MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14 2019 JPAC MONTHLY MEETING

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7PM at the fieldhouse, 21 in attendance. Agenda was distributed and introductions made. Notable guests: CPD Area Manager Farah Tunks, steward for 53rd lakefront parks Allison Bernard, a U of C Police officer, and Edward Warden of Shedd Aquarium. Several sent regrets due to illness. January minutes were moved by Fran Vandervoort, 2nded and approved.

Treasurer Dwight Powell reported year start balance of $4,049.24. Deposits: $520 in membership contributions including $250 from La Rabida Hospital- thanks to all. Expenditure: $43.72 for the park kids holiday party.

Farah Tunks thanked JPAC for arranging tubs of ice cream and candy for the Area-wide park youth theater showcase at Rosenblum Park. The kids also were given a tour of the park. A fall showcase is being planned.

President McCurry said a large student group from the University of Chicago and Global Girls is coming January 19th for a work/learning project on Wooded Island and the fieldhouse and playground. Graffiti was cleaned at the 63rd St. Beachhouse. Beach and harbor problems were brought up.

McCurry learned at a University of Chicago workshop on demographics of surrounding communities that Millennials are the largest group at 37 percent. We need to learn their needs and interests in the park and strengthen outreach to them. U of C people are willing to help us on this and to come to our events.

Fieldhouse and recreation. Supervisor Bobbie Beckam reported a.m. pickleball (M, W) and table tennis (T, Th) are growing. Seasonal sports are underway. The parks afterschool programs are trying to pick up those affected by closure of South Shore branch library for renovations. Jackson is participating in National Girls Day events February 1 10 a.m.-1 at Grand Crossing Park.

A general discussion was held about growing membership and park participation among younger generations. Among ideas and takeaways is that younger people are busy, critical, and not given to lengthy discussions (including at meetings!) and they want to decide what is worthwhile for them to do (whether a service or an activity), then own it—not be told what is to be done. Several places/organizations were ID’d where younger people are involved in service activities or engage in the arts or… We can build on the kinds of park activities already successful such as the Nights Out in the Park. We are using Twitter- we can make the feed more interesting to younger people including with a calendar of happenings broken down by age groups and feeds to get them to notice parks as assets for them or directly connected to issues that are important to them such as tackling the environment, climate change. Parks users can help build the larger community and can be communities in themselves around activities such as tree planting—it was noted that our area has the largest concentration of TreeKeepers in the city.

Suggested, in addition to improving what, how and with whom we communicate, was developing an inventory of spaces and activities people of different ages might use in various ways. Margaret Schmid cautioned that the park spaces will change much over time if changes such as the Obama Center come about and suggested two or more such documents. Fran Vandervoort said a uses/spaces template could be flexible and evolve.

After announcements, the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting February 11, 7PM at the fieldhouse.

Submitted by Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary.
Minutes of the February 11, 2019 JPAC Monthly Meeting

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse. A quorum of voting members was present and a total of 23 including new members, 5th Ward representative, UC Police, Obama Foundation, and two awesome toddlers. The passing of Alderman Hairston's mother, Reva was noted.

January minutes were moved by Jerry Levy, 2nd by Edward Warden and approved later in the meeting. Treasurer Dwight Powell reported the latest balance of $4,259.24. Dues and contributions for 2019 are coming in very well. The finance committee has sent our fiscal agency partnership check to the Chicago Parks Foundation and is finalizing annual reports to CPF and Chicago Park District and IRS. A popcorn machine and supplies to use starting with the March 2 film festival were purchased at discount and partially covered by members and friends. We are looking into a snow cone machine for the summer.

News noted by the president: A film has been made about the Jackson Park Golf Association (featuring its oldest female golfer) and both golfing and the yacht clubs were featured on WTTW Channel 11. The official dedication of Ida B. Wells Drive downtown was held. Wells, inter alia was a significant figure and counter-story at the Columbian Exposition.

Thurlow Haskell talked about the Museum Shores Yacht Club. He noted it is the (country's?) largest black yacht club. In 2018 they started classes teaching youth motor boat skills and are recruiting for 2019. Visit http://themsyc.com, or (mornings) email themsyc59@gmail.com or call 708-738-2960 or 708-308-0784 and ask for Donna.

Nancy Joseph, Columbia Basin steward and a steward of OpenLands’ TreeKeepers in Hyde Park. The Columbia Basin responsibility runs southward from the Museum of Science and Industry to the lagoons. It includes the Basin and its native-planted edge, the ancient oak stand, the cherry trees planted starting in 2012, and stretches that have been native planted under the Army Corps GLFER project and more that will be native planted. This part of the park has now been designated a natural area. Nancy, Jerry Levy and their volunteers over the past couple of years have been armoring trees against beavers that appear from time to time, mulching, pruning, and exercising vigilance against vandalism to the cherry and other trees. They have been thinning out the overgrown Basin edge, replacing invasives with native and pollinator-friendly plants. The palette is a diverse mixture, not checkerboard swaths of just a few species as in the larger parts of the GLFER project. Six school groups helped plant 1,500 plants in the fall--kids as young as 5 are welcomed. (You may see orange flags especially on the west side of the Basin—these identify new plants that are vulnerable and especially should not be walked on.) More planting will be done in spring including with corporate and service NGOs. Workdays for planting, pruning, and mulching will be posted in the Hyde Park Herald and on the Jackson Park sites and posts. There is not a regular schedule-- to be put on the list, email Nancy at njoseph2008@aol.com.

Ms. Joseph also described the pruning by TreeKeepers recently in Bixler, Nichols, Promontory Point, and Jackson (especially around the Museum) parks. Joseph noted that the certified treekeepers work under direction of the park district (or city outside the parks), and just standing on the ground and without machinery. There are 40 treekeepers in Hyde Park; several active members of JPAC are TreeKeepers. Sessions are on various days twice a month posted in the http://openlands.org website—some workdays are in parks and others on street parkways, both tending and inspecting and reporting on tree health. You can also sign up for classes at the website. Esther Schechter asked for attention to areas in the center and south parts of the park where trees and shrubs need pruning.

Other nature committee, safety committee, and facilities news: Jerry Levy said the next Wooded Island workday is on March 23 (4th Saturday), 10 a.m.-1 p.m. from the south bridge and will likely entail mulching the interior trail. This year, maintenance of the plantings will increasingly be turned over to the stewardship group.
by the contractor. Our Tree Identifier with map has been updated; copies will be available in boxes at each end of the Island. The numbers on the map match tags in the exemplar trees of the over 50 species on the Island. The Wooded Island group also works with a group from South Shore at the South Shore Cultural Center Nature Sanctuary 3rd Saturdays at 10.

Our Nature Trail App Jackson Park in Your Pocket voice part, lost from the online provider, should be back up in a few days. Thanks, Ray Johnson.

Even in winter work groups have been coming to do work on LaRabida shore areas. The Park District will be inspecting damage to the walls at the end of the peninsula.

Several trees came down and were reported by McCurry. Broken benches were reported by Schechter.

Kenneth Newman noted the ongoing problems with the south end of 57th beach.

Recreation and fieldhouse. Supervisor Bobbie Beckam said that despite the weather, table tennis, pickleball, and youth sports are picking up. Jackson Park girls were among those who took part in Area 3’s celebration of National Girls Day, at Grand Crossing Park. An Opportunity Fair for youth jobs will be held February 16. Positions such as lifeguards are filled at this time of the year.

McCurry and Newman noted the reported costs of fieldhouse upgrade or replacement options, such as those brought the Clarendon Park community, seem to be very high.

Old/New business. Programs. McCurry asked the Membership Committee to meet next Friday at 2 in the fieldhouse to consider year and long term goals including increasing both membership and involvement, especially among a younger demographic.

One Earth Film Festival March 2. Jackson Park fieldhouse. McCurry and program chair Dawn Posey asked for volunteers for set up, greeting and seating, and more.

The festival will start with a park tour from the fieldhouse at 1 p.m.

3-5 p.m. there will be a fair with environmental and naturalist tables and more, with the centerpiece being screening of the classic about the environmental crisis, HOME. McCurry has viewed the film and said it is really one of the very best.

Guests are encouraged to register at http://oneearthfilmfest.org. Sugg. $8 to the Green Connections/One Earth Film Festival organization.

McCurry said that the organization’s deadline to pay an (increased) rental fee came up in a hurry, so the board approved and paid subject to ratification by the JPAC. It was noted that our budgetary condition has improved.

Newman suggested we seek a sponsor for next year’s. Moved by Newman, 2nd by Zelia Stevens to approve the $350 fee. Approved.

Columbian Exposition tours will resume in April, Saturdays at 11 a.m. from east side of the Darrow Bridge. These are given by Ray Johnson, Louise McCurry, and Patricia Morse.

