



JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 34th YEAR!

J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2017 Vol. 24 No. 11

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, 11/13, 12/11, 01/09*

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.

CONTACTS

Louise McCurry 773 844-2225
commissioner751@comcast.net
commissioner751@icloud.com

**Gary Ossewaarde (Sec., mtgs.,
Newsletter, mail/membership)**
1765 E. 55th St. B6 Chicago, IL
60615. 773 947-9541
garyossewaarde@yahoo.com

Dwight Powell (Treas.) 7206 S.
Luella, 60649 773 288-4943.
dwrightpowell216@yahoo.com

Stewards: Jerry Levy (Wooded I
silevy@jeromelevylaw.com
Norm Bell/Gail Parry(Bobolink)
parrybell@ameritech.net **Fran**
Vandervoort (Nature trail /app)
fv2335@gmail.com

Chicago Park District-
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com
Fieldhouse/Supervisor:
Bobbie Beckam 773 256-0903
Region Mgr. Maya Solis
312 747 747-7661, **Area Mgr.**
Farah.Tunks@chicagoparkdistrict.com
com 773 324-0540.
Security 312 747-2193

MONDAY NOVEMBER 13 2017 7PM
JACKSON PARK FIELDHOUSE, 6401 S. STONY ISLAND AVE.
Guests incl. UC Police Dept., CDOT +CPKD on archeol. dig starting
Officer's & Committee reports, year review & planning.
Nominations opened for officers for election December 11.
New and Old Business, Announcements. Adjourn

CONTENTS p1 About/Ann'ts; p2 Minutes; pp3-4 ANNUAL REPORT

TBA- MTG ON OPC, GOLF, FMWK ETC.

SPEC. EVENT NOV. 25 1 PM. NATURE TOUR with Infernal
Noise- learn to ID sounds and calls in nature. From JP fieldhouse.

>>> **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 Chicago Parks Foundation 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/November2017.pdf>

Alt. home, index & Newsletters <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac.html> and

Indexes www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac, www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters

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

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

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.fotop.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 OCT. 9, 2017 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MEETING

Louise McCurry opened the meeting at 7:15 p.m. at La Rabida Hospital, which was thanked for its hospitality. Curry noted that this was Chicago Day at the World's Fair in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, and this area of the park both housed replica ships and memorabilia of Columbus' voyage and important innovations at the Fair including early wind power.

September minutes were moved by Sharon Louis and Esther Schechter and approved.

Gary Ossewaarde gave the Treasurer's report- \$4,267.17 in latest statement. Moved and approved to pay \$107.24 to Jake Young for IT costs, Louise McCurry \$100 for supplies, and to pre-authorize purchase of foods for the day camp Halloween program.

Workdays continue. In addition to Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow, work groups have included U of C students (and since July 8 different colleges as well as Mt. Carmel high School), A-ON company (250 expected on the 18th). There remain several overgrown areas in the park.

Activities- Program chair Sharon Louis moved to start planning for another One Earth film festival program next spring- approved. Saturday park historical tours have had regular attendance of up to 20. Recommended: each go to hydeparkhistory.org to learn how to participate by voting in the Historical Society's restoration campaign for its cable car house headquarters. Many children's and historical books have been donated to the fieldhouse library. Consensus was to consider hosting another community conversation supper later in the year.

Moved by Sharon Lewis, 2nd by Jake Young to postpone the election a month by opening nominations at the November 13 meeting, and hold the election of officers December 11, both at the fieldhouse. Approved

Recreation- Pickleball- 60+ (aged up to 84!) play in the fieldhouse 3 days a week. Football is the most popular youth sport; 22 in cheerleading. Summer camp was fully booked. Kenwood's boy's golf team plays. The disabilities golf tournament was a smashing success.

Wooded Island. Jerry Levy reported that 30,000 plants were put in, but some were trampled by members of a hunger march. The fence along the lagoon is nevertheless expected to come down later in the fall. Several safety and repair issues were addressed or reported. The 3rd District and park security held a roll call on the island and have a strategy for recurrent misbehavior. Sharon Louis said we should remember that indecent conduct, even when not explicitly violent, is intimidation and takeover of spaces. Norm Bell: Baker College Prep is among those who helped remove invasive goldenrod from Bobolink. The meadow is high and luscious thanks to this year's controlled burn; critters include turtles. Final workday- October 28 rather than the 14th.

Ward Miller of Preservation Chicago expressed concern that a large number of mature trees may be lost on the Obama Center and golf course sites. Those involved in tree inventories disputed the numbers suggested, the park value of certain invasive species (although many examples are mature and stately), and any danger of cross pollination between native replacements and existing new natives. McCurry said she will ask the Foundation and SmithGroup JJR to supply/compare specific replacement numbers, locations, and groupings.

Esther Schechter opened discussion of letters in local media about JPAC, some with a hostile or accusatory tone both about the proposals and also saying JPAC gets nothing done. Members vigorously defended what JPAC accomplishes with volunteers and via reporting problems-- often getting immediate or timely repairs but that much is postponed for this large park in a district that must budget and has limited funds and crews spread thin. Partnerships/endowment could help? Some issues require inter-agency planning and funding process.

Re proposals, Margaret Schmid expressed concerns about lack of specifics and affirmative responses to concerns widely expressed in feedback and asked JPAC submit a set of questions to the planners. McCurry took down several and will submit and report back, including about trees, fieldhouse, nature sanctuaries, golf if not PGA, expanded footprints and whether all proposed is needed, alts. to road changes and parking. Moved to adjourn- Andy Carter and Esther Schechter. Next meeting November 13 at the fieldhouse includes opening and process of nominations. Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary.

