



JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 34th YEAR!

J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017 Vol. 24 No. 12

NATURE, HISTORY, RECREATION

BOARD elected 11/14/16
Louise McCurry, President
Anne Marie Miles, VP
Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary
and Newsletter editor
Dwight Powell, Treasurer

JPAC meets monthly 2nd
Mondays, 12/11, 01/08, 02&3/12

DUES/ VOLUNTARY CONTR.
\$35 per person. Opportunity
levels are available
TO JPAC c/o Dwight Powell,
7206 S. Luella, Chicago, IL
60649. Or in the website.

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MONDAY DECEMBER 11 2017 7PM
JACKSON PARK FIELDHOUSE, 6401 S. STONY ISLAND AVE.
Guests. Officer's & Committee reports.
Election of officers.
New and Old Business, Announcements. Adjourn

CONTENTS p1 About/Ann'ts; p2-3 Minutes; pp4-6 + appended-
news, reports, announcements

FRAMEWORK PLAN OPEN MTGS. DEC. 7 & 11. OPTIONS JUST FOR
REC'L CULT'L, CAPITAL NO CHANGES pres'd for OPC, GOLF OR ROADS.
South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 So. Sh. Dr. 6-9 p.m.

>>> 2018 MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS - Mail checks made out
to JPAC to JPAC C/O Dwight Powell, 7206 S. Luella 60649. (Memb. can be
taken online but check must be mailed.) (Fiscal agent Chic. Parks Foundn 501)

WEB, PICS, <http://www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org>

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

Jackson Park in Your Pocket mobile app- from our website, or
www.VaMonde.com, Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.

THIS NL: <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters/December2017.pdf>

OLDER www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters HOME, BACKPAGES INDEX

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

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

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

106 Hist review process- <https://tinyurl.com/JPIImprovements>.

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

Obama Center <http://obama.com>. and <http://go.obama.org> JPAC's Obama Center
page www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPLibrary.htm

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

SKYLANDING www.skylanding.com

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

BOBOLINK website <http://bluestem.info/bobolink/> JP WATCH, FRIENDS, FOUNDN:

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

Friends of the White City: <http://www.friendsofthewhitecity.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 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 and Midway1972) to assess resources and what might be adversity 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 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. **2**

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

Re: Dec. 11- Despite the Framework Plan mtg. the same date at 6, our JPAC meeting with already announced elections and regular business will go forward at the fieldhouse at 7 p.m. To vote one must have attended two meetings over the previous 12 months and have filed a CPD application to join the PAC (that can be done at this mtg.) Note- there will be NO pre-meeting lecture program at 6 p.m. _____ **3**

The next meeting on the South Framework Plan, this time with three scenario options regarding ONLY RECREATIONAL, CULTURAL AND CAPITAL USES- not changes in OPC, golf or road proposals-- will occur twice, December 7, Thursday, and December 11, Monday, both 6-9 p.m. at South Shore Cultural Center. From CPD release: "Each option will highlight different aspects of the parks while offering a balance of uses that provide the greatest public benefit." Framework Plan aspects are "...active recreation, passive recreation, water use and quality, history, arts and culture, and connectivity." "The criteria for developing these options were based on public input collected during the first two phases of the planning process. At these meetings, planners will also present the vision and guiding principles for the project. Meeting participants will have the opportunity to analyze, question, and comment on the proposed options. Park planners will engage with the community during the public forum to determine strengths and preferences of the various plans." **Full description and opportunity to comment- www.southlakefrontplan.com.**

Related- The Obama Foundation, its plans are being refined utilizing public comments and will not be submitted to the Chicago Plan Commission before some time next year. They apparently are waiting for what the reviews (see below) show. The golf consolidation process is also pushed back.

As requested at the October JPAC meeting, we submitted to the parties a number of questions and feared scenarios about the various proposed changes to the park. Many of the inventories, such as tree removals or placement are not complete, or being put into GPS database, or not yet available, or decisions need to be coordinated with the environmental and historical reviews. The options presented at the December Framework meetings may reveal more of where thinking could be heading or can be influenced. The Obama Foundation sent JPAC an extended letter and table of answers that is attached to the electronic Newsletter and will be available at the December meeting or from the Secretary. We are asking additional questions.