Golf course and program update. Craig Bowen, Community Engagement officer for the Chicago Park Golf Alliance gave a report on a recent stakeholder’s gathering to hear latest plan and program, including Alliance commitment as to how it will provide benefits for communities and for families and youth, and golfers of all skills, off as well as on the course. Commitments are on local hiring including for specialty skills, pipeline to college and careers, involvement of local businesses. There will be a 6-hole family course. Bowen said first work, as early as this spring, has to be on the shoreline. South Shore Cultural Center will be the first to be rebuilt. Charles Newsome of the Quadrangle Condominiums abutting the course said he attended the meeting and was very impressed and enthusiastic. There will be a segment on TV, Windy City Live, March 5.

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

Gary M. Ossewaarde
Secretary
Feb 2019 mins p2
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11 2019 JPAC MONTHLY MEETING

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse. A quorum and total of 23 were present. Minutes of the February meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer Dwight Powell reported a balance of $3,774.24 including deposit of $40.

Agenda. Powell moved, with second that essential business be done ahead of other items. Approved.

Recreation. Pierre Nealon. Three of our tumblers have qualified for citywide competition. There are problems scheduling and accommodating ball and other team practice and play because we are down a field and the nearly-completed new track and field is on hold during litigation and reviews over the OPC.

The caddy class has 12 youth. Inter alia they are learning park history and what's in the park to explore/enjoy. McCurry urged going to Kennicott Park March 22 morning to watch our adult pickleball team compete.

Natural areas and park places. Jerry Levy reported the first Wooded Island workday will be on March 23, 10 a.m. (4th Saturdays), meeting at the south bridge to the Island.

Norm Bell led the first Bobolink workday, a trash pickup, March 9 (2nd Saturday). Beaver damage was noted. Other wildlife spotted on camera: deer, coyote, possum, and raccoon.

LaRabida shores and the harbor edge have storm and beaver damage, Louise McCurry noted. A large group of students is coming to work there on trash, weeds, wheelchair path chipping and other tasks March 23.

 Several days are planned for beach cleaning at 57th and 63rd with or by Alliance for the Great Lakes, others. JPAC and U of C Police will jointly clean Huckleberry Playlot (6201 S. Kimbark) March 23, 4 p.m.

Our annual Migratory Bird Festival will be on May 11, which is also It's Your Park Day citywide cleanup. Golf driving range parking lot north of Hayes Dr. is headquarters for activities, from family learning and bird house building to work projects.

Hyde Park TreeKeepers (a program of OpenLands) have been pruning and tending trees in various parts of the park. McCurry asked permission to purchase a tree of approved species and size to be planted in a pd approved location along 63rd St. in early April, approximately $100. Moved and approved. She would like to plant on a monthly basis in the fall and winter.

Florence Mills asked about progress on a plaque honoring the drumming history and drummers at 63rd beach.

Ways of securing funding for such a plaque at reasonable cost will be explored.

Darrow Bridge restoration is on hold. JPAC will set up meetings with officials to learn more then decide actions.

Safety items reported include a broken bench along Coast Guard Drive, stairs along the LaRabida shores and Promontory Circle (and vandalism damage there).

A park drive-through with park and area staff to identify damage and needs is planned for March 27.

School groups and others will be recruited to help clean various, often neglected areas in the south half of the park. In response to a question, McCurry noted that volunteer groups that come in usually bring their own snacks, but we could at some point help in this regard.

McCurry went through the large number of work activities and park events March 23 through June, listed in the agenda (and ARE IN THE CALENDAR, APPENDED). VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP WITH THESE. Some require or recommend reservations. Of special note are the March 30 PAC Conference, April 13 earth day activities, April 23 Earth Day, May 11 It's Your Park Day/Bird Festival, and May 18 Flashlight Tour in the park.

Volunteers were recruited to help with our table at the Woodlawn Summit March 16. More events for everyone to enjoy, including NIGHTS OUT IN THE PARK are being added regularly. Suggestions were given for youth groups to highlight in Make Music Chicago June 21 12-6 and recruit teachers for kids piano lessons.

Announcements included the March 13 annual Darrow Commemorative program, entirely at the bridge this year. Re-enactor Paul Durica will read from Darrow’s plea for mercy in the Leopold-Loeb trial. Kenneth Newman announced a climate change program in conjunction with the One Earth environmental film festival (JPAC’s screening and festival were March 2) March 14 at Windsor Park Lutheran Church 6 p.m.

Adjourned. Next meeting April 8, 7 p.m. in the fieldhouse

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary
Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse, a quorum and total of 18 being present. We started with a volunteering challenge for the varied activities of our Migratory Bird Day festival May 11.

Treasurer’s report. Dwight Powell reported March end balance of $3,827.29 reflecting a deposit of $40 and expenditure of $41.95 for raffle items for our Earth Day festival April 27. Our bank has been consolidated into Fifth/Third, which has more convenient branches. We now have a card and are setting up online banking, which will be managed by Anne Marie Miles. We submitted a grant proposal prepared by Fran Vandervoort. Gary Ossewaarde was thanked for tallying our financial records and statements covering the past three years.

Minutes of the March meeting were moved by Erin Adams, 2nded by Reggie Seay and approved.

Several members conducted a park inspection drive-through with supervisor Bobbie Beckam March 22. About a dozen problem areas were identified--some structural, some winter damage, and some best handled with volunteer work teams. These were agreed to be itemized in the Newsletter. Work orders have been written. The departments of planning and facilities will inspect major capital items.

Japanese Garden--Park improvement opportunity-. Mike Dimitroff, Park District Art Resources officer, spoke on an opportunity for a sustainable upgrade, repair, and more complete realization of the Japanese Garden. The garden suffered this winter from weather and vandalism.) Mr. Dimitroff said the purpose is to realize the promise of the garden and to make it a sustainable feature of the park. A visit and design charrette will be held this week. Visiting are [names supplied later by Mr. Dimitroff] Mr. Kazuo Mitsuhashi Chair of International Events, The Garden Society of Japan; Mr. Tsuyoshi Kurose Assistant Manager for Planning and Coordination Section, Parks and Greenery Division, Publics Bureau, Osaka City Government; Mr. Kentaro Kitahara Staff for Planning and Coordination Section, Parks and Greenery Division, Publics Bureau, Osaka City Government; Ms. Akari Rokumoto Japanese Language Specialist, from Hyde Park, served as the Osaka Team Japanese-English translator; Mr. Toshihisa Kato Consul, Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago. The team met in Japan the previous week with the 1980s-90’s lead designer of the current modern Osaka Garden (which was further upgraded in 2008 and 2017), Sadafumiu Uchiyama of the esteemed Japanese garden at Portland, Oregon. The Park District manager of the Garden, Karen Szyjka is heavily involved including in envisioning programs in a renewed garden. A spark for the effort was the outstanding workshop on Japanese Gardens featuring Chisata Takuchi last year at South Shore Cultural Center. After the charrette, the visitors will develop a concept design over the next few months that will be shared.

Possible improvements, in addition to bringing the garden to full authentic and showcase level, are improved access, especially coming from the north via a formal and dramatic transition path, renewed fence and formal gate, access in the garden, plantings, and shoreline work. Intent is to endow a full time tender of the garden. He asked us to be thinking about best means of securing the garden, including ways to ensure closing hours already in place are effective—potentially including gates at the bridges locked overnight. There were differing views about gates (as there have been in the past) among members, but general consensus that preventing inappropriate use and vandalism are essential. We agreed that security measures will be an ongoing item for JPAC discussion.

Margaret Schmid and others asked numerous questions about the project and possible details, including about the level of public input. Questions were answered with much detail, but Mr. Dimitroff said that the project is only in the “opportunity” stage so far, not even the concept stage and that the Japanese elements at least must reflect and respect the views of Japanese garden experts and practices.

Funding will not come from the Park District. Most would come from the City of Osaka, whose Mayor is enthusiastic about the project, and a ministry of the government of Japan. Some funding could come from others including Project 120, which is involved mainly through its arm of conservancy stewardship for the
garden and through interest in possible Japanese cultural festivals there, perhaps as soon as this summer. (He noted that Project 120 played a key role in getting the funding for and having excellent planning and design for the GLFER habitat restoration.) Dimitroff noted that the garden itself has born the designation Osaka Japanese Garden since the Sister Cities relationship was established between Osaka and Chicago and will retain this. The garden is also part of the larger area designated Garden of the Phoenix, which includes Sky Landing, in the footprint of Columbian Exposition (and later) Japanese structures [Ed.-and cherry tree groves to the north].

Reports. Golf course. Two sets of caddy classes give both classroom and golf course experience. Two park caddies won Evans scholarships from the Western Golf Association. Reggie Seay said that parts of the course have been flooded this spring so use has been down.

Natural Areas. McCurry: Bobolink Meadow and Wooded Island had controlled burns. Lots of trash was picked up during the first Meadow workday. Cherry trees are budding. When they are in full bloom, suggested was picnicking there and meditating on transitory beauty (“hani”), as in Japan during the Cherry Festival. McCurry reported that the TreeKeepers crew has been very busy in the park, mulching the 168 cherry trees and pruning trees along the Hayes Drive / north edge of the golf course.

