



## JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 33rd YEAR!

# J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER December 2016 Vol. 23 No. 11

JPAC- PROTECTING NATURE, PRESERVING HISTORY, SUPPORTING RECREATION

**BOARD** elected 11/14/16  
Louise McCurry, President  
Anne Marie Miles, VP  
Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary  
and Newsletter editor  
Dwight Powell, Treasurer

Jake Young, Cherry Theard-  
at-large:membership, web/media  
Fran Vandervoort-NatureTrail,Ap

**JPAC meets monthly 2nd  
Mondays, 11/12/12, 1/09, 02/13**

**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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**MONDAY DECEMBER 12, 2016 7p.m.**  
**at the fieldhouse, 6401 S. Stony Island Ave.**

**AGENDA** (Full agenda will be presented at the meeting.)  
(Submit items in advance to president McCurry- see contacts at left)  
**Guests, Minutes, Financial, New and Old Bus. incl.**  
Regulatory signage/rules at Wooded Island, Security, tree replacement  
**Announcements. Adjourn**

**CONTENTS** p1 About/announcements; p2-3 Minutes; p3-5 Features

>>> **2017 MEMBERSHIP/GIFTS** - Mail checks made out to JPAC to  
JPAC C/O Dwight Powell, 7206 S. Luella 60649. (Memb. Is taken online but  
check must be mailed.) Basic level: \$35. (Fiscal agent Chicago Parks  
Foundation, a 501c3.) <<<

**DECEMBER 3 WORKDAY 10 am- WOODED I- mulch oak  
saplings south of the Japanese Garden. THEN 11 am NATURE  
PHOTO CLASS, CONTEST** meet at Nancy Hays (north) bridge

Dec. 7 3:30 CPD final BUDGET hearing. Dec. 14 3:30 board meeting  
**WEB,links, cal** <http://www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org>  
**FACEBOOK** (please "like" us). <https://facebook.com/JacksonParkAdvisoryCouncil/>  
**CurrentNewsletter:** <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters/Dec2016nl.htm>.  
Alt. home, index & Newsletters: <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac.html> and  
Indexes [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac), [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters)  
Keep current + news details: <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/jpnewsbul.htm>  
ACE Wooded I- news and links- [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ace2014.htm](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ace2014.htm)  
Obama Library- [www.barackobamafoundation.org](http://www.barackobamafoundation.org) incl. sign up for e-updates  
JPAC's Obama Library page [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPLibrary.htm](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPLibrary.htm)  
Project 120: [www.Project120Chicago.org](http://www.Project120Chicago.org), [www.gardenofthephoenix.org](http://www.gardenofthephoenix.org)  
SKYLANDING by Yoko Ono [www.skylanding.com](http://www.skylanding.com)  
BOBOLINK website: <http://bluestem.info/bobolink/>  
[www.JacksonParkWatch.org](http://www.JacksonParkWatch.org) . [www.fotp.org](http://www.fotp.org). [www.chicagoparksfoundation.org](http://www.chicagoparksfoundation.org)  
Friends of the White City: <http://www.friendsofthewhitecity.org>  
**ELECTRONIC DELIV OF NEWSLETTER-**[garyossewaarde@yahoo.com](mailto: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.*

## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2016 JPAC MEETING

President Louise McCurry called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. in the fieldhouse. A quorum of members was present with total attendance 23, 6 being new or guests, a diverse representation of neighborhoods, interests. Minutes of the October meeting were moved by Jerry Levy, 2nded by Dwight Powell and approved. Treasurer's report. The balance remained \$4,777.39. Three generous membership gift checks were given at the meeting. