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.
JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES OF APRIL 8 2019

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse, a quorum and total of 18 being present. We started with a volunteering challenge for the varied activities of our Migratory Bird Day festival May 11.

Treasurer’s report. Dwight Powell reported March end balance of $3,827.29 reflecting a deposit of $40 and expenditure of $41.95 for raffle items for our Earth Day festival April 27. Our bank has been consolidated into Fifth/Third, which has more convenient branches. We now have a card and are setting up online banking, which will be managed by Anne Marie Miles. We submitted a grant proposal prepared by Fran Vandervoort. Gary Ossewaarde was thanked for tallying our financial records and statements covering the past three years.

Minutes of the February meeting were moved by Erin Adams, 2nded by Reggie Seay and approved.

Several members conducted a park inspection drive-through with supervisor Bobbie Beckam March 22. About a dozen problem areas were identified--some structural, some winter damage, and some best handled with volunteer work teams. These were agreed to be itemized in the Newsletter. Work orders have been written. The departments of planning and facilities will inspect major capital items.

Japanese Garden--Park improvement opportunity--. Mike Dimitroff, Park District Art Resources officer, spoke on an opportunity for a sustainable upgrade, repair, and more complete realization of the Japanese Garden. (The garden suffered this winter from weather and vandalism.) Mr. Dimitroff said the purpose is to realize the promise of the garden and to make it a sustainable feature of the park.

Visiting are [names supplied later by Mr. Dimitroff] Mr. Kazuo Mitsuhashi Chair of International Events, The Garden Society of Japan; Mr. Tsuyoshi Kurose Assistant Manager for Planning and Coordination Section, Parks and Greenery Division, Publics Bureau, Osaka City Government; Mr. Kentaro Kitahara Staff for Planning and Coordination Section, Parks and Greenery Division, Publics Bureau, Osaka City Government; Ms. Akari Rokumoto Japanese Language Specialist, from Hyde Park, served as the Osaka Team Japanese-English translator; Mr. Toshihisa Kato Consul, Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago. The team met in Japan the previous week with the 1980s-90’s lead designer of the current modern Osaka Garden (which was further upgraded in 2008 and 2017), Sadafumi Uchiyama of the esteemed Japanese garden at Portland, Oregon. The Park District manager of the Garden, Karen Szyjka is heavily involved including in envisioning programs in a renewed garden. A spark for the effort was the outstanding workshop on Japanese Gardens featuring Chisata Takuchi last year at South Shore Cultural Center. After the charrette, the visitors will develop a concept design over the next few months that will be shared.

Possible improvements, in addition to bringing the garden to full authentic and showcase level, are improved access, especially coming from the north via a formal and dramatic transition path, renewed fence and formal gate, access in the garden, plantings, and shoreline work. Intent is to endow a full time tender of the garden. He asked us to be thinking about best means of securing the garden, including ways to ensure closing hours already in place are effective—potentially including gates at the bridges locked overnight. There were differing views about gates (as there have been in the past) among members, but general consensus that preventing inappropriate use and vandalism are essential. We agreed that security measures will be an ongoing item for JPAC discussion.

Margaret Schmid and others asked numerous questions about the project and possible details, including about the level of public input. Questions were answered with much detail, but Mr. Dimitroff said that the project is only in the “opportunity” stage so far, not even the concept stage and that the Japanese elements at least must reflect and respect the views of Japanese garden experts and practices.

Funding will not come from the Park District. Most would come from the City of Osaka, whose Mayor is enthusiastic about the project, and a ministry of the government of Japan. Some funding could come from others including Project 120, which is involved mainly through its arm of conservancy stewardship for the garden and through interest in possible Japanese cultural festivals there, perhaps as soon as this summer. (He noted that Project 120 played a key role in getting the funding for and having excellent planning and design for the GLFER habitat restoration.) Dimitroff noted that the garden itself has born the designation Osaka Japanese Garden since the Sister Cities relationship was established between Osaka and Chicago and will retain this.
The garden is also part of the larger area designated Garden of the Phoenix, which includes Sky Landing, in the footprint of Columbian Exposition (and later) Japanese structures [Ed.-and cherry tree groves to the north].

**Reports. Golf course.** Two sets of caddy classes give both classroom and golf course experience. Two park caddies won Evans scholarships from the Western Golf Association. Reggie Seay said that parts of the course have been flooded this spring so use has been down.