63rd Street Beach Natural Area. Steward Edward Warden reported on new regular workdays (3rd Saturdays 10-12) and coming beach camp – kids are welcome at both. More programs and amenities are coming or already accomplished, including the new trail through native beach plants. Planting days will need volunteers. He also outlined Shedd Aquarium programs throughout the region and hopes to have more on the South Side. Programs include wildlife and shore erosion monitoring. He was amenable to having an educational mini-fair at the fieldhouse like last year, but it will have to be without the traveling aquarium. The Aquarium pays youth interns—application period is closing soon.

General questions about 63rd Beach included: Status of the planned bar/club built/enclosed on the beach (which is under the Revenue Department)? Poor condition of the playground. Lighting out. Spray fountain is only on when there is an attendant on duty (allegedly because of past theft of the piping). Slag from the former steel plants washes north and onto the beach. Seay said it is the most heavily used South Side beach.

McCurry went through the planned workdays and park events on the agenda [and found in the Spring Calendar, appended to the minutes]. Some of these will involve very large groups of volunteers, so knowledgeable helpers would be appreciated. The public is invited to participate in the April 22 replanting of the edge of Columbia Basin. 4-6 pm. This was organized by Obama Foundation and the Columbia area steward, Nancy Joseph (njoseph2008@aol.com). Noted also is our commitment to help with cleanup in other Woodlawn Parks with University of Chicago Police or other PACs. Our first is at Huckleberry Playlot, 62nd and Kimbark, April 17, 4 pm [later changed to morning].

Major public multi-activity “festivals” include the Earth Day One Earth Film Festival April 27, (note that there is registration) and Migratory Bird Day Festival May 11. Our On the Table ® dinner conversation this year will be on May 13 at 6PM, with a shortened regular PAC meeting at 7:30. No objections were expressed to moving the meeting time to 7:30. On the Table will focus citywide this year on writing Memos to the Mayor, Lori Lightfoot, on wishes and priorities, ours especially for the park and surrounding neighborhoods. Suggested, but not required, is bringing foods. Gary Ossewaarde will take attendance confirmations and dish commitments- garyossewaarde@yahoo.com. Also, one can register with On the Table ® at https://onthetable.com/registration.

Also of note is the Flashlight Tour of Jackson Park on May 18 at 8:45 pm, presented by JPAC and Hyde Park Historical Society. It’s a Night Out in the Parks event. Since it’s limited to 150, and registration is mandatory, we were encouraged to register now at https://flashlight-tour-jp.eventbrite.com.
Announcements included events at Cornell Playlot Park and a Chicago Sustainability Network meeting May 16 5:30 p.m. at The Plant, 1400 W. 46th St.

Erin Adam’s young child was acknowledged and demonstrated his bird-song player.

Adjourned about 8:20 p.m. Next meeting May 13 at the fieldhouse, 7:30PM following On The Table.

Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary

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**JPAC and park supervisor Bobbie Beckam identify park repair needs** during March 22 drive-through. (Many other items have been reported previously.) These were found now.

Along Marquette Drive: Serious collapses of Inner Harbor seawall threatening slopes and roadway, similar by Outer Harbor south walls and lots of garbage
Promontory Circle end-walls including seawall buckling and losing protective capstones
Burnham comfort station weakening, roof caving in
Coast Guard Station has a large hole to north (harbor wash?)
63rd underpass missing sections of covering and mosaic
63rd point/south wall (harbor inlet) in poor shape with trees growing in its stones, areas of turf/tree roots eroded
63rd LSD intersection- to NE ruts at Divvy Station from PD trucks- move Divvy or pave path corner? Cave ins
Marquette near Cornell and south to garden needs pruning, overgrowth clearing
63rd path on north side – section from Cornell to half way to Richards deteriorated.
Comfort station by Bowling Green (5800) collapse at bathroom roof drain (later flood from women’s washroom)
Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. following our annual On The Table community discussion. Memo to the Mayor. Our report is appended below as part of the record.

A quorum and total of 20 attended the meeting. Officer Ramey attended for University of Chicago Police.

Treasurer’s report. Our bank, MB Financial, was assumed by Fifth/Third on May 6. Our final statement of that date showed a balance of $3,752.29 reflecting $75 payment to the projectionist at the April 27 One Earth film screening. We received $75 in membership contributions (thank you Duwain and Chicago Ornithological Society) which will be deposited. We are getting new checks from the new bank, which has nearby branches.

Minutes of the April meeting were accepted.

Because the meeting started later than usual, due to the On The Table, a motion was entertained, made by Erin Adams to suspend for this meeting our practice considering officer and committee reports first. Approved.

Little Libraries. Erin Adams presented and answered questions on a proposal of South Side Neighbors with JPAC for book exchange boxes at the two playgrounds on 67th St. that could serve as a pilot. Copies of a letter proposed to be presented to the Park District this Wednesday were distributed and discussed. Adams had consulted with Brown Books and Paintbrushes organization. Books are in hand. Pat Harper and others advised that a committee be set up to oversee the boxes and create programming that encourages reading to and with and mentoring small children. Adams moved, others seconded, that the project be approved and volunteers for a committee be sought, and the letter for presentation to the Park District be approved. Approved. (Text of the proposal letter is appended.)

Trees/Forestry Advisory Council. Steward Nancy Joseph, and Sylvie Bendica, both with OpenLands TreeKeepers, presented on behalf of OpenLands Project a written proposal to Mayor-Elect Lightfoot to establish an Urban Forestry Advisory Board for the City of Chicago with proposed charge and projects. They asked that JPAC sign on to the proposal. They noted some of the deficiencies in current care, replacement, and expansion of trees in the city-- poor care, lack of guidelines (including who is charge of what and what these can/should do), what is cut down, lack of staff, and weak attention to heritage trees including their futures (the park’s oak stands was mentioned). One goal is to start adding an additional 1,000 trees in the city each year. Moved by Joseph and seconded by Dwight Powell for JPAC to send a letter of support to Mayor-elect Lightfoot for the proposal and Urban Forestry Advisory Board. Approved. (Our letter is appended and the OpenLands proposal is found at www.openlands.org.)

New business and Announcements. McCurry announced that a video featuring the two Jackson Park golf caddies / local high school graduates who won full scholarships will be on at 1 a.m. tonight on Windy City Live. May 17-18 is the Hyde Park Garden Fair, May 18 is the Plant & Geranium Sale at South Shore Cult’l Center. May 15, 29 --first 2 Listening-planning meetings for the South Shore Cultural Center (there, 6, 6:30 resp.). Flashlight Tour of Jackson Park May 18 8:45 p.m. [note- will be rescheduled due to weather]. Fran Vandervoort will distribute bookmarks promoting our App “Jackson Park in Your Pocket” and download link.

Duwain Bailey invited all to attend the One Woodlawn community summit May 30 6 p.m. at Apostolic Church, 6320 S. Dorchester. You can call 312 399-7548 for more information.

June 1 It’s Your Park Day. Mulch is coming for trees south of the Driving Range and in picnic areas south to Hayes Drive and westward. We’ll also pull plastic from lagoon edge. We’ll start 9:30 or 10. Pianos in the Park with lessons for kids and the June 21 (Friday) noon-7 p.m. and Make Music Chicago (Nights Out in the Park programs) are coming back this summer. Volunteers are needed for June 21.

McCurry received consensus to place on the agenda of the June 10 meeting establishment of a Jackson Park Youth Green Team, similar to the former Junior Ecology Teams (JETS). She needs names to contact.
Memo to the Mayor follows JPAC-convened On the Table community potluck discussion at the Fieldhouse, 6 p.m. May 13.

Jackson Park Advisory Council
6401 S. Stony Island Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637

On the Table -- Memo to Mayor Lori Lightfoot May 13, 2019

Dear Mayor Lightfoot:

A diverse group of residents and park users from South Shore, Woodlawn, Hyde Park and beyond convened at Jackson Park Fieldhouse May 13. Participants spoke out for equitable and sustainable solutions to the issues facing Jackson Park, surrounding communities, and the greater South Side and shared thoughts about the import of the Obama Presidential Center (OPC) coming to Jackson Park. We want to share our hopes and thoughts with you and ask for City commitment and help to realize our dreams. Jackson Park Advisory Council invites you to join us in a tour of our remarkable, historic park to see its needs and potential and what we are already doing with limited resources.

All of us feel strongly that the coming of the Obama Presidential Center (OPC) in Jackson Park is the lynchpin for a renewed future for both our park and communities. What follows is our reasons and hopes for the future.

Jackson Park
Community residents and stakeholders have already collaborated to develop the South Lakefront Framework Plan to revitalize the park to equitably serve the communities and our youth for the 21st century. We need commitment from your administration to carry out the following key recommendations of the Plan.

- Plan and fund a new fieldhouse. An upgraded, expanded full-service class-A fieldhouse would replace the current deteriorated facility that lacks sufficient space. The new facility would contain thoughtful, up-to-date programming for users of all ages, but especially youth, who need skills for new futures and alternatives to the streets, and with more evening and weekend activities, can take advantage of Jackson Park as a safe, neutral space.

- Repair and reinforce the endangered South Lakeshore. We call special attention to continual erosion of and deterioration of the LaRabida Hospital area, various harbor shores and walls, and beaches, and threatens Lake Shore Drive and the renewed Lakefront Trail.

