



JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 34th YEAR!

J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2018 Vol. 25 No. 2

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, 02/12, 3/12, 4/09

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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Meeting chgd to Tuesday FEBRUARY 13,2018

7PM fldhse closes early for Lincoln. Normal date 2nd Mon.
JACKSON PARK FIELDHOUSE, 6401 S. STONY ISLAND AVE.
Guests. Officer's & Committee reports.
New and Old Business, Announcements. Adjourn

CONTENTS p1 About/Ann'ts; pp2/3 Minutes; p3 – CAL of upcoming
MTGS/EVENTS incl March 3 festival and film on Great Lakes;
p4 About So Lakefront Plan; p5 OPC et al Plan filings, guest Op Ed

>>> 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, or
www.VaMonde.com, Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.

THIS NL: <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters/Feb2018.pdf>

ARCHIVE 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 JANUARY 9, 2018 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MTG

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

Minutes of the December meeting were approved as circulated.

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

Recreation and fieldhouse. Pierre Nealon described the winter programs including basketball, teen leadership club, and wrestling. Nealon appealed for small tables and chairs for the new preschool class. He asked us to call attention to the Park District's summer youth employment programs (including lifeguards)-enrollment is open now online; youth should apply now. Sharon Lewis described partnership programs with schools that not only give students community service hours but also teach such skills as how to fill out applications, including for scholarships. We should be active in such forms of civic engagement. CPS now requires students, in the service hours packet, to give more information on what they learned at, and how they contributed to volunteer activities-- in the process demonstrating verbal skills that the schools tie to college scholarship applications. She will help formulate a JPAC stewardship program (a letter having already been approved by the park district), based on modes developed by University of Illinois Extension. The 5th Ward Office is connected to this CPS initiative and will help get the word out, said Lanita Ross.

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

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

March 3 Saturday, 2:30 to 5 p.m. One Earth Film Festival will again have one of its annual March venues in our fieldhouse, screening "Making Waves"—the story of the Great Lakes and increasing challenges to their health and viability. Hear local voices on climate change and how we can help. For the entire One Earth Film Festival Schedule visit <https://www.oneearthfilmfest.org/films-by-date/> There will also be a community and ecological resource fair—organizations and groups wishing a table should contact Louise at 773-844-2225. Refreshments will be served. The program will be preceded by a 63rd Street Beach Community Cleanup from 12:30-1:30 at the 63rd Street Beach. Dawn asked all to post this program and the One Earth Film Festival site to our social media networks.

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

Louise McCurry showed a book privately published in 1978 by George Cooley (who was vice president of JPAC and president of Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference and served in the city and park district planning departments) to restore the Japanese Garden on Wooded Island. It includes the history of the Ho-o-den temple/ Japan pavilion, built by the Japanese government for the Columbian Exposition, and a proposal to rebuild it. The latter was not achieved, but the Garden was, and became a Sister City co-project of Chicago **2**

and Osaka, Japan, resulting later in a series of Japanese cultural festivals, and later Sky Landing sculpture both at the site of the Ho-o-den. Friends of the Japanese Garden and Project 120 has put the text of Cooley's book (English and Japanese) and facsimile at <http://www.gardenofthephoenix.org/blog/2018/01/1978-restoration-proposal>. The copy shown tonight was temporarily lent by the Blackstone Branch Library, Anne Keogh Manager. It was found in a blocked shelf in the Library during remodeling.

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting February [changed to 13], 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse.
Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary _____

UPCOMING EVENTS

The FEBRUARY MEETING will be on TUESDAY FEB. 13, 7 pm. The fieldhouse closes at 6 pm on Feb. 12 Lincoln's Birthday. (There will NOT be a 6 p.m. JPAC Education Lecture, as previously announced.)