**Natural Areas.** McCurry: Bobolink Meadow and Wooded Island had controlled burns. Lots of trash was picked up during the first Meadow workday. Cherry trees are budding. When they are in full bloom, suggested was picnicking there and meditating on transitory beauty (“hani”), as in Japan during the Cherry Festival. McCurry reported that the TreeKeepers crew has been very busy in the park, mulching the 168 cherry trees and pruning trees along the Hayes Drive / north edge of the golf course.

63rd Street Beach Natural Area. Steward Edward Warden reported on new regular workdays (3rd Saturdays 10-12) and coming beach camp – kids are welcome at both. More programs and amenities are coming or already accomplished, including the new trail through native beach plants. Planting days will need volunteers. He also outlined Shedd Aquarium programs throughout the region and hopes to have more on the South Side. Programs include wildlife and shore erosion monitoring. He was amenable to having an educational mini-fair at the fieldhouse like last year, but it will have to be without the traveling aquarium. The Aquarium pays youth interns—application period is closing soon.

General questions about 63rd Beach included: Status of the planned bar/club built/enclosed on the beach (which is under the Revenue Department)? Poor condition of the playground. Lighting out. Spray fountain is only on when there is an attendant on duty (allegedly because of past theft of the piping). Slag from the former steel plants washes north and onto the beach. Seay said it is the most heavily used South Side beach.

McCurry went through the planned workdays and park events on the agenda [and found in the Spring Calendar, appended to the minutes]. Some of these will involve very large groups of volunteers, so knowledgeable helpers would be appreciated. The public is invited to participate in the April 22 replanting of the edge of Columbia Basin. 4-6 pm. This was organized by Obama Foundation and the Columbia area steward, Nancy Joseph (njoseph2008@aol.com).

Noted also is our commitment to help with cleanup in other Woodlawn Parks with University of Chicago Police or other PACs. Our first is at Huckelberry Playlot, 62nd and Kimbark, April 17, 4 pm [later changed to morning].

Major public multi-activity “festivals” include the Earth Day One Earth Film Festival April 27, (note that there is registration) and Migratory Bird Day Festival May 11. Our On the Table® dinner conversation this year will be on May 13 at 6PM, with a shortened regular PAC meeting at 7:30. No objections were expressed to moving the meeting time to 7:30. On the Table will focus citywide this year on writing Memos to the Mayor, Lori Lightfoot; on wishes and priorities, ours especially for the park and surrounding neighborhoods. Suggested, but not required, is bringing foods. Gary Ossewaarde will take attendance confirmations and dish commitments- garyossewaarde@yahoo.com. Also, one can register with On the Table® at [https://onthetable.com/registration](https://onthetable.com/registration).

Also of note is the Flashlight Tour of Jackson Park on May 18 at 8:45 pm, presented by JPAC and Hyde Park Historical Society. It’s a Night Out in the Parks event. Since it’s limited to 150, and registration is mandatory, we were encouraged to register now at [https://flashlight-tour-jp.eventbrite.com](https://flashlight-tour-jp.eventbrite.com).

Announcements included events at Cornell Playlot Park and a Chicago Sustainability Network meeting May 16 5:30 p.m. at The Plant, 1400 W. 46th St.

Erin Adam’s young child was acknowledged and demonstrated his bird-song player.

Adjourned about 8:20 p.m. Next meeting May 13 at the fieldhouse, 7:30PM following On The Table.

Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary
JPAC and park supervisor Bobbie Beckam identify park repair needs during March 22 drive-through. (Many other items have been reported previously.) These were found now.

Along Marquette Drive: Serious collapses of Inner Harbor seawall threatening slopes and roadway, similar by Outer Harbor south walls and lots of garbage
Promontory Circle end- walls including seawall buckling and losing protective capstones
Burnham comfort station weakening, roof caving in Coast Guard Station has a large hole to north (harbor wash?)