- Implement infrastructure improvements for safety, connectivity and access to the lakefront and throughout the park. Plans proposed for the OPC campus design offer an opportunity to reunite the park and provide safer access to recreational areas including any renewal or upgrade of the golf course. Compared to the north side, paths throughout the park are in deplorable shape. And it is inequitable to have to wait 7-10 years for a critical structure like the Darrow Bridge to be replaced while new flyovers are built up and down the lakefront. Infrastructure improvement allocations have not been fair to the South Side.

Provide for ongoing renewal and expansion of sustainable, ecologically sound landscaping and habitat throughout the park that takes into account climate change and the needs of wildlife. Jackson Park is an uncommon expanse urban woodland and open land, but much has been lost, is dead, or is beyond its prime. The OPC landscape design plan, coupled with the just completed habitat restoration in the natural areas,
provides a template for ecologically sound landscape restoration for the future. We support an expanded program of tree planting under the direction of a Forestry Advisory Board. And we ask that you be mindful that Jackson Park is a “blue” as well as a “green” park—Lake Michigan alone is a priceless resource whose health and shores need attention and restoration.

**Obama Presidential Center**

The Participants believe the OPC will be a gateway and engine to the rebirth of the South Side of Chicago through its ability to change city and community attitudes about our neighborhoods, redirect economic investment resources to the South Side, and help develop and leverage our human capital.

Jackson Park is an appropriate location for the OPC because of its prestige as a Frederick Law Olmsted designed Park and it exemplifies Chicago’s long tradition of locating great cultural institutions in its lakefront parks. Olmsted developed a design philosophy based on his reporting of conditions in the slave economy of the South and the industrial economy of the North. He believed in parks as democratic spaces for all in a natural setting blending landscape, nature, and recreation. He accepted buildings and roads and changes that serve a good purpose and harmonize with their setting. What better place is there for a forum and museum honoring the first elected African-American President?

The OPC itself has a very small footprint in the park (20 of 560 acres) but will vastly upgrade that part and generate significant ripples of change throughout the park and neighborhoods. For the park, we look for it to encourage further repair and restoration and new programming and induce more people to enjoy, explore and learn in the park. For our South Side communities, we hope it will bring current and new residents new opportunities and resources as well as foster hope, pride, and empowerment to collaboratively tackle problems.

The OPC presence brings the park’s history and messages of equity, inclusion and hope into the 21st century. Jackson Park is already a unique junction of transportation, education, healthcare, nature, Lake and land, and peoples and culture. Now we hope it will change the way people think about the South Side, and how South Side residents think about themselves as citizens of Chicago and the world. Our participants described the possibilities in words such as “generational opportunity,” “paradigm changer,” “South Side at the center,” “laboratory setting the national agenda,” “people coming together,” “parity.”

We thank you for your attention and look forward to hearing your comments and response. Again, we invite you to tour our park with us. Jackson Park Advisory Council will be in touch with you.

Cordially, Louise McCurry, JPAC President

**Support for Openlands proposal for an Urban Forestry Advisory Board as per letter to the Mayor**

Dear Mayor Lightfoot:

By resolution of the PAC, May 13, 2019:

Jackson Park Advisory Council supports that the City of Chicago create an Urban Forestry Advisory Board (UFAB) to confer public health, safety and quality of life benefits to our residents by guiding the City in its stewardship of Chicago’s public and private trees. The UFAB Board would bring together stakeholders to develop policies and administrative processes for the City to more carefully and efficiently plant, care for and remove trees. This is especially critical in light of the City’s limited resources and impending threats to urban trees at a time when we should be investing in trees and
Support for Little Library boxes at the two 67th Street playlots

Park Enhancement Committee
Chicago Park District

May 13, 2019

Dear Members of the PEC,

This letter documents the support of the Jackson Park Advisory Council (President Louise McCurry) for the plans proposed by Erin Adams (South Shore Neighbors For Hope) to install two “Little Free Library” boxes, one next to each of the two playlots on E. 67th Street, on the southern boundary of Jackson Park.

The Council reviewed Ms. Adams’ proposal at our May meeting (May 13th) and the council voted to approve her plans and forward this proposal to the PEC with our full support. We are confident, particularly with the closing of the South Shore Chicago Public Library for renovation, that these libraries can serve a vital resource for early childhood literacy on the South Side. Their location next to these playlots (which are located across the street from residential units with many young children) will make books easily accessible to the children and their parents.

Ms. Adams also discussed her collaboration with Candice Washington, founder of Brown Books & Paintbrushes, a program to promote early childhood literacy and healthy racial identity, to apply for grants to purchase books to stock these libraries, on top of many boxes of donated books that Ms. Adams has accumulated.

We are confident this will be a positive addition to our park and will more fully enhance the Chicago Park District’s relationship to our south side communities.

/s/ Louise McCurry
Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with a quorum and 16 total attendance.

Treasurer’s report. Our bank was bought out. We have to purchase new checks at $174 in two payments and a new stamp for presented checks at $60.90. Moved by Gary Ossewaarde and approved to proceed. We wrote a check or $70 that was lost by the payee. We will replace it with a new one if the next statement shows the check was not presented, to avoid a large stop-payment charge. Reimbursement of $62.04 was made to Fran Vandervoort for day camp graduation goods. We deposited $145 from membership gifts in May. We will pay for amplification at Make Music Chicago June 21 at $70. This was moved by Esther Schechter and approved later in the meeting. Our next expense will be summer camp graduation; a motion will be needed at the next meeting.

Minutes of the May meeting were accepted with no objections.

Recreation and Fieldhouse. Pierre Nealon reported a good sign up for summer. Sports and activities are designed to encourage kids and adults to stay with the program year-round. No child is turned away, but the Park District has a program under which persons can sponsor a needy child.

Public Safety. The University of Chicago Police representative noted a big block club event was held for Woodlawn at the Harris Recreation Center Park. UC Police and JPAC participated in two cleansups at nearby Huckleberry Park, which is subsequently under surveillance and criminal activity down. Police and community groups are trying to bring regular events to the parks this summer. He reported an uptick in robberies and arrests in the neighborhoods around our park.

Natural and special areas. McCurry reported that Lake Michigan and lagoons levels are very high, which, with so much rain, has caused beach loss, flooded sections of Lakefront and other trails, of the 59th underpass, and one of the paths to the Moon Bridge in the Japanese Garden. Volunteers have raised stretches of the chip path in Bobolink Meadow. Numerous groups have done workdays around the park, including on June 1 It's Your Park Day (trash around lagoons, basin), U of C Alumni Service Day (including 57th beach).

Golf committee. With little notice, golf associations that were in town arranged a workshop here that resulted in certification under new golf safety rules for 62 players. The next caddie class is being planned; two girls are among those applying. Dwight Powell reminded that JPAC members including Fran Vandervoort and himself brought area high schools into the program. A resolution was passed by the Illinois General Assembly honoring Evans golf scholarship winners, Tim Arlington and Abdul Raoul. A plaque with the resolution will be placed in the fieldhouse. The annual CPD/Chicago Parks Foundation fundraiser, Play for the Parks will be held July 11, main event from 11 a.m. at the Partee Golf Clubhouse, Hayes (63rd) and Richards. A youth event under First Tee starts at 8. If you can volunteer, call Louise—we hand out treats at major holes. It’s a fine way to spend an afternoon.

Make Music Chicago- Louise asked for volunteers for the five groups performing- a youth in schools orchestra, synchronized Chinese dancers, Hyde Park School of Dance (participatory), Lyric Opera Musicians, and South Shore Opera soloists. June 21, 12:30-7 at the fieldhouse. MMC is a program of the Chicago Music Festival and is a Night out in the Parks. Our piano will also be ready to play and for lessons Tuesdays through July 30 at 1.

The Little Library boxes for 67th playgrounds has been approved. Days to read to little kids is being arranged.

Jackson Park Youth Green Team is expected to start on June 22 chipping trails. Future tasks are planned. This program is in cooperation with scout groups. Moved by Florence Mills, seconded by Schechter and approved for up to $50 for treats for the Green Team.
Monument for the 63rd Street Beach Drummers. Florentine Mills asked for suggestions for getting this (previously supported by JPAC) under way. These included a site investigation, working with the alderman, visiting the Park District committee, and crowd-funding/grant application.

Various upcoming events in or related to Jackson Park were announced. (Those that have not passed by the time the Newsletter is issued are in the Summer Calendar at end of the Newsletter)

Among these, of special note are:

**June 29:** Woodlawn 5K Dash and Food Truck/Mental Health Festival (and talent show) on the Midway and a bit of Jackson Park. Volunteers, water, candy bars are needed. (This was introduced by Carla Gilbert and Charles Gill of Woodlawn Diversity.)

Also 1-3 p.m. South Side Neighbors 4 Hope Discussion Series—with Ghaim Freeman of Emerald South Collective for Economic Development, in the fieldhouse. // 8:45 p.m. the (SOLD OUT) Flashlight Tour.

