



JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 34th YEAR!

J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017 Vol. 24 No. 9

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.

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MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11 2017 7pm

6401 STONY ISLAND. AGENDA (Full agenda presented at the
meeting. Please send AGENDA item/additions requests to president.)
Guests, Officer's & Committee reports, New and Old
Business, Announcements. Adjourn
(JPAC meets 2nd Mon. fieldhouse 6401 Stony I-, 9/11, 10/9*
*Dec. at Sept. mtg. about Oct. mtg. due to Columbus hol.)

CONTENTS p1 About/Ann'ts; p2-3 Minutes; p3-4 News,
p4JP CALENDAR including IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETINGS

>>> 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. 9/9 & 10/28 9am parrybell@ameritech.net,
WOODED I 9/23 10am-1pm silevy@jeromelevylaw.com.

WEB, links, <http://www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org>
& [events](https://facebook.com/JacksonParkAdvisoryCouncil/) FACEBOOK. <https://facebook.com/JacksonParkAdvisoryCouncil/>

Jackson Park in Your Pocket mobile app- from our website, or
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, 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.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 AUGUST 14 2017 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MEETING

Louise McCurry opened the meeting at 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse, a quorum and total of 26 present.

Minutes of the July meeting were moved by Jerry Levy, 2nded by Norm Bell and approved.

Treasurer's report was given by Dwight Powell. Latest bank balance was \$3,990.87. Checks were since written for book bags for the day and sports camp kids, which were covered by a gift from Hyde Park Bank and donations from individuals, to whom JPAC and the park staff are deeply grateful.

Safety. Esther Schechter reported a broken bench, a fallen sign at 63rd Hayes bridge, overgrown obscuring grass near the marina, and poor condition of fieldhouse tennis courts. These were or will be reported. Kenny Newman noted ongoing problems with rising Lake water and with paths such as the west side of Cornell.

Fieldhouse and program. Supervisor Bobbie Beckam noted that highly successful summer camp is winding down. Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport now; indoor pickleball programs will be added. Girl's basketball (for age 14 and under) will be offered. Being explored is help from Chicago Sky, which is moving to the South Side and is interested in helping our area.

Work: Bobolink Meadow. Norm Bell said wildflowers and grasses are in full bloom. A workday was held. August 28 DePaul students came to work, for the third year. These groups are really enthusiastic.

Wooded Island. Jerry Levy reported numerous workdays held and scheduled with large outside groups The focus is on invasives. Native plants, flowers are in bloom in the old rose garden, which is worth the search via the east paved path. Workdays are on our website and Facebook page- the project manager posts daily. People take- and use on their visits- our virtual tour of Jackson Park [see links in page 1 of this newsletter]. Eagle Scouts are earning service badges in the park; other scout levels are active. McCurry asked for volunteers to help manage several large groups coming to work in the park.

Golf. Jerry Levy reported that the Alderman's leadership committee on golf and park changes is in consensus to support the project but expecting changes to the plans, including from the park district taking into account public and stakeholder input and its own views of park needs. It is hard to guess at timelines/deadlines in light of evaluations of the same and of needs and problems discovered in design studies and basic decisions needed. A next round of public open house presentation and comment-gathering will occur on [changed- September 25, 4-8 p.m. at South Shore Cultural Center & 27 at Stony Island Arts Bank.]

Reggie Seay reported that the new youth caddie program is in progress, growing, and recruiting at high schools. Efforts are being made to grow golf teams at the high schools. Lines of communication are not always easy to navigate to and within high schools. Dwight Powell asked questions regarding involving kids as young as 8th grade and about outreach at Hyde Park Academy.

An adaptive golf open tournament will be held in the park September 15. For information and registration email ddaniels@sralab.org. All are encouraged to volunteer or come and cheer. From the Clubhouse- tee-off 12:45.

Reuben Lillie described a petition drive to restore Green Line el service on 63rd Street as a way inter alia to bring people to the park (as it originally did from 1893) and to the new amenities as well as to help with traffic and local growth and development. Discussion elicited various perspectives and need to consult all interests.

Park events. Lucky Trikes held the first of four August children's story read and performance programs Tuesday evenings at the 67th Ridgeland playground. The families, especially toddlers were enthralled. Books will be given to the children at one of the upcoming events. Moved by Sharon Lewis, 2nded by Dwight Powell to ask them back for next year. Approved. Likewise, Summer Dance in the Music Court was well attended and received. Moved by Powell, 2nded by Schechter to ask them back again. Approved.

