



## Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference

*Serving the community since 1949*

1525 E. 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 907

Chicago, IL 60615

Tel. 773-288-8343

Email [hpkcc@aol.com](mailto:hpkcc@aol.com). Website [www.hydepark.org](http://www.hydepark.org). Find us on Facebook. A 501c3  
Your dues and involvement keep you informed and your voices heard. Volunteer!

### ***Our purpose:***

The purpose of the Conference is to attend to the civic needs of the community; work toward an attractive, secure, diverse and caring community, and to promote participation of residents, businesses, institutions and organizations in programs and activities that advance the interests and concerns of the community. It serves the community as a watchdog, independent voice and clearing house in the community's ongoing conversation and decisions about those matters which affect and define community life.

### ***Growing programs that serve the community***

**The Hyde Park Garden Fair** and the **Hyde Park Used Book Sale** are committees of the conference that beautify our neighborhood and lives and bring people together to create community and bring in visitors to Hyde Park. They also help underwrite our programs.

The Conference serves as fiscal and promoting agency for good-fit small organizations and programs including **Chicago Academic Games League**, **Friends of Blackstone Library**, **Nichols Park Advisory Council**, and **Southside Preservation Action Fund**. See list of programs below.

### ***Informing and shaping opinion, serving as clearinghouse, promoting involvement***

HPKCC is a membership-, volunteer-based organization that acts as a primary or collaborative convener of public forums and workshops, submits position papers, and creates or works with action committees on issues of community and economic planning and development, zoning, preservation and enhancement of historic and neighborhood-character resources, transit and mobility/access, parks and open space, environment, schools, public safety, and social and political needs. We engage with elected officials, institutions and other stakeholders to make sure that the community at large and its diversity of opinion and interests are heard. We also jointly sponsor community events, public meetings, and problem-solving visioning exercises. We support and promote an economically and racially diverse, open and balanced community and open decision-making processes.

#### ***Programs and leadership, fall 2011***

Chicago Academic Games League (tba)  
Condos/Co-ops Plus (tba)  
Development, Preservation, Zoning (Jay Ammerman)  
Disabilities Task Force (George Rumsey)  
Editorial (*Reporter*, Website) (Jane Ciacci)  
Friends of Blackstone Library (Brenda Sawyer)  
Hyde Park Garden Fair (Lesley Bloch)  
Hyde Park Used Book Sale (Jane Ciacci, George Davis)  
Nichols Park Advisory Council (Stephanie Franklin)  
Parks Committee (Gary Ossewaarde)  
Schools Committee (Camille Hamilton-Doyle, N. Baum)  
Southside Preservation Action Fund (Jack Spicer)  
Transit and Neigh. Mobility Task Force (tba)  
WhistleStop/Safety (Camille Hamilton-Doyle, Timika Hoffman-Zoller)

***Publications: The Conference Reporter (quarterly) or Flash; [www.hydepark.org](http://www.hydepark.org) website; Facebook***

#### ***Officers (elected Oct 2011) serve as the Executive Committee***

Jane Ciacci, President  
Brenda Sawyer, First Vice President  
Anita Hollins, Second Vice President  
Gail Isenberg, Secretary  
Mark Granfors, Treasurer & Finance Committee chair

#### ***Other Board members as of October 2011:***

Jay Ammerman, Nancy Baum, Jane Comiskey, Darryl Crawford, George W. Davis, Michael Doss, Paul Durica, Camille Hamilton-Doyle, Allison Hartman, Timika Hoffman-Zoller, Patricia Martin, David Nekimken, Gary Ossewaarde, Jack Snapper, Jack Spicer, Ismail Turay.

## **In Closer Focus: So what, specifically does the Used Book Fair, for example, enable or fund?**

By Jane Ciacci, updated

2009 and 2010 financial reports show that the Used Book Sale makes a net profit in the range of \$10,000 annually, depending on the weather, the economy, and changing markets.

The profits of the sale are currently the Conference's major source of support for its ongoing expenses, such as the office in the Hyde Park Bank building, and space rental and other expenses for community events throughout the year. For example, our Schools Committee holds numerous networking and awards ceremonies, dinners, and forums. Our Condos and Co-ops Committee hosts annual forums on association law and issues with Attorney John Bickley, who has worked with the committee for several years to provide these popular forums on topical questions.

In 2009, we hosted the HPKCC Forum "Challenging the Next Decade," to kick off our 60th anniversary year, and added two organizations as committees of the Conference—Friends of Blackstone Library and South Side Preservation Action Fund, which commissioned a structural engineering assessment of the Harper Theater Buildings that played a role in reuse of the building, and study/documentation of structures and districts.

Our Development, Preservation & Zoning Committee is particularly active, and collaborates with a number of other community groups, including the 53rd Street TIF Advisory Council and its committees; the Coalition for Equitable Community Development; Hyde Park Disabilities Task Force; Hyde Park Historical Society; and its Preservation Committee; Interfaith Open Communities; Older Women's League of Hyde Park and Illinois; and Southside Solidarity Network.

The profits of the 2008 and 2009 book sales made possible major donations to the Hyde Park Neighborhood Club to help fund

transportation for the Summer Teen program in summer 2009 and 2010.

You can read more about the various activities of the Conference and its committees from <http://www.hydepark.org/hpkcc/index.htm> and <http://www.hydepark.org/index2HPKCC.htm>.

## **2011 held or upcoming programs include...**

Aldermanic candidates questionnaire and "election special" issue of the *Reporter*

4<sup>th</sup> ward aldermanic cand. Forum Feb. 5

Question the aldermen June 2

Spr. /fall Garden Fair May 13-14, Sept. 17

Used Book Sale Oct. 8-10

Comm Organizations Convocation Oct. 15

Positions/queries Wash Pk, Woodlawn Av./ PD43, Metra fares, developments, Police...