**March with us** under the AYSO banner in the 4th on 53rd Parade and Picnic- 10:30 behind HP Bank.

**July 6** has the Chosen Few Picnic—there will be many thousands in the park.

(A shout out was given to Bob Nelson, who would discuss his book, “Dirty Waters: Confessions of Chicago’s Last Harbormaster” at Hyde Park Book Club June 17.)

**THE NEXT JPAC MEETING IS A PICNIC AT IOWA BLDG, c1755 E. 56th St. July 8 Monday at 6 p.m. fieldhouse not available. Bring dish and chair.** With no objections, the picnic date and place were set.

Moved to adjourn c. 8:20 p.m.- consensus

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary
Louise McCurry convened the meeting c.6:30 p.m. during our picnic, with a quorum, and 33 total attendance. We thanked ourselves for bringing our hardy and ample picnic foods. During introductions we welcomed some members we haven’t seen for a while, and some new guests.

**Treasurer’s report.** Dwight Powell. Our latest statement is as reported in June, $4,090.93. Dwight has been able to secure substantial donations whose primary purpose is for kids and youth programs needs, including the celebrations at the quarterly conclusions of camp and sports. Donations are welcome.

**Minutes** were previously distributed and copies present. No changes or corrections were offered but can be sent to the Secretary.

**Annual Awards** were given by Louise McCurry.

Jamie Claire Flaherty- Ida B. Wells Award for wide work as a community organizer and communicator.

Dwight E. Powell, educator, for advocating, recruiting, and fundraising for kids and youth programs.

Spencer Bibbs and Marc Monaghan, photographers for recording and document park, PAC, and community.

Bobbie Beckam, park supervisor for expansion of and recruiting for programs, especially for kids and youth.

In addition, Louise showed the Resolution passed by the Illinois General Assembly recognizing our golf scholarship winners, Mr. Raoul and Mr. Arlington. This will be framed and hung in the fieldhouse.

**Alderman Leslie A. Hairston (5th)** reported on park matters. She thanked all present for their hard work in and on behalf of the park. A tour of area parks taken with Mayor Lightfoot resulted in several immediate improvements, including at 63rd Beach setting up the volleyball nets and removing damaged play equipment.

The Mayor supports more programs and ways to serve our kids and youth. The Alderman hopes to have an announcement soon regarding the Iowa Building. She and Alderman Taylor (20th) are working with the Community Benefits Coalition to hone a good ordinance to introduce in City Council.

**Sgt. Zach Ramey of U of C Police** said things have been relatively calm in our area. They are pleased to work with JPAC especially on providing for youth events and in making sure small parks in Woodlawn stay safe.

A major presentation and Q and A on upgrades and planning for the Japanese Garden were led by Karen Szyjka and Michael Dimitroff. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ARE APPENDED TO THE MINUTES.

**Sculpture.** Mike Dimitroff, Chicago Park District Art in the Parks officer, presented an opportunity to have a sculpture in front of the fieldhouse for a year, to help with awareness and attractiveness of the facility. Five examples were shown and preference sought. [ED: The preferred choice was no longer available; an e-poll of regularly attending PAC members selected a bright, multi-colored abstraction representing the surrounding communities tied and coming together in Jackson Park. An installation program will be arranged.]

**Fieldhouse and Recreation.** Supervisor Bobbie Beckam said there are 163 enrolled in summer camp. Camp includes field trips for skating, volleyball, the beach, and more. The piano is highly popular, with kids catching on to the introductory lessons (Tuesdays 1-2) fast and in turn teaching younger kids.

**Little Libraries.** Erin Adams said there was a setback due to liability questions, since resolved through partnership with JPAC. The boxes will be up and reading programs organized.

Craig Bowen thanked JPAC and the park for facilitating Western Golf Association seminars for golfers to learn the new national golfing rules (the first changes in a long time). 107 golfers were certified.

**Community Conversations.** Judith McCue asked that we watch for the next in the conversations with leaders, or on topics of general interest for strengthening our neighborhoods. These are convened by Southside Neighbors 4 Peace and generally held in the Jackson Park Fieldhouse Saturday afternoons.

Louise said the 5K Dash and Food Truck Festival held on the Midway and the edge of Jackson was very
successful. About 28 entities including programs for health and mental health participated. It was organized by the Woodlawn Diversity organization with participation of MPAC. Also highly successful was the rescheduled Flashlight Tour. Thank you to Hyde Park Historical Society, Friends of the Parks, volunteers and our three guides.

Environmental issues were reviewed, especially for the shoreline. Big gaps are reported in revetment near 59th bridge; the 59th underpass has at times had water even over the wooden raised walkway; there is significant loss of beaches (with drop-offs appearing on the 57th); parts of the Lakefront Trail are at times flooded; the old Coast Guard Station has flooding issues, and water at times overtops LaRabida shore walk. Darrow Bridge deck has become a forest. Suggestion was made to again bring up the possibility of a temporary walking bridge until the reconstruction can begin.

The Jackson Park Junior Green Team has held its first projects in cooperation with Eagle Scouts. JPAC will be recruiting more youth from schools for this and possibly broader tasks. Groups continue to come to do workdays and take park tours. This Friday University of Chicago incoming students will work at LaRabida and Northwestern incoming students will take a park tour. JPAC volunteers will help set up for, and hand out refreshments at course midpoint during the Play for the Parks park fundraising tournament Thursday by Chicago Parks foundation.

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting August 12, Monday, 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse. Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary

Appended to the minutes: JAPANESE GARDEN PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION.
Karen Syzjka, Chicago Park District operations support manager including for the Japanese Garden, and Michael Dimitroff, CPD Director of Art in the Parks Initiatives, discussed ongoing study and planning for proper rehabilitation and planning for the Garden. (Syzjka has extensively studied the garden’s history and the character and social and healing dimensions of Japanese gardens. The object for the Garden is move from a piecemeal approach (as has been the case for over 30 years) to a showcase with a support system for the “second 126 years” since the Japanese government’s permanent gift for the Columbian Exposition. In 2013, when the 120 cherry trees were planted to the north to commemorate 120 years of the Fair and the site, hope was to develop a 10-year plan for the Garden, and that is just now starting. Sought is sustainable funding, upkeep (with a full-time caregiver), and programming that activates the social and healing possibilities.

First, our garden was selected by a professional team based in Japan, out of several gardens considered for funding and full realization. Two grants totaling up to $60,000 from Osaka and others funded two planning charette visits by experts from Japan and the U.S, including the 1980s Japanese Garden designer Sadafumi “Sado” Uchiyama (now at the garden in Portland OR) and the Garden Society of Japan master gardener Kazuo Mitsuhashi. Also funded was significant enhancement and safety upgrades for the garden’s waterfall. (The full waterfall work was possible because the contract manager of the garden, Clauss Brothers, provided the expert labor.) The waterfall was made to structurally blend and be in balance with the rest of the garden and its proper views (from the side as one climbs up alongside and then from above – highlighting the elements of nature: rock, water and sky. 50 boulders for the waterfall were specially selected and brought by tradesmen from Wisconsin and each selected by the Japanese experts for where it “should” be. The skill of Sado in sketching the rocks and imagining them in place with proper tilts was amazing (drawings were shared). (The waterfall is on a timer and there are two aerators below. Experts are addressing and evaluating algae.)

Approved for next steps: rethinking outside approaches to the special gate and making even the stone of the path prepare one to enter a reflective, spiritual space. Future planning will be for plantings, modifications to the moon bridge, the tea house, and perhaps an overlook/boardwalk. When plans are prepared and funding is available, plans will be shared with the PAC and in some manner the larger community.

We were asked to think about security and the things that should not be going on in the garden at night... In
1933 and after, the garden, and even the island were fenced and locked at night. Should they be? How can it be done without hazards or limit to appropriate access? Also how ensure users (school groups, weddings, photo sessions, bike riders) to appreciate and act as in a special, delicate space, and to think about what kinds of therapeutic or educational programming we would like to have.
JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES OF AUGUST 12, 2019

Louise McCurry convened the meeting in the fieldhouse, with a quorum of members and a total of 35 in attendance, several persons being new—introductions were held later. The agenda was distributed.

Treasurer’s report. Dwight Powell. Balance at the end of July was $4,631.41. This represents an increase of over $1,000 thanks to memberships and appeals to our friends by Powell. Gary Ossewaarde noted that we need this and more to keep over our minimum balance to avoid bank fees and cover costs for summer camp, high this time of the year while this is usually a slow time for dues. Feeding the kids and counselors, and our junior green team and caddies, at the end of summer camp lets them know the PAC and community care. We also tell them a little about the park and encourage them to care for and use their park. We currently have 18 financially contributing members (individuals and institutions) compared to 15 all last year. We are grateful. Minutes of the July meeting were moved by Mary Anton, seconded by Anne Marie Miles and approved.

McCurry reported for the various committees, projects, areas, and concerns in the park, inviting others involved to add more information at various points.