February 10 Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Annual Chicago Park District PAC Conference. At Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Jackson. Be sure to register at the park district website or <http://www.chicagoparksfoundation.org>. Note that all who wish to volunteer with children or handle money in parks or PACs need to file a Volunteer Application. Download, fill out and sent to maria.stone@chicagoparkdistrict.com. Fax 312-742-6098. Fingerprinting can be done at the conference- register for that. Break out seminars and small group gathering are led by real, genuine PAC leaders and park district or other experts. And there is a resource fair. Please register by February 1. By the way, this is just one of several training and consultative gatherings convened throughout the year by the Park District, the Parks Foundation, and Friends of the Parks. But this is the anchor.

March 3 Saturday, 2:30 to 5 p.m. One Earth Film Festival will again have one of its annual March venues in our fieldhouse, screening "**Making Waves: Battle for the Great Lakes**". Bill Kurtis takes us below the surface to see the devastation from ongoing waves of invasive species, and how this is being fought. Link to trailer: [https://www.yo...v=YTKjJ-jPT2w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTKjJ-jPT2w). Link to whole movie: <https://vimeo.com/237517991> Password: MWShort68. For the entire One Earth Film Festival Schedule- <https://www.oneearthfilmfest.org/films-by-date/>. Facebook page incl. for volunteering- <https://www.facebook.com/events/2083202018576964/>. Ours incl .a **resource fair**—organizations wishing a table should contact Louise at 773-844-2225. Light refreshments, rel. folk songs. The program will be preceded by a **63rd Street Beach Community Cleanup from 12-1:30 p.m.** Please post this program and the one earth film festival site to your social media networks.

JPAC EDUCATION LECTURE SERIES – These education programs, held in the fieldhouse, precede select JPAC monthly meetings. **March 12 Monday 6 pm.** features **Doriane Miller, MD**, Director, Center for Community Health and Vitality, UC Medicine, on "**Built Environment and Health- What's the Connection?**"

Save the Dates- Earth Day is April 21. It's Your Park Day is in June and will soon be announced. JPAC always has copious volunteer activities these days. Also coming up- March 13 always sees the annual Clarence Darrow wreath toss, speeches, and (inside the Museum) lecture on a topic dear to Darrow. Convene at 10 a.m. east side of the bridge. International Migratory Bird Day is May 5- all kinds of family fun, learning and service activities and tours. And look out for Night Out in the Parks programs- more than ever! And sign up for spring and summer programs in the park!

STARTING UP AGAIN SOON- BOBOLINK WORKDAYS 2ND SATURDAYS 9-12 starting March 10- parrybell@ameritech.net, <http://bluestem.info/bobolink/>.
WOODED ISLAND WORKDAYS 4TH SATURDAYS 10-1 starting March 24. sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com.
WHITE CITY PARK TOURS relating to the Columbian Exposition RESUME IN MAY (perhaps sooner). 11 a.m. from east side of Darrow Bridge.
ONGOING: BIRDING TOURS led by Audubon guides occur on weekend mornings.

JANUARY 13. U of C students doing a MLK Service Day learned the history, the work, the volunteer opps in Jackson Park and each group made a video encouraging other youth to Volunteer. Tracy Raoul and Louise hope they inspired these youth to be future Jackson Park volunteers.

HELD JANUARY 31 **South Lakefront Plan- Topic Community Meeting- GOLF Plan updates**, in response to community and user input (more input is welcome). More information will be in the March Newsletter. **3**

SOUTH LAKEFRONT PLAN. By Gary Osssewaarde. In December three scenarios for Jackson and South Shore Cultural Center were introduced in an ongoing round of open meetings and focus groups (incl. youth, recreation) and online (www.southlakefrontplan.com). Follow links there to give your comments, questions and ideas both on broad themes and directions and on specific features – what you want in the park and where these should be- and fit together. (One can “vote” on the scenarios, but picking and choosing or rejecting specifics are encouraged, as well as refinement of vision and principles.) The hope is to be able to have a draft of recommendations in the spring. Of course, things on paper do not guarantee that any of these ideas will be funded or realized.