JPAC's next large event would be at 63rd St. Beach for the Solar Eclipse August 21- volunteers needed. Several organizations including Adler Planetarium as well as the Park District and Parks Foundation will be involved. We have the right glasses and a huge banner that McCurry showed, and a live media stream will be screened. [Other upcoming events are in the calendar below.]

A teacher at Hyde Park Academy asked for mentors, especially for young men at the school.

Important upcoming meetings: August 22, 5-7 p.m. at the fieldhouse Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) will show and seek input on plans for Columbia (Darrow Bridge) reconstruction. There was consensus that we should have a committee to deal specifically with that- Gary Ossewaarde was appointed chair, and committees on other subject areas that have proposals, are in flux, or we have wish lists for. Chairs will be appointed.

August 23 and 24, 4-8 p.m. at South Shore Cultural Center, CDOT will present/show and take comments on its transportation proposal for the park and surrounding streets in light of proposals.

September [25, 4-8 p.m. at South Shore Cultural Center, Sept 27. at Stony I Arts Bank] the same will be held for next step in a revised Framework Plan and updated plans for the Obama Center and the golf courses.

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting September 11, Monday, 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

They come by the dozens and hundreds to do work to make Jackson Park shine

Some of the work groups who have come or are scheduled to work in Jackson Park this summer and early fall in addition to or conjunction with our regular workdays in Bobolink or Wooded Island, specials such as It's Your Park days, beach sweeps, and our regular members who step forward on every occasion, and the staff of the Park District (such as under Bob Arlow and Michael Brown) and its contractors.

Groups have worked in the natural areas, around the fieldhouse and along Stony Island, Cornell, Hayes, and Marquette, on our beaches, (including ahead of the Solar Eclipse event) around La Rabida, and the area behind the Museum of Science and Industry/Music Court. Pictures from many of these workdays as well as events in the park are posted on our Facebook Page and website.

Do you have a group that would like to come? Contact Louise McCurry.

Carnegie School, Scout groups (2 times), My Block-My Hood-My City (150), Hyde Park Academy (large, 3 times), Roosevelt University (300), DePaul University (150, 3rd year), Chicago Parks Foundation (coming), University of Chicago 3 groups: Human Resources group, Service Day, and Law School (60), and Chicago Cares (100). THANK YOU, ALL.

In addition to our regular Saturdays 11 a.m. tours of the park and Columbian Expo (from the east side of Darrow Bridge), we gave three special tours to business groups including with Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce. Tours and walkthrough's can be arranged for individuals, groups, or media.

They also come for programs in the park— more activities this summer than ever!

Many of these are Nights Out in the Park. including extraordinarily popular Summer Dance and Lucky Trikes storytelling / participatory music-making at 67th playground. Led by Deidre Harrison and KC Price, with musicians Hannah Brock, Eric Heidbreder, Rami Gabriel, Avreeayl Ra and friend Walt.

Other events of note were the Jazz on the Beach 50th Commemorative and Celebration of the life of Phil Cohran in July and the Solar Eclipse Celebration August 21, both at 63rd St. beach. JPAC organized the latter with lots of participation from elected officials, community leaders such as Carol Adams, Adler Planetarium, CPD and Parks Foundation, and sports organizations. Thanks to Adler and Ray Johnson for the live NBC stream screening, paid for by JPAC sale of bottled water, and to the Adler for glasses.

Evolving plans, planning opportunities, and community input abound

Information is being released at an increasing rate, and opportunities for input are increasing regarding the park future as a whole and already changed proposals park circulation and roadways, for the Obama Center and golf courses. Most recent were 6 highly attended public meetings in June, July, and August. In addition to media releases and commentary, several standing and new organizations provide links to the latter and their own views and assessments. We think changes to plans will be made. Attend the September 21 /25 meetings. The Park District and others are sitting down with stakeholder organizations and groups explore and map out other, broader avenues of public involvement in planning our park. Ground zero for evolving plan concepts and the public input already received is www.southlakefrontplan.com.

