**JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 36th YEAR!**

**J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2019 Vol. 26 No. 8**

**NATURE HISTORY RECREATION  JACSON PARK- BE THERE!**

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**BOARD**
- elected 12/10/18
- Louise McCurry, President
- Anne Marie Miles, VP
- Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary and Newsletter editor
- Dwight Powell, Treasurer

**JPAC meets monthly 2nd Mondays, 8/12, 9/9, Oct & Nov tba**

**DUES/ VOLUNTARY CONTR.**
- $35 per person. Opportunity levels are available
- TO JPAC c/o Dwight Powell, 7206 S. Luella, Chicago, IL 60649. Or in the website.

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- Dwight Powell (Treas.) 7206 S. Luella, 60649 773 288-4943. dwightpowell16@yahoo.com
- Stewards: Jerry Levy (Wooded L sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com
- Norm Bell/Gail Parry (Bobolink) normwbell@gmail.com
- Nancy Joseph (Columb-MusCt)
- Ed Warden (63rd be nat area) ewarden@sheddaquarium.org

**Chicago Park District**
- [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com)

**Fieldhouse/Supervisor:**
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- Region Mgr. Maya Solis 312 747-74761, Area Mgr.
- Farah.Tunks@chicagoparkdistrict.com 773 324-0450
- Security 312 747-2193
- Lt. Cdr 312-448-3793

**MTG- AUGUST 12, 2019 MONDAY 7PM**

**JP FIELDHOUSE, 6401 S. STONY ISLAND AVE.**

**CONTENTS p1 About JPAC, links; pp2-3 MINUTES and Japanese G; p4 - NANCY HAYS PROJECT, A survey, Busy months; pp5-6:**

**CALENDAR**
- (incl. Federal Review mtg Aug. 5) (Cal updated online at [http://hydepark.org/parks/jpac/2019 Spring Calendar.pdf](http://hydepark.org/parks/jpac/2019 Spring Calendar.pdf))
- // JOIN JPAC. Mail checks made out to JPAC to JPAC C/O Dwight Powell, 7206 S. Luella 60649. (Memb. can be printed from online and mailed with check.) (Fiscal agent Chicago Parks Foundation, a 501c3).


**FACEBOOK, [https://facebook.com/JacksonParkAdvisoryCouncil](https://facebook.com/JacksonParkAdvisoryCouncil)! We do Twitter**

**BACKPAGES ARCHIVE [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac).**

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- [http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/jpnewsbuls.htm](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/jpnewsbuls.htm)
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**BOBOLINK website [http://www.bobolinkvolunteers.org](http://www.bobolinkvolunteers.org)**


**Obama Ctr. and related – our continually updated mid 2018 page**
- [http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/Obama Ctr_ Reviews_Updates.pdf](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/Obama Ctr_ Reviews_Updates.pdf)
- [GOLF [http://chicagoparksgolfalliance.org](http://chicagoparksgolfalliance.org) [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/golf.htm](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/golf.htm]
- [OPC [https://obama.com](https://obama.com)
- Project 120 [www.Project120Chicago.org](http://www.Project120Chicago.org)
- [www.gardenofthephoenix.org](http://www.gardenofthephoenix.org)
- Friends of the White City (free tours): [http://www.friendsofthewhitecity.org](http://www.friendsofthewhitecity.org)
- [www.JacksonParkWatch.org](http://www.JacksonParkWatch.org)
- [www.fotp.org](http://www.fotp.org)
- [www.chicagoparksfoundation.org](http://www.chicagoparksfoundation.org)
- [www.sosideneighbors4hope.org](http://www.sosideneighbors4hope.org)

**ELECTR. DELIV. OF NL, ADDR UPDATE-** garyossewaarde@yahoo.com

**The purpose of the JPAC is to provide a forum for … users of Jackson Park; to advise and make recommendations to the Chicago Park District on park improvements and programs (and create/ ensure programs); to encourage long-range planning; promote community utilization and awareness of park and program and participation in planning and seek alternative funding sources.**
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’s were given 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.
Nancy Hays Project launched by Hyde Park Historical Society