The Obama Center and golf courses are only penciled in for now. The OPC and roadway changes are now in their own review and input processes including federal review and now Chicago Plan Commission (filings were recently made by Obama Foundation, CDOT, and CPD (for replacement track and field). South Lakefront Plan will take up golf at a Topic community January 31 6 p.m. at the South Shore Cultural Center. Golf planners say they have listened to community and users and made revisions and would like input on some choices.

Framework plans are supposed to establish a forward vision to guide parks for the next generation. Ideally, it is both careful and pragmatic, as were the park’s original planners. Any recommendations should neither dictate the future nor be an exercise that just sits on the shelf. One reason for including recommendations is so that if funding opportunities come along, specifics are on paper that have been vetted (for itself and in context of the whole park and its sustainability and in turn concerning its synergy with and effects on communities) by experts, users and community. In the current case, three vision components are proposed, based in part on input from previous engagement and on current study and past plans including that of 1999.

A Place for All, Welcoming, serving people from far and near, across generations;

A Beacon of the Community, an inclusive park that reflects and supports the diverse cultures of its users and neighbors and supports the community and inspires the world;

A Balance of Activity and Nature with spaces for people that are integrated with natural ecological richness and a full range of activity- active and passive- balanced, and in-tune with and in-service of its community.

Three principles (or program) are proposed:

Serve the Community, Inspire the world-- maximize recreational and leisure opportunities for children and families; a balance of programmatic spaces from active to contemplative, athletics to arts; strengthen connections within the park and with community through programming, access, and engagement;

Steward Environmental Integrity and Beauty- establish healthy ecosystems supporting a diversity of green spaces and water systems; integrate buildings and landscapes to shape beautiful parks that provide enhanced quality; underscore the natural assets of the lakefront park landscape; celebrate and reconnect with the water;

Renew and Maintain Park Legacy- Leverage infrastructure improvements and catalytic projects to springboard to another century of greatness; Draw on historic use, character, design philosophy to inform the future; Reinvigorate the park as a global attraction through cultural destinations and historically significant landscapes.

On each of three scenarios, features are grouped and color coded as to whether they are primarily related to Water Use and Quality, Connectivity, Active Recreation and Events; Passive Recreation and Ecology, or History, Arts and Culture. On each, Most features stay as and where they are (some with tweaks), some are proposed for changes or are new in one, or two, or all scenarios (for example expanded picnic areas in all). The 3 scenarios seem to derive their theme names from what mega-features gain in emphasis or are most greatly changed or expanded- the “coastline,” “meadow,” or “lagoon.” For example, scenarios 2 and 3 propose re-establishing a water connection between the lagoons and the inner harbor—in “Lagoons” virtually as it was in Olmsted’s original plans; 2 suggests a boardwalk along the north edge of the east lagoon. Coastline adds substantial parkland and natural and barrier shore protection, and each has different size, use and facility changes for the harbors. This writer thinks Smith Group/JJR and CPD staff have been diligent, open, and collegial, and shown us many possibilities to evaluate with utmost care.

Some specifics ask the community to choose—what is the best site for a dog park—the present JP Bark, or by the Drive at the Inner Harbor, or near the Iowa building? Do we want fieldhouse remodeled and expanded in place, or do we want a new one at Hayes Drive and Cornell by the sports fields? What is the best number, location and configuration of sports fields and courts including in the east meadow south of the driving range? Should there not be a visitors and small concert venue (other than what might be in the Obama Center), or one in the Music Court, or one along Cornell Drive (or should that site have just a kiosk and bathrooms)? Should the golf driving range be shifted, and what and where should be its ancillary facilities? – one option would cause major changes all the way through the music court. Is it okay to relocate historic structures? Many of the envisioned changes are localized, but there could be considerable cumulative difference over time.