## **Activities in 2010**

- Garden Fair Winter Lecture Series
- Schools committee held a major awards and lecture dinner and a dinner with speaker
- April 19 Condo Law Seminar
- April 24 Computer Safety Seminar
- May 14, 15, Oct. 2 Spring and Fall Garden Fair
- Sept. 26 Co-sponsor ship of. Property Tax Changes forum
- Oct. 9-11 Hyde Park Used Book Sale
- Board, Committees weighed in on Harper Court, opening Harper Avenue., renovation of the Shoreland Hotel, and more
- Harper Theater engineering structural soundness evaluation presented; Woodlawn Corridor Study underwritten
- Neighborhood Club teen program grant

## **Programs**

Committee member-volunteers come from HPKCC membership and beyond, not just our board!

### **Chicago Academic Games League**

Monthly games during the academic year provide an opportunity for school children to increase their math skills and have fun. Under management of the University of Chicago Service center. Liaison: Amy Becker.

### **Condos / Co-ops / Plus**

Provides information through lecture/seminars and classes with attorneys, web reports, and the *Conference Reporter*, regarding the law, insurance, and other matters relevant to owners of these dwellings. If you are interested in participating on this committee or its forums or for details contact hpkcc@aol.com or 773 288-8343. Co-chairs: Gary Ossewaarde.

### **Development, Preservation and Zoning Committee**

Monitors neighborhood developments, submits findings, and engages collaboratively with other organizations, officials and agencies; holds public forums/surveys on development and planning issues, community character, and University of Chicago and other institution and organization policies that affect the neighborhood. Chair Jay Ammerman.

### **Disabilities Task Force of Hyde Park.**

A collaborative inter-organizational task force that works for a physically and socially friendly, seamless, accessible community and to see that the rights of persons of disability and all residents are honored in Hyde Park and places of business. Liaison Gary Ossewaarde, George Rumsey.

### **Forums**

HPKCC sponsors ongoing community forums on topics of special interest to the neighborhood. Liaison: Gary Ossewaarde at hpkcc@aol.com.

### **Friends of Blackstone Library.**

Join Friends and automatically become a member of the Conference! Library support, volunteering, lecture series. Chair Brenda Sawyer. <http://friendsofblackstone.wordpress.com>.

### **Hyde Park Garden Fair.**

Twice a year the Garden Fair sells plants and or bulbs, compost—Friday and Saturday after Mother's Day and a Saturday in autumn. Proceeds & volunteering benefit the Hyde Park Community Conference and garden projects in the Hyde Park - Kenwood Community. In 2009 the GF celebrated its 50th anniversary. Chair Lesley Bloch. Contact: Jane Ciacci.

### **Nichols Park Advisory Council**

An affiliate programmatic committee. Advises the Chicago Park District on the maintenance, care, and programming and landscaping of the park. It oversees 4<sup>th</sup> on 53<sup>rd</sup> activities and, with the Garden Fair Committee, the wildflower meadow. President Stephanie Franklin. 773 955-3622.

### **Parks Committee**

Works cooperatively with local and citywide groups to enhance our parks maintenance, landscape design, park activities, open lands and good planning as well as improve our environment. Chair Gary Ossewaarde.

### **Publications (Editorial Committee)**

Oversees our print publications including the *Conference Reporter* and our web and social media outreach including hydepark.org, and our Facebook page. Chair: Jane Ciacci.

### **Schools Committee**

Follows school issues in the community, works for strong LSCs, afterschool programs. Maintains an online database of afterschool/enrichment programs, ensuring our youth develop the skills and assets needed to succeed. Strong schools and school-community engagement are priority. Honors volunteers in schools with dinners and ceremonies. Chairs Camille Hamilton-Doyle and Nancy Baum.

### **Southside Preservation Action Fund**

Formed to work to provide quick funds for a range of small preservation action and study needs. Lead Jack Spicer.

### **Transit / Accessibility-Mobility Task Force**

Works to improve transit (particularly bus transit and the Gold Line Metra upgrade) and mobility

within and to the community and seeks adequate parking in the community. Chair: James Withrow (contact [hpkcc@aol.com](mailto:hpkcc@aol.com) for the present).

### **Hyde Park Used Book Sale**

Puts on the annual, Columbus Weekend fundraising sale in Hyde Park Shopping Center, sponsor: Treasure Island Foods. Co-chairs (2010): Jane Ciacci, George W. Davis, Jane Comiskey.

### **WhistleStop/ Public Safety**

WhistleStop promotes street safety and crime prevention through individual and neighbor whistle alerts. Whistles are available at neighborhood events and at times in one or more community venues. Bulk whistle purchases are possible. All whistles include program information. This committee sponsors informational seminars on internet, bike and other safety, monitors community and youth safety, and is supportive of CAPS. If you are interested in participating on this committee or need whistle/WhistleStop details contact [hpkcc@aol.com](mailto:hpkcc@aol.com) or 773 288-8343. Chair Camille Hamilton-Doyle. Safety issues: also Timika Hoffman-Zoller.

**Ad hoc collaborations** include Coalition for Equitable Community Development, Disabilities Task Force, 53rd Street Vision Process/53<sup>rd</sup> St. TIF Advisory Council, Southside Preservation Action Fund, Seniors Perspectives/Senior Friendly organizations and committees including Older Women's League, University of Chicago (for CAGL), Hyde Park Alliance for Arts and Culture (member), Hyde Park Vitality Committee (via Nichols Park) and Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce.

Also, our administrative committees—e.g. Nominating, Finance, and Membership—often engage volunteers outside our board: Ask us!