Flooding from high Lake level and waves and from excessive rains affected many areas of the park, from the shores and beaches through open fields, reaches of the lagoons, and trails and paths. Among major public areas affected are beaches, Lakefront trails and 59th underpass, Bobolink Meadow, docks and access for boats into and out of the harbors, LaRabida peninsula areas, and parts of the Japanese Garden. Affected also are buildings including the Old Coast Guard Station and the golf clubhouse. Our Treekeeper team has reported that a number of trees have been undermined by high groundwater and come down. These effects have been and will continue to be pinpointed for the Park District, with appeal to take an accelerated look at short term and long-term solutions including restoration or creation of breakwaters. Suggested: we can all be eyes and ears and can clear trash blocking drains.

Our summer junior green team has done various projects in the park. They are recruited from Carnegie and UC Lab schools and colleges.

67th Street corridor including playlots. Police actions and patrols have curbed gang and illegal activity. Erin Adams reported that permission has been received from the park district to install the two Little Library boxes at the two playgrounds. (The boxes are becoming popular in other south side parks also). We have books, including some to give to families. She will call for help in installation and in starting reading hours for the little kids (likely Thursday evenings), especially since the South Shore branch library is closed for renovations.

Japanese Garden. An overall sustainability plan and potential new projects are under consideration by a team of experts from Japan and the U.S. and the park district. Margaret Schmid (who helps prune the Garden) expanded on changes and repairs made at the waterfall and her concerns about commitment to and robustness of a community review process. (Ed. A generalization that there will some manner of community process was given by the park district presenters at their July presentation—see minutes. In the August Newsletter.) McCurry said the process has not been decided but plans will certainly be openly reviewed. Jake Young pointed out that design is dictated by Japanese Garden standards applied by those giving the grants, and overseen by people at the park district who are not only knowledgeable but really care and think deeply about this and Japanese and other gardens. He said we are really lucky we were chosen for these grants.

Golf matters. Louise reported that some kids came recently to the fieldhouse wanting to play golf, but there was no guidance to give because there are no free spare clubs and balls for kids. JPAC has contacted various partners to ask their members if they could donate some older or spare clubs and balls to have at the golf clubhouse, or to give to serious junior golfers. Meanwhile, our caddies will be going to Medinah to observe part of the BMW tournament and it is hoped meet with Tiger Woods and other players. Tiger is reported as strongly
supporting resources for golf scholarships. Louise showed the framed General Assembly letters for our Evan Scholarship winners. These are displayed in the fieldhouse.

Fieldhouse and park. Park Supervisor Bobbie Beckam reported 163 in summer camp, concerts for the kids including by Apostolic Church of God Youth Orchestra, readiness for fall sports competitions, and that the park ranks no. 8 in the state as a picnic destination. He thanked the council for feeding the kids and counselors and caddies at the end of summer camp.

Louise noted our colorful new temporary sculpture along the fieldhouse entrance, Red Green Construction, by Ray Katz of Pontiac, Michigan. It as selected by a poll of members. It seems to express the surrounding neighborhoods coming together around the park. And indeed, more people seem to be coming into the fieldhouse—over 50 bringing in pets to be vaccinated. We also have two rain barrels by the fieldhouse to collect water for the flowers. In addition, there were 5 park tours this month. Kid’s piano lessons are done (we would like more), but anyone can try out this upright with marked keys.

Chess tables are in at the Iowa Building; we are working for more improvements. MSI had another outdoor movie, and another Summer Dance will be held behind the Museum August 14.

Volunteers are needed for the 63rd Beach Nature Area Saturday August 17 [and Sept. 21] 10 am. Several large groups are coming in September; help and supervision will be needed September 13 (U of C students coming for 57th beach), 22 (Au Pairs international group), 21 (for LaRabida area) and 28 (63rd beach). Contact Louise [and see attached calendar for other opportunities and workdays].

Concerns - 63rd St Beach area and beyond. Kenny Newman noted shoreline damage and erosion. He also said Reggie’s bar and café is said to be finally opening about Labor Day; we should monitor it. Traffic and signage problems continue at 63rd beach parking lot. Lt. Hill, 3rd District Police said officers pay it attention and close the lot when it gets full. They close the area before 9 p.m.

Erin Adams said the park district is too slow to clear out the left and broken glass on the beach.

Lanita Ross said more garbage cans are needed at beaches and along the lakefront.- the cans disappear. Several asked for another bench or two for drummers at 63rd.

A question was asked about the meaning of the stated lease length for the Obama Center. There was not time to address this other than if it’s built it will stay indefinitely as museums do.

Announcements included South Shore Monarch Butterfly Festival August 17, South Shore Festival at SS Cultural Center August 18, South Shore Youth Symphony at the Center August 23, and 5th Ward Back to School Picnic August 24 at 63rd St. Beach house.

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting September 9, Monday, 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary
Louise McCurry convened the meeting in the fieldhouse, with a quorum of members and a total of 16 in attendance, several persons new or returning—introductions were held later. The agenda was distributed.

Treasurer’s report, Dwight Powell. July opening balance was $3,582.65 and end balance $4,631.41. August balance was not yet available but likely ending at about $4,000. July’s reflects several substantial gifts and some memberships totaling $1,215, deposited, with some more in September to be deposited. Dwight was congratulated for his active solicitation for funds for kids and youth programs. In July we spent $52.04 by check and $114.20 by card for day camp events, and substantial additional for that in August. Dwight noted that we want to end the year with our balance in sound shape, so we should set in October the limits for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and end of year holidays. We submitted a detailed financial and activities report to our fiscal agent, Chicago Parks Foundation.

Minutes of the August meeting were moved and approved.

Reports. President McCurry noted that we serve as a model for other PACs both in administration and also in activities including support of kids and youth programs.

A highlight was the Chicago Bears Huddle 100 program September 7, which brought many people into Jackson Park for the first time, as well as families who regularly use the park’s programs and sports. As usual with activities, folks learned some about the park, viewed sites proposed for changes, and performed work activities including mulching over 50 trees (and learning how to do it right) and picking up trash along 5 blocks. Ex-Bear Wendell Davis handed out autographed photos, worked alongside the others and had his picture taken with each kid by Marc Monaghan and others. Thanks, Bears for the treats and sweatshirts.

Golf. Tracy Raoul, recently elected president of the Jackson Park Golf Association, recited their history and activities, including scholarships and the First Tee junior golf program, JPGA is a predominantly African-American association formed in 1993 in order to increase use of the golf courses. (They tee off weekly in the morning.) She asked for volunteers for the 2nd Annual Golf Invitational September 28 in Jackson Park. Details: traoul@ameritech.net. Louise noted that Ida B. Wells founded a league here at the first course after c. 1895. Louise reported we will have volunteers at the Adaptive Golf Tournament in Jackson Park September 23 and on her visit to the BMW Golf Tournament at Medinah Golf Course. This generated much summer employment and many outreach kiosks for companies employing in the industry. Dwight said that he hoped golf and other sports could be used to bring resources to our residents and communities and that change can be managed.

Conference on Erosion and loss of our beaches and shores. Louise attended this conference of officials chaired by the Army Corps to brainstorm what should be done about high water impacts and wave damage. She shared pictures of damage and high waves at specific locations with the Conference and tonight’s meeting. Members noted that on the South Side only limited work has been done in recent decades south of 53rd, none at some areas north of there, and never planned for south of 57th despite disappearance of breakwaters. Members said we need to fight for equity, balancing preservation and necessity, and also press on other lakeshore deterioration and safety hazards, including at the south end of 57th beach. More conferences are coming, as well as announcements by the park district and city on immediate steps, studies, and applications for major work.

PD Program, fieldhouse, and sports. Instructor Pierre Nealon described summer and fall programs and success of our teams. 63 are in the football program. 8 scholarships were provided needy applicants. There are not enough slots for the current turf field, but Mt. Carmel is completing its own facilities. Pierre praised the work of those who serve as role models and mentors, including coaches, counselors, police officers. He noted that the park often needs cleanup and repairs after major events, most recently the Hunger March (20,000!).
Little Libraries program. Erin Adams reported that book giveaways and readings to kids have started, book kiosk installation is imminent and that dedication festivals will be scheduled at the 67th playgrounds [September 28, 11-3], all welcome.

Wooded Island. Louise said the next workday with UC students September 28 [time changed to 12:30] will re-chip the trail. JPAC has given several tours of Island and Garden and tour buses come regularly.
Nancy Joseph led two Columbia Basin planting and cleanup days, August 24 and September 14. Louise was amazed at the amount of junk removed from land and water. The group uncovered beautiful, hidden iris beds.

Louise reported on workdays and events held in the park August 17 (63rd natural), 18, 23 (Adaptive golf), 24 (Columbia, Wooded, 67th playlots), 27 (DePaul at Bobolink), September 7 (Bears Huddle 100).

August 22- lakeshore damage inspection by SmithGroup.
26 – 15 Southeast Side PAC leaders met and will meet regularly to address common issues.
28th- JPAC attended a conference on global warming that focused on green energy efficiency in parks.
29th- CDOT was given a tour of our deteriorated bike/walking paths. Also, session was held for Year of Music in Chicago including planning for more piano lessons in the park.
30th- a tour of park erosion was given.

September 5- JPAC attended a city hall environmental stakeholders meeting.