63rd underpass missing sections of covering and mosaic
63rd point/south wall (harbor inlet) in poor shape with trees growing in its stones, areas of turf/tree roots eroded
63rd LSD intersection- to NE ruts at Divvy Station from PD trucks- move Divvy or pave path corner? Cave ins Marquette near Cornell and south to garden needs pruning, overgrowth clearing
63rd path on north side – section from Cornell to half way to Richards deteriorated.
Comfort station by Bowling Green (5800) collapse at bathroom roof drain (later flood from women’s washroom)

63rd Beach Natural Area and Shedd Aquarium programs.
At the February meeting, Nancy Joseph reported on the work of our third and fourth regular nature stewardship programs in the park—Columbia Basin Natural Area workdays and the Hyde Park group of TreeKeepers (a program of Open Lands Project) pruning and tending trees in various parts of the park. (See March minutes.) At the April meeting (see minutes in this Newsletter), Edward Warden, steward for the 63rd Street Beach Natural Area, told us about the programs there, and in assigned other areas of natural habitat, in partnership with Shedd Aquarium. Regular workdays run 3rd Saturdays April-October. Here is some more he shared with us in his e-Newsletter. He can be reached at ewarden@sheddaquarium.org. Be sure to try the new trail!

“As I write this, we’re only just getting out of the cold zone. The beaches are still quiet and not much has come to life yet. That said, the fact that there isn’t much activity yet works to our advantage for our first workday. The priority is, unsurprisingly, trash pickup. After a winter of heavy wave action and winter storms, there’s a lot of trash and debris that builds up on our city beaches and this is the time to spring into action before it all makes its way back into our drinking water. So be prepared to roll up your sleeves, slap on some gloves, and haul a lot of stuff to the dumpster. It’s not unheard of for us to collect hundreds of pounds of trash on these first work days of the year. Let’s make sure it stays out of our drinking water, and out of the stomachs of migrating birds which are just now arriving en masse.

“As far as updates, not many to share at this point but we do have one big one. There is a new nature trail! Winding its way through the Southeast section of the dune complex, this humble trail now gives the public a chance to interact with the incredible habitat just beyond the previously uninviting fence. It was installed by the park district late last fall so it hasn’t got a ton of mileage or attention yet but judging by the few times we’ve been out since it was installed, folks are really enjoying it. Definitely check it out, if nothing else just to get a selfie with the super sweet skyline view!”

“Also worth noting is a few upcoming opportunities that don’t have a date but should be on your radar. The first one is the Chicago Park District will be hosting trainings and walk-throughs of natural areas like ours to perfect their new Rapid Flora Assessment protocols. With the help of experts from the parks and the Chicago Botanic Gardens, you’ll be able to learn this new monitoring system being used across the city and get a great crash course on Chicago area native plants. Speaking of plants, we also have plans for a planting day or two. We’re still waiting to hear what plants are available and when, but needless to say, we’re going to need your help when hundreds of native plant plugs show up sometime this spring. In both of these cases, I’ll try to include them in these monthly emails, but you may also be hearing about them in a supplemental email just so you’ll have enough advance notice.

“Thank you for everything you do to support 63rd St. Beach and our neighborhood habitats. It’s people like you that make all the difference in making our collective home a better place. And as always, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or comments.
I’ll wrap up by sharing this video Shedd’s media team produced about our beach cleanup efforts. Yeah, it’s a couple years old, and yeah, it’s focused mostly on our other beach site, 12th Street Beach, but all the information is still relevant. If nothing else, it’s great reminder of how important our work is and to get us pumped up for new season of protecting our waters.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=16&v=WAYhzMSDdzs

Thank you- A huge group of international students under Roosevelt University cleaned massive trash on shores April 13. Special thanks to Midway PAC volunteers Kineret Jaffe, Don McGruder, James McNamee.

DARRROW BRIDGE. We learned that the submitted plans, and the permits for historic reconstruction of Darrow (Columbia) Bridge have languished in Springfield. In hope of nudging this vital project along, JPAC met with State Rep. Tarver’s (25th District) aide Bernie Williams about this and other park matters and asked the rep. to inquire as to the status, and when approvals and permits might be issued. (We have also met with Senator Robert Peter’s office.) This is a paraphrased response via Rep. Tarver’s office from the responsible state division:

It has taken longer than they anticipated working through the historic/environmental coordination and approvals of the engineering study (which is Phase I). Currently, they are getting final approval of the study to move onto Phase II. Construction will start after the design (Phase II) is completed, which they now anticipate will be the end of 2020 or early 2021.

GOLF. This report was in later sends of the April Newsletter and is reprinted. The caddie class of 12 is in full swing. The team members and our other Jackson Park caddies testify about the personal and professionalism skills and personal relations they add to their sports skills.

