so that summer break could be used to get a new track in place by fall for the teams and public to use without disruption. That exact and tight timetable had long been public. (Why the proposed site work was not, or was thought not needed to be brought up in the court proceeding- presumably that no transfer was made so it's still is the PD's land- is a matter for the court.) After the track and field work began and trees cut down, the plaintiffs to the lawsuit filed to stop the work. Note that this could leave the sports teams and public in limbo and a very visible part of the park messy and fenced.

More about the track and to think about: First, this is an opportunity to get a renewed and better multi-sport field. It may not be completely ideal because the field will be wider and accommodate more sports and amenities but the site is a bit narrower creating a squeeze on layout partly to save trees around the perimeter (excepting numerous dead and dying ashes such as along Stony Island). Some replacement and new trees are in the drawings, but numerous trees in the center are lost. We should insist at the least that net lost trees be replaced promptly within the park. A possible ball field east of Cornell Drive has not been resolved yet. Another ball field needs to find a replacement site outside of Jackson Park, according to a federal review finding from the Urban Parks/National Parks Service. That will doubtless be part of the quest to assemble new parkland in Woodlawn that could also make up acreage or green space lost to the OPC in Jackson Park.

In other news, the Foundation and the hired Lakeside Alliance general contractor and the hiring and training consultant firm and newly hired monitor are taking first steps in recruiting, training and developing a subcontracting and career workforce team that meet the promised high local and minority standards. Lakefront Alliance is now sited at Black United Fund of Illinois, 1750 E. 71st St. <http://www.lakesidealliance.com>. And, as reported in its just released Annual Report, the Foundation has started and participated in community, antiviolence, and civic leadership training initiatives and issued a broad commitment of promises document. Nevertheless a coalition seeks a community benefits agreement enforced by city ordinance that includes 30 percent affordable/low income set aside in new housing, a tax freeze, rent increase regulation, independent monitoring of jobs for OPC and other development, support for schools, a community investment fund, and means of addressing forces and practices and lack of services hurting communities. ###