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 (see www.bobolinkvolunteers.org): 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 work 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), Sadafumi 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 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 threaten 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 cleanups 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