Section 106 historical and archaeological review of park resources and proposal impacts was started and a Task Force kickoff meeting was held December 1. (Watch for a similar, coterminous process for the NEPA Environmental Review to be announced.) See more details in the November minutes above and in the extensive power point online at <https://tinyurl.com/JPIImprovements> where comments-- including about specific or missed historical resources in the park can be submitted. Admittance to the small hall was mostly limited to 2 representatives from each the many Consulting Parties, although there was a live-streaming overflow room (not full). The presentation was quite detailed and the floor was opened to many questions about process and specifics and statements, some expressing strong support for or else skepticism about the proposals and/ or their potential effects on the historic features.

Some of the comments: Golf and South Shore Cultural Center footprints have to be in this or have a review- please clarify. The rest of the Midway should be included in the study area. The site has shifted- please study that. Are the costs a potential damage? It's exciting to see everybody interested in Jackson Park because we think it's an amazing place- Olmsted would be proud. These reviews cannot be successful without knowing the tree etc. loses, gains and changes. Will the review consider effects of road changes including on access to harbors? The Obama Center will partner with Hyde Park High for a great gain. Jackson Park Highlands survey overwhelmingly supported the Center; I view the Museum building as a beacon of hope and change. It's good the process is happening but it needs to answer all the questions and deal with all the concerns. If a large set of adverse effects are found, could there be a basis to recommend cancellation/movement elsewhere?

(answer- this process does not provide for a go/no go recommendation but requirement to fix found problems before work can go forward). Michal Strautmanis of the Foundation told the Tribune after the meeting, "... we saw a lot of interest and a lot of excitement. What could be seen as an arcane historic review process... we had people who are interested in the process come participate.... That type of civic engagement is exciting."

The next steps for the project are for the project with Task Force to identify historic resources and their eligibility (under criteria) and the "Area of Potential Effect" including an inventory with eligibility determinations, and to review these with the consulting parties. After: assess any found adverse effects (which also have criteria) and review and resolve towards a recommendation, public hearings and Memoranda of Agreement. **4**

The potential inventory sites to be evaluated in the “**Currently Identified Historic Features**” includes these 27 structures

1. Iowa Building. 2. Music Court Comfort Station. 3. Bowling Green Clubhouse. 4. Music Court Bridge. 5. East Bridge (Clarence Darrow). 6. Museum of Science and Industry (Chicago landmark). 7. Perennial Garden. 8. Cheney-Goode Memorial Bench. 9. 59th Street Viaduct. 10. Masaryk Monument. 11. Linne Monument. 12. English Comfort Station. 13. Japanese Garden. 14. Shelter/Comfort Station at Driving Range. 15. 59th Street Inlet Bridge. 16. Middle Bridge on Hayes Dr. 17. Southern Shore Yacht Club. 18. Coast Guard Station. 19. Statue of the Republic (Chicago Landmark). 20. Cecil Partee Golf Shelter. 21. Maintenance Building. 22. Jackson Park Field House. 23. Jackson Park Yacht Club. 24. La Rabida Children’s Hospital. 25. Golf Shelter (at 67th-so. Sh. Dr. -Marquette). 26. South Haven (Animal) Bridge. 27. 63rd Street Beach House (Chicago Landmark).

15 of these are buildings and structures, 6 are bridges, and 4 are monuments.

In addition, the following Landscape Features are listed:

Circulation Roads and Paths. Golf Course. Berms and Sunken Lawn Panels. Historic Walks and Balustrades. Paved Granite Beach. Japanese Garden (also listed above). Perennial Garden (also listed above). and Naturalistic Designs including plantings and waterway systems, lagoons and Islands.

JPAC HAS MANY BACKPAGES ON PARK HISTORY, stored in the hydepark.org website of Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference. Start with these and the links there.

<http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/jphistoryandfair.htm>,

<http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/jptimeline.htm>.

Chicago Park District Public Budget Hearing - Wednesday, December 6th

Find the 2018 Budget Recommendations at <http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/departments/finance/budget-and-management/>. (You can add a comment or idea.) The hearing for public comment is at the Park District, 541 N. Fairbanks, 8th floor board room at 3:30pm. Sign-up to speak, as for board meetings, is the day before (Tuesday, December 5) by 4 p.m. – Go to <http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/departments/board-of-commissioners/speaking-at-meetings/>. The **budget will be voted on at the next board meeting, December 13** at 3:30 p.m. According to media, the draft budget includes expansion of special recreation programming including at 10 new locations and including pilots in “adaptive sports, cultural and social opportunities,” aquatic and triathlon training and environmental education and continues adding natural area acreage towards its goal of 2020 new acres by 2020. Various fees are modestly raised including for day camps (averaging \$11) (but a \$3 million scholarship fund for families remains), golf, and harbors. There is a modest cut in full time equivalent staff positions and other savings. The tax levy is increased for the first time in 4 years amounting to \$7.6 million (said in media to be \$6.48 on the average bill). Total budget is \$462.3 million, up \$12.9 from 2017’s \$449.4. We will be looking to determine what changes and upgrades, if any, are made for our park.