JPAC calls to its members and friends attention Hyde Park Historical Society’s recently announced Nancy Hays Project. Nancy Campbell Hay’s legacy and accomplishments include co-founding Friends of the Parks and serving on its board. She was also a founder of JPAC and served as its president for many years and up to her death in 2007. She photo-documented Jackson and other parks and fought for nature, trees, park and historic preservation and against park and neighborhood neglect and pollution and for fair and quality facilities and recreation for all. She documented and participated in resistance to and replacement of the Nike Missile bases, fought efforts to build expressways through Jackson Park, and oversaw the revitalization of the 57th and 63rd Street Beach Houses, Bike Paths, and the Beach underpasses. She worked with others for public safety including through bringing people back into parks such as with the HPKCC Wooded Island Festivals and Doug Anderson’s bird tours. She worked for naming Wooded Island the Paul H. Douglas Nature Sanctuary and the 63rd beach house for its former advocate Eric Hatchett. After her passing, the north bridge to Wooded Island was renamed the Nancy Campbell Hays Memorial Bridge. In the larger world she was an extraordinary, award-winning photographer who documented change and peoples (especially children) around the world, and in Hyde Park for the Hyde Park Herald (and free lance) from the 1960s on.

Nancy left her enormous collection of negatives to the Hyde Park Historical Society. The collection is housed in Regenstein Library Special Collections at the University of Chicago. The Society has launched fundraising for an initial exhibit this fall to kick start and give publicity for what will be a long and costly project to develop, process, and digitize the entire collection, mount a museum quality major exhibit, and publish a biography. To learn about Nancy and the Project: https://www.nancyhays.org. (Donate: …/support-project.) To learn about the wide ranging, high quality work of the Society, visit www.hydeparkhistory.org or follow them on Facebook. The Society’s museum and headquarters is at 5529 S. Lake Park Avenue (the cable car building).

JPAC was pleased to participate with the Historical Society others in, and provide volunteers for a Flashlight Tour of Jackson Park June 29. Thank you to the docents and the volunteers, including our own Ray Johnson. The park, especially Wooded Island is awesome at night. We may do it a third time next year.

Would you like/use a year-round golf simulator at the JP Golf Clubhouse?

Tracy Raoul, Chair, Jackson Park Golf Association, is taking an online survey regarding desire for a simulator like that at the Marovitz (Waveland) golf course. Get the survey from traoul@ameritech.net. JPAC will take results and concepts or proposals under advisement. Tell us ideas for improve or other facilities other in the park as JPAC prepares to submit our budget items for next year and long term.

It’s been a busy two months! Play for the Parks. JPAC volunteers Al Debonnett, Alexander Jones, Louise McCurry, Gary Ossewaarde, Dwight Powell, Esther Schechter, Zelia Stevens helped set up the 6th annual Chicago Parks Foundation Play for the Parks fundraiser tournament July 11, and handed out refreshments and flyers at the 14th hole in Jackson Park. The Chicago Parks Golf Alliance and the Jackson Park Golf Alliance recruited their best players for this fun event. Our teen and pre teen golfers were had their own special youth golf contest. Women and men had special awards for the longest drive. At least one person was introduced to playing the game. Louise McCurry.

Follow up with problems in the Japanese Garden. Algae has been largely reduced by restoration of the aerators and the waterfall. The placement of new stone has made it possible to navigate flooded paths.

Some parts of the park are under water – a combination of rising lake level, overtopping by wind driven waves and currents, steady encroachment, and heavy rains have caused flooded shores and ponding in low spots or caused serious loss and erosion. Be cautious on bike trails. Heavily impacted are Bobolink Meadow, shores of all the lagoons, areas west of the Drive south of Hayes, edges of the harbors, La Rabida shores, and 57th and 63rd beaches. We need brainstorming on solutions, from mechanical to best plants and grasses, and addressing climate change.
Members and partners in action. Our monthly workdays continue, and special groups worked cleaning, chipping trails, clearing invasives and more June 7, 15, 22, 24 (2 groups), 25, July 12, 20, 27, in the park. Thank you, UC Alumni and student groups and Summer Program youth, Lab School, Eagle Scouts, and volleyball teams, Provident Bank.

The new Jackson Park Junior Green Team has started projects. We will be recruiting from the high schools for youth to join this and other teams to take responsibility and tell us new ideas and projects for the park. A new park youth camp project was launched by Changing Worlds. It will lead to a multi-media life stories-share performance in August at the Iowa Building.

Outreach and action. JPAC participated in a focus conclave on future play areas for the Obama Center; participated in youth training and celebration for the MapQuest program (mapping social, health, cultural assets); carried our banner and ran a game in the 4th on 53rd Parade and Picnic; inspected and reported many areas of damage in the park from high waters and waves and other deterioration (where possible repairs were made- some matters require big planning and expense); participated in a small meeting convened by aldermen on a Community Benefits Agreement; conducted weekly park tours and specials for college students.