JPAC actions and accomplishments for 2017

JPAC... Held (in additions to our monthly meetings) or participated in many public meetings, stakeholder and small meetings on, and gave feedback on major park proposals, park framework plan, and Darrow Bridge (for whose restoration we have been working since before its closure). Our broadly-based golf and project coordinating committees evaluated and made recommendations with conditions on the same.

Continued to monitor, comment upon and participate in the GLFER habitat restoration project.

Advised and mentored new and developing PACs; participated and presented in the annual PAC Conference

Held monthly and special workdays in Bobolink Meadow and Wooded Island- removing invasives, inventorying and marking plants, mulching trails, cleaning and working with CPD teams related to the restoration project and Bobolink controlled burn.

Formed and secured an unprecedented number of program/activity partnerships and in kind donations.

Organized with partners and volunteer teams an unprecedented number of workdays, several with up to 250 participants and representing schools and colleges, corporations, community and faith groups, environmental organizations, and Chicago Parks Foundation. Work was targeted to many parts of the park, including LaRabida peninsula and beaches and by the fieldhouse amounting to thousands of work-hours.

Reported and when possible directly addressed all kinds of physical and situational issues in the park based inter alia on regular walk and ride through's by our safety committee members

Organized or partnered with Park District/Night Out in the Parks, Parks Foundation and others in an unprecedented number of special programs in the park.

--JP First One Earth Festival environmental film screening and discussion

--Held 2nd annual International Migratory Bird Day Festival

--Held weekly history tours with Friends of the White City

--Dedicated the 67th Playground and bench

--Jazz On the Beach community celebration of the life of Jazz Blues great Phil Cohran and jazz jam 50 years ago at the 63rd beach house

--Solar Eclipse community celebration at 63rd St. beach house

--Tiny Trikes -4 participatory storytelling and music programs and book handouts for families at 67th Playground and fieldhouse

--Summer Dance in the Music Court

--Contemporary performance at 63rd St. beach house

--Modern dance peace celebration with South Chicago Dance Company celebrating Sky Landing and the Garden of the Phoenix

Launched our first Jackson Park in Your Pocket app and upgrade our website, Facebook and social media presence and posted hundreds of photos and information about happenings and needs in the park and held informational and cultural outreach programs such as at Montgomery Place.

Held our second community open house dinner conversation and our annual picnic at the Iowa Building

Supplied goodies and helped with end-of-daycamp, Halloween and (upcoming) Turkey Trot and Holiday fieldhouse parties. Supplied hundreds of back to school book bags for the kids and supplied turkey prizes for Turkey Trot. Put up history wall and other displays and decorations in the fieldhouse

Helped organized pickleball for seniors in the fieldhouse and encouraged the sailing-swimming programs

Recruited high schoolers for the Junior Golf caddie program, volunteered at two golf tournaments raising money for parks and adaptive golf

Beyond the big proposals: New, needed, and to be explored – start of a conversation

By Gary Ossewaarde, editor and secretary

A full summer camp program, growing sports program, especially football, year-round youth team building, full tilt drumming program. New- pickleball. These could be expanded more with community outreach, volunteers, sponsorships, and brainstorming- girl's programs, ballet, more for youth and seniors- for example, a revived and larger reading program. Youth environmental stewardship could be brought back. Wellness/Fitness opportunities should be a priority. We could have a program to bring kids to a concert or... How about a nature teaching play space? How can we build upon new programs such as the youth caddie program or programming possibilities created by projects should they come about?

Recreation is vital to the park—we need to make sure replacement and continuing facilities are sufficient, safe, convenient, meet modern needs and expectations, and can accommodate future needs.

The beach houses, especially 63rd need a lively set of concession and activities programs. 63rd beach house and the Iowa building could be revived as a focus and destination for classes and activities. Likewise, the teaching and activities at the harbors and playgrounds could be increased. Could one or more playgrounds have a water feature?

A new fieldhouse needs to be planned, and in the short run coordinated for more full operation and with what could be in an OPC recreation facility. The gym floor needs to be evaluated for replacement after several rounds of resurfacing. A/C- something could be done until we can get a facility with A/C.

We should evaluate and build upon recent park district assessment of facilities and historic structure needs, and costing to bring them up to standards and modern uses, in conjunction with framework planning. There's a new pump to stop flooding in the Marquette underpass and have asked similar for the 59th underpass. There are other repairs including to shoreline protection and facilities such as the former Coast Guard Station (an opportunity for programming?) and the Iowa building. And we must keep up diligence on planned restoration of the Darrow Bridge and the trails/paths and circulation in the park.

The park could use a step up in regular maintenance budgeting, planning and attention including a proactive needs fund or conservancy.

An expanded suite of public programs such as Night Out in the Parks now adds to existing recreation, nature areas, open landscape, and special events (thanks, 5th Ward esp.) bringing people into the park. JPAC has already asked back last year's innovators including One Earth film Festival Lucky Trikes, Summer Dance and the South Chicago Dance Company. Let's find out what more the public wants. How about a children's day with a petting zoo...? JPACers, keep your radar attuned for what would be neat for Jackson Park.

JPAC will be brainstorming at the next and following meetings on what programming it can inaugurate or partner in. More members and volunteers are needed, more outreach to community sponsors, and money.

JPAC is now opening its 2018 membership / contribution campaign. Please look at the first page to see how you can contribute, or email garyossewaarde@yahoo.com for a form. Thank you.