CONGRATULATIONS. Tim Arlington and Abdul Raoul, Jackson Park teen golfers and caddies, have won Western Golf Association Chick Evans 4-year full freight college scholarships. Timotheus, the most recent winner, is a Kenwood Academy senior who will attend UI Urbana with hopes of becoming a pediatrician. In the announcement sent by Brian Hogan of Chicago Parks Golf Alliance, Tim “has excelled in AP Science classes, volunteered with STEM and Robotics programs for junior high students, and traveled nationally with the Chicago Children’s Choir. His charisma provided exemplary leadership for the younger caddies, and his Evans Scholarship application essay poignantly thanked his single-mother for inspiring his college dreams.”

Hogan also informs that Jackson Park Golf Association will be planning a season kick-off event (April/May date TBA*) to celebrate scholarships for both Tim and Abdel Raoul, a First Tee of Greater Chicago Participant and 3 x Chicago Park District Boys Junior Golf Champion, who will be playing Division I college golf for Prairie View A&M after graduating from Mt. Carmel in May. Hogan gives special thanks to John Kaczkowski, Tim Orbon and all of the Western Golf Association team and adds, “We look forward to the third season of the Jackson Park Caddie Program, and encourage all to join for a round with the fantastic young women and men working at the golf course this summer. “

By the way. Over a century ago.... in 1912 180,000 rounds of golf were reported played on the two Jackson Park course, according to a post by the Society of Golf Historians 3/22/19.

(The celebration for the scholarship winners and kickoff of the 2019 golf season will be held on April 29, 5:30-7 at the Jackson Park Golf Clubhouse. Reservations only- reserve with Craig Bowen of Chicago Parks Golf Alliance cbowen1211@gmail.com.

Read in the Calendar about the April 28 debate on the future of the golf course.

Calendar tear-off is at end of this Newsletter- read carefully

NOTESThe May 18 Flashlight tour limited to 150- REG at https://flashlight-tour-jp.eventbrite.com.
April 27 One Earth Film Festival activities- note instructions. REG https://oneearthfilmfest.org.
On the Table potluck disc- reg with them encouraged & let US know, garyossewaarde@yahoo.com 5
The Hyde Park Historical Society, Friends of the Parks and the Jackson Park Advisory Council present a Chicago Park District Night Out in the Parks

Flashlight Tour of Jackson Park:
This program provides a rare opportunity to explore Jackson Park during the nighttime. Expert historians will provide interpretation highlighting the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition and the site’s importance as a natural haven. This free event is open to all ages. Tours will be led by: Julia Bachrach, former Chicago Park District Historian; Tim Samuelson, Chicago’s Cultural Historian; and Ray Johnson, founder of Friends of the White City.

Date: Saturday, May 18, 2019
Location: Meet at the Statue of the Republic (“Golden Lady”), Hayes and Richards Drives.
Time: 8:45-10:30pm
Registration is free and will be limited to 150 registrants.
Register at: https://flashlight-tour-jp.eventbrite.com
Remember to bring your flashlight!


*Migratory Bird Festival*

Saturday May 11, 9 am-noon
Honoring the International Migratory Bird Treaty

Activities for the whole family from
bird ID and bird house building to tours and work projects
*recognizing and combating the danger of plastic waste to wildlife and habitat*

Meet by golf driving range/Bobolink parking lot off Hayes Drive


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*Join us for an On the Table dinner conversation May 13. 6 pm*

*at Jackson Park fieldhouse, 6401 S. Stony Island*

write memos to the new Mayor on
priorities for the park

rsvp and if you can bring a dish to garyossewaarde@yahoo.com
JPAC/Jackson Park Spring+ 2019 Calendar rev. of 5-7-2019

(Find rolling updates at http://hydepark.org/parks/jpac/2019 Spring Calendar.pdf)

JPAC MONTHLY MEETING - 2ND MONDAYS 7PM AT FIELDHOUSE, 6401 S. STONY ISLAND. Next May 13 (6pm-On the Table potluck conversation, then 7:30 mtg.), June 10.


JACKSON PARK 1893 WORLD’S FAIR TOURS. SATURDAYS, 11 AM APRIL-OCTOBER. Meet at east side of Darrow Bridge (pkg lot s of MSI). Itineraries vary. Q or confirmation- Louise McCurry.

