



## JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 34th YEAR!

# J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER February 2017 Vol. 24 No. 2

JPAC- PROTECTING NATURE, PRESERVING HISTORY, SUPPORTING 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, , 02/13, 03/13, 04/10

**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 FEBRUARY 13, 2017 7p.m.**  
at the fieldhouse, 6401 S. Stony Island Ave.

**AGENDA** (Full agenda will be presented at the meeting.-please  
send AGENDA item/additions requests to the president.)

**Guests:**

Officer's and Committee reports, New and Old Business,  
Announcements. Adjourn

**CONTENTS** p1 About/Announc'ts; p2-3 Minutes; p3,4 golf Q&A, ann,  
p5 GOLF COMMITTEE REPORT

>>> **2017 MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS** - Mail checks made out to  
JPAC to JPAC C/O Dwight Powell, 7206 S. Luella 60649. (Memb. Is taken  
online but check must be mailed.) Basic level: \$35. (Fiscal agent Chicago Parks  
Foundation, a 501c3.) <<<

**February 25- All-PAC Conference- please plan to attend.**  
Malcolm X College. Register [maria.stone@chicagoparkdistrict.com](mailto:maria.stone@chicagoparkdistrict.com).

**WEB, links, <http://www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org>**

<http://www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org/events>

**FACEBOOK** (please "like" us). <https://facebook.com/JacksonParkAdvisoryCouncil/>  
**CurrentNewsletter:** <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters/Feb2017nl.htm>.

Alt. home, index & Newsletters: <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac.html> and  
Indexes [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac), [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters)

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

ACE Wooded I- news and links- [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ace2014.htm](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ace2014.htm)

Obama Library- [www.barackobamafoundation.org](http://www.barackobamafoundation.org) incl. sign up for e-updates  
JPAC's Obama Library page [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPLibrary.htm](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPLibrary.htm)

Project 120: [www.Project120Chicago.org](http://www.Project120Chicago.org), [www.gardenofthephoenix.org](http://www.gardenofthephoenix.org)

SKYLANDING [www.skylanding.com](http://www.skylanding.com) [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/golf.htm](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/golf.htm)

BOBOLINK website: <http://bluestem.info/bobolink/>

[www.JacksonParkWatch.org](http://www.JacksonParkWatch.org) . [www.fotp.org](http://www.fotp.org). [www.chicagoparksfoundation.org](http://www.chicagoparksfoundation.org)

Friends of the White City: <http://www.friendsofthewhitecity.org>

**ELECTRONIC DELIV OF NEWSLETTER-**[garyossewaarde@yahoo.com](mailto: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 January 09, 2017 Jackson Park Advisory Council meeting

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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. 70<sup>th</sup> 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 67<sup>th</sup> 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 63<sup>rd</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> 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

## 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 5<sup>TH</sup> 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 67<sup>th</sup> 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 67<sup>th</sup> 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 71<sup>st</sup> 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?

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, 5<sup>th</sup> 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. 70<sup>th</sup> 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.

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U of C sends their thanks for our providing 30 UC students with a positive volunteer experience January 14 for MLK DAYS OF SERVICE. Many thanks to Fran, Dwight, and Bill for their help.

January 16 Indira Johnson of the Art Institute of Chicago, who oversaw the installation of the peace sculptures at the Iowa Building, led Chicago youth in a program at the IAC imagining peace on MLK Day.

Congratulations to active JPACer William Hill for the opening of his art exhibit at the Woodlawn Community Center, 6240 S. Cottage Grove. Bill has a garden and gallery by the Metra tracks, 64<sup>th</sup> and Dorchester.

Committee report and recommendation.

## **Jackson Park Advisory Council Committee Supports New Golf Course**

A meeting of a committee of the Jackson Park Advisory Council was held on Friday, January 27, 2017, to discuss the proposed new 18-hole, championship caliber, golf course on the site of the old 18-hole course in Jackson Park and the 9-hole course at the site of the South Shore Country Club. The committee consisted of the entire advisory council board plus six other appointed committee members [Also present and discussing but not voting:] three participants from Friends of the Park, Jackson Park Watch, and the Chicago Park District.

After a lengthy presentation by Brian Hogan of the Chicago Park Golf Alliance, discussing details of the new golf course and responding to questions from the committee members, all ten of the committee members individually expressed an opinion favoring the proposed new course. These opinions rested on the expectations that the assurances expressed by Michael Kelly during his appearance at the Advisory Council's monthly meeting and the Fifth Ward meeting called by Alderman Hairston would be met: namely, that there would be continued open access to the public; that reduced fees would be granted to city residents, regular golfers, and seniors; that juniors 17-and younger would have free greens fees; and that there would be close adherence to ecological standards.

The committee was mindful that the results of the engineering survey and feasibility study being prepared for the Chicago Park District are still to be released and that these results are essential in reaching any final opinion. However, based on what is now known, the committee members expressed opinions that the new course would be a great asset for Jackson Park and the Hyde Park, South Shore, and Woodlawn communities. It was the committee's consensus that the new course would bring prestige, status, and new economic benefits to the community

Jerry Levy, Chairperson, Jackson Park Advisory Council Committee for the Proposed New Golf Course