Plan filings put Obama Presidential Center, roadway closures and changes, replacement track and field on track of formal review, expected to last at least into summer 2018. Gary Ossewaarde

On and about January 10, 2018, the Obama Foundation, the city, and the park district filed with the Chicago Plan Commission concept documentation regarding the interrelated projects, stated as necessary to realize the OPC, and create the new South Lakefront Plan. The major change to the OPC site plan was movement of the parking garage from the Midway, which inter alia was vigorously opposed, to onsite underground between the library and recreational buildings (access off Stony Island at 61st and drop offs along Stony). Modifications earlier include to the Museum building and keeping the Perennial Garden. New details were revealed- see descriptions and discussion in the links below. Models and renderings show much landscaping, native planting, pathways including along the present Cornell Drive, and open people-use spaces. The OPC site requested in the filing (c. 19.3 acres total, 3.6 acres) is shifted from 60th-63rd to 59th-62nd. Formal quit to request for the 6200 block for the OPC enabled the park district to file its intent and concept plan for a new track with multipurpose artificial field to replace that impacted by the OPC. The proposal filed is for an artificial multi-use field surrounded by a new 8-lane 400-meter rubber surface running track. Included in the track are a long jump pit and high jump. The field sports to be accommodated are football, soccer, and lacrosse. The Park District in a release said about the filing that this is because it is "necessary to replace the current track and field that will be relocated as part of the establishment of the Obama Presidential Center within another area of Jackson Park." Details are not available in part because alternatives for the track and field, and fields being displaced by that are still in public and user vetting for the South Lakefront Plan. Also, the environmental and historic federal review, and hence all approvals and plans will be provisional until late fall. In addition, no detail cost and other projections are available for road and infrastructure changes including possible new underpas(es?) of Hayes Drive.

Details:<http://www.hpherald.com/2018/01/17/obama-foundation-park-district-cdot-present-updated-plans-city/>.

Discussion and details of the revised OPC plan- <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPLibrary.htm>.

Guest OP ED by Jerry Levy, Chicago Park District Volunteer Steward for Jackson Park and JPAC Nature Committee and Park Projects chair. As in the January 24 Hyde Park Herald. Used with permission of Mr. Levy and reflecting his views. silevy@jeromelevylaw.com.

The Positive impact of the OPC on Jackson Park's Nature Areas

As the Park District's volunteer steward for Jackson Park, I have been involved in helping to maintain the natural areas. Ten years ago, many of the natural areas in Jackson Park and particularly Wooded Island were fraught with security and safety concerns. This has changed, to a large extent because of what has occurred with the restoration process and the increase in foot traffic that in itself has resulted in an increased sense of security.

The building of the OPC [Obama Presidential Center], and the closing of the contiguous section of Cornell Avenue will result in a dramatic increase in the number of visitors to these natural areas. This means that not only will many more people enjoy the beauty and peacefulness of these natural areas but they will do so with increased comfort and security.

The closing of Cornell Avenue between the OPC and the nature areas will mean a great deal to the peacefulness of and ease of access to the Park. No more discomfoting traffic noises; continuous parkland from the OPC all the way to and including Bobolink Meadow, and a safe pedestrian entrance to the Park without having to navigate the high speed traffic of Cornell Avenue.

From Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow, the views of the OPC to the west will not only lend to the aesthetics but will be a great inspiration for al South Siders to boast about our being the home of a two-term President.

An important element for Olmsted's landscape designs, and equally important to the Park District, is encouraging people to visit and to use parks. The lure of the natural areas to OPC visitors will result in an increased foot traffic in these spaces. Likewise, pedestrian traffic between the MSI and the OPC will encourage visitors to wander into the nature areas of the park, to explore the pedestrian paths along the lagoons, through Wooded Island and along the paths of Bobolink Meadow.

The narrow strip of land between Stony Island and Cornell avenues on which the OPC is going to be built is now anything but a restful, peaceful area of parkland that is so integral to Olmsted's landscape concepts. It is noisy, busy, and unsafe for little children's play. It is the OPC's stated desire to landscape much of that area so as to make it consistent with Olmsted's philosophy.