



Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference

60th Anniversary –Serving the community since 1949

1525 E. 53rd Street, Suite 907

Chicago, IL 60615

Tel. 773-288-8343

Email hpkcc@aol.com. Website www.hydepark.org. Find our page on Facebook

HPKCC is a registered 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organization

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 adopts and serves as fiscal and promoting agency for small organizations and programs including **Chicago Academic Games, 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 process.

Programs

Chicago Academic Games League (Amy Becker)
Condos/Co-ops Plus (Lenora Austin, Gary Ossewaarde)
Development, Preservation, Zoning (Gary Ossewaarde)
Disabilities Task Force (Lenora Austin)
Editorial (Reporter, Website) (Jay Ammerman)
Friends of Blackstone Library (Brenda Sawyer)
Hyde Park Garden Fair (Lesley Bloch)
Hyde Park Used Book Sale (Jane Ciacci, Jane Comiskey)
Nichols Park Advisory Council (Stephanie Franklin)
Parks Committee (Gary Ossewaarde)
Schools Committee (NancyBaum)
Southside Preservation Action Fund (JackSpicer)
Transit and Neigh Mobility Task Force (James Withrow)
WhistleStop/Safety (Camille Hamilton-Doyle)

Conference Publications

The Conference Reporter (quarterly) and *Flash*
www.hydepark.org website; Facebook

Officers (serve on our elected board of 24)

Jay Ammerman, President
Jane Ciacci, First Vice President
Brenda Sawyer, Second Vice President
Trish Morse, Secretary
Mark Granfors, Treasurer

Board: Lenora Austin, Nancy Baum, Amy Becker, Gwen Bonds, Richard Buchner, Peter Cassel, Michael Doss, Judy DuPont, Irene Freelain, Amy Girst, Camille Hamilton-Doyle. Gail Isenberg, Jack Snapper, Jack Spicer, Ismail Tury, James Withrow

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

HPKCC 1st Vice President Jane Ciacci writes:

Our current financial report shows that the October 2009 book sale took in \$15,614.91, and our expenses were \$6,538.73, so we had a net profit of \$9,076.18. This was somewhat less than we had hoped for (we were looking for \$10K or more) but the weather wasn't in our favor, nor was the economy.

However, 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, in February our Schools Committee held one of many of its actions, its biennial award ceremony for Local School Council members and volunteers, with speaker Jacqueline Edelberg (author of How to Walk to School- Blueprint for a Neighborhood School Renaissance). In April, the Condos and Co-ops Committee hosted a forum on condo 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, funded with a grant obtained by the Fund.

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, 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, 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/index2HPKCC.htm>.

2010 upcoming programs include...

- Annual meeting Sept.12 2:30-4 N Club
- Schools Committee Networking Dinner September 30
- Garden Fair October 2
- October 9, 10, 11 Used Book Sale
- Family Internet Safety October 16

Activities to date in 2010

- Garden Fair Winter Lectures
- April 19 Condo Law Seminar
- April 24 Computer Safety Seminar
- May 14, 15 Spring Garden Fair
- Board and Development Committee weighed in on Harper Court, opening Harper Avenue, and Shoreland Hotel
- Harper Theater engineering structural soundness evaluation presented
- Schools committee held a major awards and lecture dinner
- Neighborhood Club teen program grant

Programs

The following program descriptions introduce you to the programmatic committees of the Conference. Follow the links from that in the previous page to see view the committee's pages and reports.

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. Liaisons Amy Becker, Wallace Goode.

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. Interim Chairs Gary Ossewaarde, Lenora Austin.

Development, Preservation and Zoning. Committee.

Monitors, 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. Chairman Gary Ossewaarde at hpkcc@aol.com.

Disabilities Task Force of Hyde Park.

A collaborative inter-organizational task force that works for a physically and socially friendly community and to see that the rights of persons of disability and all residents are honored in Hyde Park and places of business. Liaison Lenora Austin.

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. Chair Brenda Sawyer. <http://friendsofblackstone.wordpress.com>. Join Friends and automatically become a member of the Conference!

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 benefit the Hyde Park Community Conference and garden projects in the Hyde Park - Kenwood Community. May 31 2009 the GF celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a gala at Rodfei Zedek. Chair Lesley Bloch. Contact George Rumsey.

Nichols Park Advisory Council

An affiliate programmatic committee of the Conference, Nichols Park Council advises the Chicago Park District on the maintenance, care, and programming and landscaping of the park. It oversees the wildflower meadow and more. 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.

Schools

Follows school issues in the community, works for strong LSCs and grow afterschool programs, maintaining an online database on the same, ensuring our youth develop the skills and assets needed to succeed, and schools and community engagement. Honors volunteers in schools with dinners and ceremonies. Chair Nancy Baum.

Southside Preservation Action Fund

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

Transit and Accessibility Task Force.

Works to improve transit [particularly bus transit and the Gold Line Metra upgrade] and access within and to the community and seeks adequate parking in the community. Chair James Withrow.

Hyde Park Used Book Sale.

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

Whistlestop/Safety

Whistlestop promotes street safety and crime prevention through individual and neighbor whistle alerts. Whistles are available at neighborhood events and at times various community venues. Bulk whistle purchases are possible. All whistles include program information. If you are interested in participating on this committee or for Whistlestop details contact hpkcc@aol.com or 773 288-8343. Chair Camille Hamilton-Doyle.

Collaborations include Coalition for Equitable Community Development, Disabilities Task Force, 53rd Street Vision Process, Southside Preservation Action Fund, and Seniors Perspectives/Senior Friendly Hyde Park.