Coming- volunteers recruited, contact Louise. September 13 [changed to 16] U of C at LaRabida, 14 (Bobolink), 16 (UC workday), wk of 16th (Mt Carmel tours), 21 (Shedd-org'd 63rd Nat, planting native flowering plants an clearing ADA paths at LaRabida), 21 (Roosevelt/AuPairs work at Iowa B and inag. chess tables), 22 (8:30 67th playlots-frats), 22 (1:15 UC LaRabida pen end-wall), 28 (UC students at 63rd nat and beach and 12:30 at Wooded I), 28 (JPGA golf invitational vols. at 10), October 8 (Green Team with a magnet school), 12 (Bobolink), 19 (63rd Nat Area), 28 (poss. Wooded I).

Announcements. Our volunteers were invited to attend the Park District Volunteers Award Party, 1-3 at Columbus Park. Sign up with Maria Stone (maria.stone@chicagoparkdistrict.com).

Andy Carter announced a Social and Environmental Justice Fair September 29, Sunday, 12-3 at First Unitarian Church. Andy and Jerry Levy will have a JPAC table.

Because of Columbus holiday, the October 14 meeting will be at the Jackson Park Golf Clubhouse, 6400 S. Richards Drive (south of Hayes Dr. and the Golden Lady). There were no objections.
7 p.m., come at 6:30 for a short tour. This meeting will set place/date for November meeting (Veterans Day) and for nominations and the December election.

Meeting Adjourned. Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary
A tour of the golf clubhouse vicinity was given at 6:30. Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m. in the golf clubhouse (due to holiday), with a quorum of members and a total of 23 in attendance, several persons new or returning. Introductions included several clergy, sports coaches, 1 Woodlawn, U of C, foundations and advocacy groups, nature stewards, and JPAC and sister PAC leaders and members. The agenda was distributed and the September minutes approved as distributed.

Treasurer’s report. Dwight Powell. September beginning balance was $4,080.24, end balance $4,155.24. One gift of $75.00 was deposited. Contributions were good this year. Moved by Al Debonett and approved to purchase up to $100 worth of treats for this year’s kid’s Holiday Party.

President’s report. Little Libraries at the 67th playgrounds, managed by Erin Adams, held a big launch party. The books, changed weekly, are attracting nearby residents and kids and inspiring families to start libraries in their homes. McCurry secured a new supply of books from the Hyde Park Used Book Sale. Next steps include events for the playgrounds and installation of a library box at the fieldhouse playground. The project, arranged with Brown Books and Paintbrushes, received a recognition award from Friends of the Parks.

Golf course. Leaders of Jackson Park Golf Association, Pat Harper and Tracy Raoul and Chicago Parks Golf Alliance, Brian Hogan, and McCurry summarized the history of the golf courses, program, and associations in Jackson Park since 1895 and of experience and observation at the large BMW Tournament at Medinah Golf Course this summer. They distributed summary of DuPage County report on the tournament’s impact—See https://assets.simpleviewinc.com/simpleview/image/upload/v1/clients/dupage/2019_BMW_CHAMPIONSHIP_ECONOMIC_IMPACT_REPORT_Low_Res_Online_Use_a8923f84-4698-4c90-8574-fbee63df503.pdf for the full report. Al Debonnett moved, seconded by Dwight Powell and approved that JPAC share this information with other PACs and community. Powell stressed the importance for youth of learning golf, swimming, sailing and other sports for development of life and interpersonal skills and ethics. Pat Harper reported on the positive impact of a renovated golf course and tournaments at Benton Harbor, a struggling city, and hoped improvement of the golf courses here can have an impact here and accelerate the recent upswing in their use.

Rev. Terrance Miller described plans for the October 19 Black Men’s Expo at Harris Park in Woodlawn. As with previous expos, a major purpose is to teach and grow mentorship. Visit www.blackmensexpo.org.

Nature, Environment, and Special Areas. Wooded Island. Jerry Levy reported that the GLFER habitat restoration and native plantings project, and intensive management by its contractor is now done. JPAC and the regular contractor will have to step up to maintain the Douglas Nature Sanctuary. New boxes with tree ID maps have been placed at the two ends of the Island. The maps help visitors find examples of 50 mostly tree species and see their characteristics. We have new tree tags. Last month, groups including green teams from Lab, Woodlawn Charter and other schools helped mulch the interior trails where one can get a close-up, out-of-the-city experience with nature. There will be one more workday October 26 wintering-in the young oaks in their cages with mulch. Reach Jerry at sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com.

Bobolink Meadow. McCurry said 7 environmental groups worked there, including raising the trail with more chips to make it easier to traverse given the wet year. Lots was also done at La Rabida shores.

63rd Natural Area. The last workday for the season, to include planting will be on October 19. Reggie’s On the Beach opened at the end of the season and is now closed until next year. No problems were observed so far. The playground equipment is again buried in sand.

Green Team. McCurry said it is her hope that we will include more schools next year in this JPAC teen stewardship program that combines park history with hands-on projects in the nature and other areas of the
park. She asked a motion, made by Charles Newsome, seconded and approved to **spend up to $200 for bright vests to be worn at Green Team projects.**

Discouraging, managing littering. Erin Adams asked for ideas. Suggestions included recruiting kids and youth including via school and other community service, recruiting millennials, members to visit hot spots wearing buttons, and signage at hot spots including playgrounds and beaches. Are cans emptied often enough?

**Iowa Building.** The work has been done to make it more attractive, ADA, and usable including the temporary mulch ADA paths and chess tables that include a spot for a wheelchair. Next is to plant some bulbs. McCurry asked for a motion for **up to $50 to buy bulbs—moved by Erin Adams, seconded and approved.** Grant proposals were submitted by the PD/Foundation for Iowa bldg. work that could cost up to $5 million including for the roof. McCurry will speak about the park October 18 to Montgomery Place Retirement Community residents and offer a tour (and with hopes some will become eyes and ears on that part of the park).

**PD Budget priority capital list** submitted by JPAC at September 17 hearing. Iowa Building. Historic Comfort Station near the bowling green- replace the blown off roof. Shoreline protection structures.

Need to reach out to and recruit younger volunteers and members as JPAC ages. McCurry introduced and led discussion of a new partnership with the U of C Harris School’s South Side Civic program. In an intensive 2-day program with our team of students at the “Scopethon”, Louise and Gary developed a preliminary strategy that includes an intern and collection of park user and interest data. Our team’s PowerPoint won “best presentation” and was deemed among the most viable. We hope that this initiative will be a model for PACs. Members supported efforts to make our activities more family friendly and said we should start with learning more about how people use, and to want to use the park—and kids could help with the survey. We will form a committee. McCurry showed a new supply of JPAC buttons—contact her if you want one to wear with pride.

Moved to adjourn—Pat Harper, Dwight Powell.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary
Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m. in Hyde Park Bank board room 1525 E. 53rd St. (because the fieldhouse was closed due to holiday). A quorum was present and a total of 15. Introductions were made and the agenda was distributed. October minutes were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer’s report. Dwight Powell gave the October beginning balance as $4,155.24 and end balance as $4,086.94. There was no income. Purchases for the day camp Halloween party totaled $68.30.

Reports: McCurry except as noted.

Bobolink Meadow. Work groups including college students mulched the trail so it is now above standing water. Lots of bees and butterflies were observed. New signage is coming.

La Rabida shores. 850 native plantings were made- thanks to Shedd Aquarium and its classes for organizing this and CPD for clearing invasives. UC students came back the next day to work with the end-circle wall. A Northwestern student group and United Airlines worked at and adopted Jackson, especially La Rabida area.

Erosion continues, including at 67th where there were street closures due to high waves, 57th beach, Coast Guard Station and in South Shore including at the two ends of its golf course. The Army Corps, SmithGroup, and state legislators are taking a close look at what should be done and how it can be funded- Rep. Tarver has formed a task force in which JPAC is a member—THE REP. SEEKS VOLUNTEERS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESEARCH/DOCUMENTATION SKILLS AND TIME. Contact and send pictures to Kyra Smalls, ksmalls@repcurtisjarverll.com. Also, heavy rains caused independent flooding such as at Stony Island/60th.

63rd beach. The natural dune grass has helped keep flooding at bay at 63rd beach. Under Shedd Aquarium, additional planting was done. Reggies on the Beach concession was a successful addition without ill effects.

Little Libraries at 67th playgrounds. Despite some posting of flyers at the kiosks, perhaps showing a lack of understanding that this is a service to children and families, the initiative has been an enormous success, with nearby residents using and taking ownership. More volunteers are needed to read to kids at key times. We have new supplies of books to give away, including from this fall’s HPKCC Hyde Park Used Book Sale. There remains some strife and other problems along 67th St. Park District Police, stationed nearby, keep a lookout.

Iowa building. Requests to CPkD and grant applications through the Chicago Parks Foundation have been submitted. United Air Lines has adopted the Iowa Building and sent work groups. Chess tables (with space for a wheelchair) are in use. McCurry made a presentation at Montgomery Place Retirement Community (across the street) to a large engaged group that would like to utilize and keep a watch over the Iowa building.

Protect Our Parks action at the proposed Obama Center site—there was disagreement over how to characterize the activity. Cleanup was needed.

JPAC members participated in several conferences, summits and training sessions for PACs and park and community programs and new initiatives. One was for the South Region, at Washington Park—lots of thoughtful advice. (Attendees included Mary Anton, Louise McCurry, Kenneth Newman, Gary Ossewaarde, and Armani Thomas.) Another program was the Black Men’s Expo, another the Obama Summit that stressed their vision of place and design based on ecological science for the site. An upcoming program to high school students polish their essays for college and jobs is planned. The Parks Foundation and Friends of the Parks held PAC recognition ceremonies- congratulations to the South Shore Nature Sanctuary stewards (including Jerry Levy) and volunteers. Congratulations was also expressed for Hyde Park Historical Society’s opening of an exhibit of photographs by former JPAC president Nancy Hays (http://www.nancyhays.org/Exhibition.)

One Earth Film Festival. Consensus was to host it again this spring. It costs, so we need donations.

Recruiting youth, families, and adults on the younger side, for park green work was discussed. JPAC has signed up with Harris Community Action of University of Chicago for a team and an intern for that, and data
collection about park usage and community needs and desires for the park. Members also asked that we talk with SCA Conversation Associates, a grant-based organization that pays or otherwise recruits youth for work on the South Side including in parks. Kenny Newman proposed assigning members to engage with schools for community service hours, also churches—some volunteered. How to keep people engaged in the park is an issue. Jamie Saxon said data is can be generated on park usage, but it needs sophisticated analysis—what does it mean that the parking lots are the most used parts of the park? Said also is that we need to really ask the younger people and families what they activities want in various parts of the park that would keep them coming, of which stewardship could sometimes be part of or the focus of the outing.

Fieldhouse and facilities- no report. McCurry said we helped make a fine camp Halloween Party. Volunteers are needed for the Turkey Trot on November 22 at 4:30. JPAC is providing turkeys and donuts per previous appropriation and donations. The roof was replaced on the historic women’s comfort station at 58th-LSD.

Columbian Exposition/White City tours. Ray Johnson reported on a successful run Saturdays at 11 May-October. He, Trish Morse, and Louise lead them from the lot east of Darrow Bridge.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS FOR ELECTION IN DECEMBER. Jerry Levy took the chair. He asked for nominations for each office in turn, noting bylaws rules that include having attended two meetings prior in the past year and signing a Park Distict Application to join. Nominated by persons qualified by being in good standing were: for president Louise McCurry, for vice president Anne Marie Miles, for secretary Gary Ossewaarde, and for treasurer Dwight Powell. All agreed, or had pre-consented to serve and were qualified and in good standing in accord with the bylaws. Other nominations can be sent to the Secretary or made from the floor at the December 9, 7 p.m. meeting in the fieldhouse.

Moved to adjourn 8:15 p.m. Next meeting December 9.

Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary
Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse; a quorum was present. Attendance included 21 qualified to vote and a total of 33. Thanks to Spencer Bibbs for handling check-in. The agenda was distributed and introductions were made.

Treasurer’s report. Dwight Powell. The November beginning balance was $4,086.94, end balance $3,936.44. $150.50 went for the Turkey Trot. Dunkin’ Donuts 8753 Stony Island donated donuts for the Turkey Trot. Thanks, Manager Karen. Large membership gifts were received in November and December to be deposited.

November minutes were accepted as distributed. Brenda Nelms asked correction of the story (in the non-minutes section of the Newsletter) regarding the roof on the 58th comfort station—the roof is still the temporary one and again had holes from the wind.

Reports- Louise McCurry except as noted.

PAC Conference. March 21 2020. Louise reported on the planning committee for the annual Park District PAC Conference, this year March 21 at Malcolm X College. This conference will include repeats of the most popular sessions such as PAC 101, Fundraising, Publicity/Outreach, and Governance/How to Run a Meeting (to include a practice meeting), with the panels drilling a bit deeper. And there will be new sessions, for example on how to get action on Lakeshore Erosion. PACs are asked to submit ideas, Louise is asking for more. Suggested: Effective Committees and Delegating Authority.

Activities and facilities. Jackson Park and other Wolfpack youth football teams won local and regional competition and are competing in the nationals in Florida. Our gymnastics preschool class held a beautiful competition. Kids dance class is off and running with instructor Catherine Johnson—JPAC is helping identify and get facility upgrades needed for these two initiatives such as a separated bathroom and stand up mirrors. We had a fine turkey trot- winners in each age class got big turkeys from JPAC to take home. The sculptor will arrive soon to turn a dead ash stump at 59th and Stony into “The Green Lady.” Parents and JPAC sought these initiatives. Louise attended a discussion on energy and utility conservation in parks.

South Lakefront Plan, Shoreline Erosion and related updates. Paul Wiese, principal at SmithGroup engineering and design firm reported and answered questions. He displayed the plaque for his Urban Design Honor award from the American Institute of Architects Chicago for the South Lakefront Plan. He hopes the plan will be a 20-year guide for sustainability and distinctiveness for these parks. Wiese noted the historical role of water in and since the original park plans. When we have issues with high lake levels and erosion it affects huge parts of the interior water tables and the lagoons and features well out in the Lake, not just the edge. The recent revised plan stresses improved management of water throughout the park, including for the benefit of wildlife. Another focus, Wiese said, of the planning was benefits to communities- what do they gain, how are their needs and desires integrated into the park? How are communities made the winner? Community input was so helpful, he said. He expressed his thanks for that and to JPAC for setting forth what needs to be done. The Lakefront erosion study. Wiese described initial work under its multi-year contract to study and develop a plan, short and long run, to manage the high lake and other levels resulting erosion including on the South Side. Part of the research was with drones—including operated by Women in Drones. Work has continued and (in response to a question) the timeline for a Plan to be ready is mid-2020. He also described the steps in determining the needs and their solutions, various options, and the cost-benefit and impacts on communities of each option. Noted was that the Army Corps was impressed with the story of the successful phased implementation of the GLFER study and project in Jackson Park. Part of the task is working with officials to identify funding, which is far from assured. Mostly emergency work is being done now. He will be glad to bring updates to a future meeting.

Louise McCurry continued the subject by reporting on a public meeting with the responsible agencies and officeholders convened by Congressman Bobby Rush December 2. $200,000 for study was identified there.
and the sections most in need of work, temporary or long-term structural. Already concrete Jersey barriers were installed in the area of 47th-51st, by 57th and 59th along the Drive and near 67th/Marquette. State money might be available for additional “local” short-term projects. Also reported by Louise is approval for start on breakwater(s) by the Jackson Park harbors.

Questions and comments included the need to do Promontory Point (caution was made that some sectors are historically and aesthetically sensitive and need to be right), and the threat of the waters to parts of the golf course and the bike trail. Requested was establishment of lakeshore erosion committee.

Golf. Tracy Raoul described a twelve-month plan of the Jackson Park Golf Association (www.gpgachicago.com) to expand activities and opportunities for golfers of all ages in Jackson Park. She introduced the new caddie manager, Anyah Akanni, the first female manager in the country and an Evan Scholarship winner. She described life-lesson and connections benefits for teens from caddying. Dwight Powell related how JPAC members recruited caddies in the area high schools. Coach Craig Bowen, with Chicago Parks Golf Association, noted a new $1.2M donation to hire and train youth within a 3-mile radius of the park for jobs in golf and other trades.

Louise shared her experience evaluating and helping high school students with their college applications. Katie Miles and Jen Dixon of the Urban Alliance explained further, including that the program ties in with the Obama Job Corps and Kenwood Academy and Little Black Pearl Arts and Design.

Fieldhouse and Recreation. Instructor Pierre Nealon urged JPAC members to participate in the Holiday Party December 20 mid-afternoon (details to come). There will be a winter break camp, and wrestling continues as competition starts early in the year. He asked for more baby chairs and tables and moveable mirrors so the preschool and tumbling programs can be expanded. Among many other programs, pickleball continues to be popular with 15-35 twice a week.

Election. Jerry Levy presided over the election. He reviewed nominations from the November meeting, one for each office, and as all of them had agreed to serve and there were no nominations since, he proposed that we call for additional nominations for each office separately and if there are none elect the nominee by acclamation, allowable under Roberts Rules. For Treasurer the only nominee, Dwight Powell was elected by acclamation. The same for Secretary, Gary Ossewaarde, and Vice President, Anne Marie Miles. For President Robin Kaufman objected to the nominee, Louise McCurry—that was ruled out of order. The objector then asked to nominate herself in order to make a statement. She was allowed to make the statement, but the nomination was ruled not to the purpose of election and the body went on to elect Louise McCurry.

Robin’s statement was that Louise removed ribbons tied to trees as part of a protest of the Obama Center sitting in the park. Erin Adams replied that the protesters did not have permission to tie ribbons or post flyers in the park and that these were cleaned up by several.

Little Libraries. Adams reported that we have more books and they will soon be installed at the playgrounds. Other announcements included toy drives at parks and a TreeKeepers project the next Saturday 9-12 remulching trees at Garfield and Michigan.

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting January 13, 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary