



## JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 34th YEAR!

# J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2017 Vol. 24 No. 10

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, 09/11 10/09? 11/13*

**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](mailto:commissioner751@comcast.net)  
[commissioner751@icloud.com](mailto:commissioner751@icloud.com)

Gary Ossewaarde (Sec., mtgs.,  
Newsletter, mail/membership)  
1765 E. 55<sup>th</sup> St. B6 Chicago, IL  
60615. 773 947-9541  
[garyossewaarde@yahoo.com](mailto:garyossewaarde@yahoo.com)

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

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

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

## MONDAY OCTOBER 09 2017 7:15pm

THIS MO. AT LA RABIDA east conf. 6501 S. Promontory Dr.  
(Columbus holiday- fieldhouse closed)  
Guests, Officer's & Committee reports, New and Old  
Business, Announcements. Adjourn  
(JPAC meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon. fieldhouse 6401 Stony I-, 11/13)

CONTENTS p1 About/Ann'ts; p2-3 Minutes; p3 announcements

>>> **2017 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)

**WORKDAYS BOBOLINK. 10/28 9am-12** [parrybell@ameritech.net](mailto:parrybell@ameritech.net),

**WOODED I 10/28 10am-1pm** [sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com](mailto:sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com).

**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](http://www.VaMonde.com), Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.

**THIS NL:** <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters/September2017nl.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>

**FRAMEWK PLG-OBAMA CTR-GOLF-** [www.southlakefrontplan.com](http://www.southlakefrontplan.com)

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

**GOLF** [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/golf.htm](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/golf.htm) <http://chicagoparksgolfalliance.org>

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

[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 SEPT.11, 2017 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MEETING

Louise McCurry opened the meeting at 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse, a quorum and total of 22 present.

Minutes of the August meeting were moved by Jerry Levy, 2nded by Dwight Powell and approved.

Treasurer's report. Dwight Powell said we spent much for the kids at the fieldhouse. He commended the supervisor and staff. A generous gift from Hyde Park Bank enabled us to give book bags filled with school supplies to every child in day camp. Ahead of deposit of that check, the most recent bank balance was \$3,874.41. Also, a check was written to Jake Young for software costs. At our wonderful Eclipse celebration at 63<sup>rd</sup> St. Beach August 21, we sold enough bottles of water to pay our DJ. Powell noted the help and cheerleading at that event by elected officials and others, especially Lanita Ross of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Office.

Supervisor Bobbie Beckam invited all to sign up for pickleball class this fall. Indoor and outdoor- it's the fastest growing sport. Beckam will teach. There was a discussion of sports in the park. Fishing is popular, especially at snagging and trolling spots. Fishermen say they would like more. Kenny Newman asked we inquire about stocking the lagoon with game fish, as is done in Columbia Basin and was proposed in the GLFER project.\* McCurry suggested we gather ideas for sports needs including additional sports for the park. These could be given during framework planning sessions, including at a meeting for coaches and other recreation persons with the Park District and consultants Wednesday at 6 and succeeding days in the fieldhouse.

Gary Ossewaarde reported on a public open house held by CDOT August 22 at the fieldhouse regarding design concepts for rebuilding Darrow Bridge and the paths to it from stony Island to Lake Shore Drive, slated for 2019. JPAC members and community residents shared ideas including for security to optimize the product.

Golf proposal. Jerry Levy, chair of the JPAC committee, said the committee will meet again after we see what changes are presented at next meetings [September 25 and 27]. He noted the media reports and commentary, petitions and letters to editors for and against or proposing changes. He recited some of the committee's concerns—such as the Driving Range, including potential effects if it is expanded (and in which direction) or relocated- impacts for the interface with Bobolink Meadow we suggested could include a new, attractive bird-friendly fence, and for the present dog friendly area and tennis/pickleball courts. (Discussion noted that the present dog area is temporary, not approved and lacks a water line but fulfills a real need.) Another concern is for the nature/butterfly area at the s.e. corner of South Shore Cultural Center. Members who have visited noted that it's overgrown and it and shoreline needs improvement even if all or most of the present is kept.

The Obama Foundation will hold its first public open house September 14. Buses to and from are provided.

History tours. Our Saturday 11 a.m. history tours focusing on the Columbian Exposition plus, have been popular. Louise McCurry said we need to train more docents (we presently have Ray Johnson, Trish Morse, and Louise). Suggested: recruiting high school students, who need service hours. Some evidence of overnight illegal activity has been found on tours and reported, so close inspection of the park from tours is valuable.

Safety. Esther Schechter said the fallen sign by the bridge on Hayes Dr. has been reset. Jake Young reported flooding in the 59<sup>th</sup> underpass and various problems with the 59<sup>th</sup> bridge and pier, also noted by Kenny Newman. Both said the 63<sup>rd</sup> beach and pier are topped by Lake water at times. Newman said there is deterioration along the harbor inlet walls. Noted- damage was done along Marquette and 63<sup>rd</sup> by a bicycle racing group that in the past has been banned from the park but comes anyway. (A strong letter was sent.)