The time has arrived for our annual giving (which used to be called “Dues”) **and give thanks**. These help us sponsor celebrations/graduations for the kids at the fieldhouse and public events and programs as well as carry out our business. Thank you to those who gave in 2017. Our 2018 Membership Form is attached for many of you. This can be used for purposes of donations and can be mailed with check made out JPAC to Dwight Powell, 7206 S. Luella, Chicago, IL 60649. Forms are available and checks taken at JPAC meetings. Those who give are considered members and friends, although this has nothing to do with being able to vote. **Among the many we have to thank this year** are our fiscal agent and facilitator for many of our special programs The Chicago Parks Foundation, CPD and staff, The Museum of Science and Industry for postage and mailing of the Newsletter, Gary Ossewaarde for printing, our board and inner circle givers and volunteers- Al Debonnett, Norm Bell and Gail Perry, Sylvia Brooks, Ray Johnson, Jerry Levy, Sharon Lewis, Louise McCurry, Anne Marie Miles, Kenneth Newman, Dawn Posey, Dwight Powell, Reggie Seay, Esther Schechter, Fran Vandervoort, Jake Young and others, and our many special program partners. GMO

We note the passing of Ed Uhler, long time forestry and planning leader at the CPD, a good friend of JPAC, He made the recommendation in the 1999 Framework Plan of a Forestry Management Plan. He later managed (for the better) development of Millennium Park.

And the fences are down in the Habitat Restoration Project.....

We are pleased to announce that Wooded Island has been open permanently for all visitors since Oct. 22nd 2016. November, 2017, fences, except around the staging areas (and of course Darrow Bridge) were removed.

Jake Young, assoc. steward and JPAC IT, wrote the following November 7 2017 [See this in our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/JacksonParkAdvisoryCouncil/posts/1697018876975373>] Gary Ossewaarde /JPAC

For those of you who haven't ventured over to Jackson Park in the past week, I'm happy to report the majority of the fences have come down! This allows access to new paths and overlooks just east of Cornell and on the north/south sides of the lagoons. There's still some fencing around the staging area in the SW corner of the park, as this project is ongoing through Fall 2019.

While there has been a lot of discussion regarding Jackson Park recently, there hasn't been much talk about the nearly \$8 million project focused solely on ecological restoration. The Water Resources Development Act authorized this federal project through Section 506, the Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Program (GLFER). It's a 5 year capital improvement project to promote wildlife habitat within the park through a historically-based landscape preservation plan.

The project partners include the Chicago Park District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Project 120 Chicago. Additionally, leading Olmsted experts at Heritage Landscapes worked on the site designs, while Applied Ecological Services worked on the construction. Lauren Umek, the CPD Project Manager, has done an amazing job coordinating all of the moving parts of this complex project.

The current project scope covers nearly 83 acres of natural areas: the enhancement of 58 acres at Wooded Island and the lagoons and addition of 24 acres of new natural areas surrounding the island, near the Statue of the Republic, and along the west side of Lake Shore Drive.

The ecosystem improvements include the installation of over 180 trees, 11,000 shrubs, and over 600,000 native plants, that include more than 300 different species of trees, shrubs, ferns, vines, grasses, and flowering plants that will increase the biological diversity of the park and provide critical habitat and beautiful scenery for park visitors.

To improve access and circulation throughout the park the following has been installed: 9 overlooks along the water's edge, nearly 8,000 linear feet (lf) of new, crushed stone pathways, and the reconstruction of almost 4,000 lf of existing pathways on Wooded Island.

There are still many plants to install, so staying on the paths and respecting people working on site remains important. Everyone now has the opportunity to enjoy the space while improvements continue to be made.

On a different note, I'd like to thank JPAC President Louise McCurry for being a tireless park advocate, who, among other things, has been responsible for overseeing 1000's of volunteer hours in Jackson Park this year alone. And, thank you to Jerry Levy for his continued stewardship of wonderful Wooded Island, and to Norm Bell/Gail Parry for their ongoing stewardship efforts at beautiful Bobolink Meadow. In addition to having these wonderful natural areas to enjoy, we're beyond lucky to have such passionate people volunteering their time to nurture them. Good neighbors indeed!

PS - If you're interested in seeing a few photos of the new paths and current conditions, I've shared some at the following link. <https://drive.google.com/open?id=11ja41sfipoWFG2XEcnL9b6X0-ORDfU5S> Jake / JPAC

From Mike Strautmanis, Obama Foundation, November 2017 in response to questions from JPAC

To the members of the Jackson Park Advisory Council:

Thank you for reaching out to let me know about the rumors that have been going around about the Obama Presidential Center (OPC). We recognize there are honest questions, but there are also some people who are using this process to further their own agenda. It's helpful to have JPAC in place as truth tellers who have cared about Jackson Park for years—before there was any idea about the Obama Presidential Center coming to the South Side. We have appreciated the opportunity to work with you and learn from you, and we look forward to many years together as neighbors and advocates for historic and beautiful Jackson Park.

We have thought considerably about how we can take this opportunity—with 700,000 visitors coming to the OPC every year—to boost local businesses on the South Side. We also think considerably about how to protect the historic legacy of the park. Locating the parking facility on the Midway Plaisance supports both of those goals. By ensuring that OPC visitors will arrive on foot, we increase the likelihood visitors will patronize local businesses before and after their visit. It also allows us to keep cars out of Jackson Park, improving the park experience for all.

One of the reasons we began our public conversations as early as we have is because we want to hear directly from South Side residents what they want in the OPC. For instance, we know that the Cheney-Goode Memorial on the Midway Plaisance has a special place in our history, which is why we are working with our architects to determine how the bench can be reintegrated into an honorific position within the re-imagined landscape. In fact, because the Midway Plaisance is so underutilized today, many do not even know of the Cheney-Goode Memorial. Far from removing it, we will have an opportunity to elevate its stature and provide the recognition we would love for it to have.

Regarding Cornell, our vision is to create a park that is safe for children to run and play, establishes more connectivity to Lake Michigan and the Lagoon for visitors to enjoy, and restores the interconnectivity of the park. With our proposed plan, we seek to create a cultural destination that is every bit as strong as institutions we see in other parts of the City.

What follows are the specific facts that speak to the rumors you are hearing.

Myth	Fact
The Cheney-Goode Memorial will be covered or removed.	The Cheney-Goode Memorial will be preserved and its stature elevated.
Removing Cornell will result in children walking along and falling into the Lagoon.	Our walking paths are a safe distance from the edge of the lagoon. We are highly suspect of anyone who argues that keeping a major thoroughfare in the middle of the park is the safest solution for children.
OPC visitors will disturb the natural habitats of birds within the park.	Jackson Park is one of the top birding destinations in the state and we will protect its legacy. Our landscape team is studying the habitats of birds who frequent the park and offering solutions for attracting more birds and protecting their habitats in the park.

<p>The parking facility will be visible above the Canadian Railway tracks from the west.</p>	<p>There will be an appropriate height relationship between the parking facility and existing train embankment. With the new elevated park space, we will create a lookout that invites park goers to appreciate the entirety of the Midway, looking over the Midway to the Fountain of Time and into Washington Park.</p>
<p>The barbecue area will have noisy cookouts and disturb neighbors.</p>	<p>We cannot deny that people will come to the OPC to have fun. In fact, we're thinking a lot about how to make sure they do! The activities being discussed for the parkspace at the Midway will be scaled in a way that will not attract large groups of people at single moments in time.</p>
<p>The garage entrance will affect access to Lab preschool.</p>	<p>The parking facility entrance and exit will be on the Midway Plaisance. There will be no changes or additional traffic generated on 59th and 60th Streets, which are the primary access routes to the Lab School.</p>
<p>The Wooded Isle will become part of the OPC and privatized or closed to the public.</p>	<p>This is completely false, and the Wooded Isle will remain under the purview of the Chicago Park District.</p>

I hope the answers above help clear up some misconceptions that have been raised by residents and other users of historic Jackson Park. I encourage you to share these answers with other members of the community as these topics come up. In the future, please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any more questions about the Center or if you hear something that does not quite add up. We want to make sure people in the community are not misled by those with their own agendas—and that in the end, we build a Center that functions in harmony with this community that President and Mrs. Obama love so much.

Sincerely,
Mike Strautmanis
Vice President of Civic Engagement- Obama Foundation