Events. Make Music Chicago- June 21 5 fabulous groups performed. Thaddeus Tukes is giving introduction to piano to our kids on 6 Tuesdays through July 30- amazing to see the older kids catch on and teach the younger ones. Apostolic Church Youth Symphony performed for summer camp. 5K Dash and food truck and health festival. Southside Neighbors 4 Hope Talk June 29 by Ghian Foreman of Emerald South Collaborative. Flashlight tour. Chosen Few giant picnic. Lakeside Lawn Bowling hosted a Bank of America outing. 5th Ward Seniors Day at the Harbor with headliners. Our big picnic meeting July 8. Play for the Parks. Summer Dance (next 8-14), movies (next 8-10).

PAC/Jackson Park Summer 2019 Calendar rev. of 8-6-2019

(Find rolling updates at http://hydepark.org/parks/jpac/2019 Spring Calendar.pdf )


JPAC MONTHLY MEETING- 2ND MONDAYS 7PM AT FIELDHOUSE, 6401 S. STONY ISLAND. Next August 12 at the fieldhouse at 7. (Events are subject to change.)


Except as otherwise noted, contact Louise McCurry with questions and to volunteer for special events and workdays. Louise McCurry, commisioner751@icloud.com, 773 844-2225.

JACKSON PARK 1893 WORLD’S FAIR TOURS. SATURDAYS, 11 AM APRIL-OCTOBER. Meet at east side of Darrow Bridge (pkg lot s of MSI). Itineraries vary. Q or confirmation- Louise McCurry. Also, COME SEE THE BIRDS AND WILDFLOWERS!
SATURDAY BIRD WALKS offered by Chicago Audubon members including Pat Durkin. Starts at 8:00 a.m. and covers a distance of two miles. Birders walk counterclockwise around the Columbia Basin (North Lagoon) south and cross bridge onto Wooded Island. Exiting Wooded Island at the south end, the birders walk along the soccer field trail and enter the south end of Bobolink Meadow. The Meadow’s path leads to the Music Bridge and back to the East Parking Lot. In late fall, winter and early spring, the birders check for birds on the lakefront and Outer Harbor near LaRabida Hospital, and the Inner Harbor. Metered parking is available in the East Parking Lot that is accessible from South Lake Shore Drive. There is a Stop Light at Science Drive. This Stop Light is approximately 200 yards south of the major intersection with signs for Museum of Science and Industry. Make a turn at the 57th Street and Science Drive Stop Light towards the Museum. Turn Left (south) at the intersection of Science Drive and Columbia Drive. Go through the parking lot to the west end. Birders meet in the southwest corner of the East Parking Lot.

Our Piano (with marked keys) is available to play 9-6, outside or in the fieldhouse lobby (not Suns)

August 5, Monday, 6-8 pm. Jackson Park Federal Review impacts (AOE) docs. open house- details above.

August 9, Friday, 12-2 pm. Installation and party for temporary sculpture at the fieldhouse, Ray Katz’ Red Green Construction.


August 10, Saturday, dusk. Movies in the Park- “Wonder Woman”. MSI lawn (inside if rain). Pre-activities.

August 12, Monday, 7 pm. Jackson Park Advisory Council. 6401 S. Stony Island.

August 14, Wednesday, 6 pm. Summer Dance- Music Court pkg lot se of MSI. Exit LSD at 5800 S.

August 17, Saturday, 10 am. 63rd St. Beach Natural Area Workday. ewarden@sheddakquarium.org.

August 24, Saturday, 10-12. Columbia Basin Workday (also Sept. 14) njoseph2008@aol.com.

August 24, Saturday, 10-1. Wooded Island Workday. sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com. Meet s. end of Island.

August 25, Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 pm. 5th Ward Back to School Picnic at 63rd St. Beach.

August 28, Wednesday, dusk. Movies in the Park. Local Film Showcase. MSI lawn (rain: inside). Pre-activities.

NIGHTS OUT IN THE PARK. Movies. MSI lawn, dusk/8:15- Aug 10 Wonder Woman SUMMER CAMP & session runs June 24-August 2. A variety of programs for kids, youth and adults from pickleball and ping pong to sports, weight & fitness to crafts. Low prices; scholarships are available. Info and reg. at PD website or fieldhouse. August 6—fall registration.

SOME OTHERS’ EVENTS

HBCU association will hold an open golf tournament August 17. Jackson Park- clubuse Hayes and Richards.

Events of Senior Games late summer.