McCurry announced that the Park District Framework Plan team and consultant Smith Group/JJR will meet with a set of members of JPAC, South Shore CC PAC, and local coaches about priorities, needs, concerns from values to uses and needs, starting Wednesday at 6 at the fieldhouse. In light of such meetings (ongoing), committees and point persons need to be recruited, McCurry said.

Sharon Lewis has agreed to chair transportation. She asked for new ideas on and comments about access to and in the park to inform input in framework planning and proposals. Dawn Posey is already chairing a program committee- one idea is environmental films. Suggested today-- "Shifting Sands" about Indiana Dunes, the se side and Great Lakes history, shores and environmental challenges. Ossewaarde chairs Darrow Br. **2**

Natural areas. Norm Bell announced that the October Bobolink workday will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, October 18, 9-noon, rather than its usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday. On September 9, the usual crew pulled invasive goldenrod and buckthorn. On August 29, a group of 30 from DePaul also pulled invasives. Our Meadow, he said is not overgrown. There is seasonal succession in this long-established nature area, so the look keeps changing-so visit. He noted a problem with broken signage- the wood is deteriorating (a problem seen elsewhere).

Jerry Levy reported the Wooded Island contractor crew of 4 led by Russell Heinman and supervised by Forrest Cortes of the Park District is busy putting in 30,000 new plant plugs and removing low invasive plants. Groups, and students earning eagle scout badges have helped with removals. For example, volunteers from ASPINA further opened out and mulched the internal chip trail. Others have been pulling out overgrown grape ivy. Fences may come down later this year. Levy hoped this will not enable damage, especially to young plants—some already occurs, especially from young children who do not know. If you see someone walking off path, say something, Levy said. He also noted successful regeneration of native plants in the old Rose Garden—search for it off the east path. Workdays are usually on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays, 10 to 1. Jake Young said he looks forward to the dance performances in the Skylanding and Garden of the Phoenix September 15-17 at 6 p.m. by Hejla Yarkin and the South Chicago Dance Company. Also seen – fashion photographers and models.

Other work groups: Sept. 11, 50 U of C Law students pulled ivy that is impacting the 63<sup>rd</sup> beach house walls. Sept. 15, American Academy of Pediatrics will work at the Driving Range lot and fence. Sept. 16, 250 from Roosevelt, for the afternoon beach clean and in other parts of the park. Sept. 19, 190 Mt. Carmel students. Sept. 23, 2 pm 30+ UC incoming. And ongoing well into October.

This has been our most successful year in many recruiting work groups and was called our most successful activity and outreach this year. Note- we couldn't have had so many without the help of Chicago Parks Foundation. McCurry asked for more, experienced JPAC members to step forward to manage larger groups.

There were also more public programs in the park and better enrollment for fieldhouse programs than in at least 20 years. Members said we need to step up outreach beyond our major web, email and social media expansion to actually recruit and tell what we do, including at events like the Hyde Park Jazz Festival.

Announcements and introduction of visitors and new members was made. Moved and approved to adjourn. Respectfully submitted, Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary. Next mtg. Oct. 9 7:15 p.m. AT LA RABIDA east conference room- from main entrance, 6501 S. Promontory Dr.- access via Marquette east of Jeffery/LSD.

\*Editor- JPAC asked and was informed by the CPD planning dept. that fish stocking in the lagoons is not possible at present because of murky waters- many storm drains empty into the lagoons. (JPAC has been asking for the past 20 years for remediation.) JPAC is asking that the framework plan be sure to include among goals a strong commitment to actions needed to improve water quality in the lagoons and throughout the park.

---

**Remember-** the October 9 meeting is at LaRabida, 7:15 pm (fieldhouse is closed- Columbus Day). 6501 S. Promontory Drive east conference room. Use main entrance. Promontory Drive exits Marquette Drive east of Jeffery Blvd./Lake Shore Drive. Free parking on site. Service via #67 buses marked LaRabida.

**Next phase of open house meetings on Framework plan, Obama Center and golf plans and updates Sept. 25 4-8 at South Shore Cultural Center, Sept. 27 4-8 at Stony Island Arts Bank, 6760 S. Stony I.**

Your thoughtful comments and ideas can be given to personnel, put on cards or sent to <https://southlakefrontplan.com/contact-us>.

**Congratulations:** to Abdel Raoul, a young man of extraordinary skills and character and son of JPAC members Tracy Raoul and husband. Abdel, competing in PURE PGA tour at Pebble Beach was honored by his home base, The First Tee of Greater Chicago at a soiree at Jackson Park Yacht Club September 22.

**Commendation:** Fran Vandervoort, presenter on Jackson Park history at the Hyde Park Book Club 9/18. **3**