Darrow (Columbia) Bridge to be restored, timetable revealed

August 22, CDOT discussed, sought public input at the fieldhouse on initial concept plans to restore Darrow Bridge. Plan concepts include clear bike-pedestrian paths from Stony Island eastward around the Music Court to the Lake Shore Drive underpasses. With funding (c. \$6M) secured, work now concentrates on design, approvals and on the construction in 2019. Planning is currently in phase 1- engineering, environmental studies, structure evaluation, and public meetings leading to the project report. Historic ornaments will be reinstalled or replicated with some compromises as per ADA, safety and other modern standards. JPAC led the calls for the bridge's restoration via petitions and letters from community organizations, individuals, and elected officials (and lots of emails and phone calls). Support and approvals from many agencies (local, state, and federal, including historic oversight) as well as assemblage of funding (mostly federal) were required for this state-owned bridge. Frankly, it was not high priority since it is not an auto roadway, and being historic, it is expensive to fix, involving taking it completely apart including the abutments. We were repeatedly told that a temporary bridge would be nearly as expensive and as hard to get approval for (let alone, where would be room?). Initial grant applications were denied. Possibly, embarrassment at the situation in light of park selection for the Obama Center moved the project along. Meanwhile there has been and continues to be a fundamental disruption to park circulation creating great inconvenience for many. Input included providing security by closing off access under the bridge to prevent fires being set. (The bridge is difficult to light and monitor. There was access under the bridge during the Columbian Expo and restored about 2002.) Among other things asked was park signage in the vicinity. Abutments date from a narrower 1880s bridge with fancier railings, across a neck between the "North Pond" and lagoons to the south. A new bridge was built for the Columbian Exposition, and a wider bridge retaining Expo decoration was building 1895. Restorations were done in 1942 and 1961. It once served traffic around the whole Museum- blocked in 1995. Visit in Facebook CDOT News, email cdotnews@cityofchicago.org. 312 744-3600.

SEPTEMBER 2017 EVENTS AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES IN JACKSON PARK

Phase 2 public meetings. Jackson and South Shore revised Framework, Obama Center and golf updated plans- Sept. 27, 4-8PM at South Shore Cultural Ctr.; 27 4-8 at Stony Island Arts Bank, 6760 S. Stony Island.

See/read prev. meeting presentations, videos, full and summarized comments and questions at www.southlakefrontplan.com, www.southlakefrontplan.com/join-conversation-posting-comments-idea-wall. More at www.obama.org, www.go.obama.org, www.chicagoparksgolfalliance.org.

_Saturdays, 11 am. WHITE CITY free TOURS of history, nature and the Columbian Exposition of 1893 footprint. Meet at the east side of Darrow Bridge (end of the parking accessed from LSD 58th Science Dr. pkg.) Lightning excepted. Ray Johnson, friendsofthewhitecity@gmail.com. special tours available- above email or commissioner752@comcast.net.

_September 14, Thursday. Senior Games Jackson Park sections- 10:30 5k race from 63rd St. beach house, 1 pm. Lawn Bowling.

-September 14, Th, 5 or later- Obama foundation & design architects share, take input. McCormick Hyatt.

_September 15, Friday, 11:30 am check-in. ADAPTIVE GOLF tournament.. Volunteers will be needed, and all are welcome. We are very proud to have this event in our park! ddaniels@sralab.org.

_September 16, Saturday 1:30 pm. Beach Clean at 63rd St. Beach and adjacent.

_Sept. 19, Tu., 5:30 sign in. Region budget hearing 2018. Fosco Park, 1312 S. Racine.

_Sept. 23, Saturday 10 a.m-1.p.m. Wooded I Workday, us. From south end. sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com.

_Sept. 30, Saturday, 1-3. Planting day at 63rd Beach dunes area.

Nights Out in the Park Schedule: www.chicagoparkdistrict.com, www.nightoutintheparks.com, My Chi Parks

_Sept. 15, Friday, 16 Saturday, and 17, Sunday, 6-7:30 pm. HEJLA YATKIN leads DANCE IN THE GARDEN OF THE PHOENIX on Wooded Island. Help create a one-of-a-kind experience.

_September 16, Saturday, 6 pm. Overnight Family Camping in the Parks- Jackson Park. Register in the CPD website, or call 312 742-7628 or the fieldhouse 773 256-0903. Orientation available. **GARY HAS FLYER. 4**