(Events are subject to change.) Except as otherwise noted, contact Louise McCurry with questions. We need volunteers to help on the following -contact Louise McCurry, commisioner751@icloud.com, 773 844-2225. May 4, May 11, 18, June 1, 21, and special-group workdays.


May 11, Saturday, 9-1- INT’L MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY DAY- JACKSON PARK FAMILY FESTIVAL. Birding walks, birdhouse building, bird ID, scavenger hunt. Lagoon edge/bird habitat cleanup. Theme is problems from plastic waste. Rendezvous: golf driving range parking lot east of soccer fields.

May 13, Monday, 6-7:30 pm. 6401 Stony. ON THE TABLE® POTLUCK dinner CONVVERSATION. A program of Chicago Community Trust and Affiliates, with parks sponsorship by Chicago Parks Foundation. Task: 1. Write a MEMO TO THE MAYOR on priorities; 2. Generate park and PAC ideas. Registration encouraged at www.onthetable.com/registration/. Please let US know you are coming: garyossewaarde@yahoo.com. 7:30 pm an abbreviated JPAC monthly business meeting follows.

May 18, Saturday, 10-12. 63rd St. Beach natural area workday. 3rd Sats. CPD & Shedd Aquarium. Beach natural area workday with CPD & Shedd Aquarium. 3rd Sats. thru Oct. 5/18, 6/15, 7/20, 8/17, 9/21, 10/19.
Contact Edward Warden ewarden@sheddaquarium.com for meet locations—some at LaRabida shore.

May 18, Saturday, 8:45 PM. 2ND ANNUAL JP FLASHLIGHT TOUR. Meet at Golden Lady Hayes/Richards Drs. Bring your own flashlight. A NIGHTS OUT IN THE PARK program presented by Hyde Park Historical Society and Jackson Park Advisory Council. Free, but limited to 150- reg. mandatory- THIS PROGRAM IS FULL AND REG IS CLOSED. Interprets the park from the standpoint of the 1893 World’s Fair and the park’s role as a natural area. Guides: Julia Bachrach, Tim Samuelson, and Ray Johnson.

May 25, Saturday, 10-1. Wooded Island Workday. sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com.

June 1, Saturday. IT’S YOUR PARK DAY citywide parks cleanup and projects. Chicago Parks Foundation. Those who register at www.chicagoparksfoundation.org get t-shirt +. JACKSON PROJECT – 10 am- mulch trees along Hayes Dr. (63rd) soccer fields towards LSD.


June 15, Saturday, 10-12. 63rd St. Beach natural area workday. 3rd Sats. CPD & Shedd Aquarium.

June 21, Friday, 12-6 pm. MAKE MUSIC CHICAGO. Youth and children’s ensembles perform at the fieldhouse. And it’s the start of our annual Pianos in the Parks. We expect lessons for kids for rest of summer- 773-256-0903. The piano in the lobby is always available to play during hours.
June 22. Saturday, 10-1. Wooded Island Workday. sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com.

July 8, Monday, 6:30 pm. JPAC’s annual Picnic Meeting at the Iowa Building (1750 block of 56th St. opposite Montgomery Place Retirement Community). See the new amenities.


NIGHTS OUT IN THE PARK. (More likely coming) Flashlight Tour May 18 (see above), Movies (MSI lawn) June 17, Aug 10.

Summer Dance (Music Court & lot se of MSI) July 24, Aug 14. Draws from all over the city!

SUMMER CAMP & session registration opened online April 23, in person April 27 for programs June 24-August 2. A variety of programs for kids, youth and adults from pickleball and ping pong to sports, weight & fitness to crafts. Low prices; scholarships are available. Info and reg. at PD website.

Go Run Chicago holds FREE TIMED RACES at 63rd St. Beach - Saturdays at 9AM- …, MAY 18, JUNE 15, JULY 20. Register at www.gorunchicago.org.

SOME OTHERS’ EVENTS

Play for the Parks golf tournament raises funds for parks. A weekday in July starting at 11 am. Save the date. Visit www.chicagoparksfoundation.org for details and registration.

HBCU golf association will hold an open tournament August 17. There may also be an adaptive golf tournament in September. And part of the Senior Games is usually in Jackson Park.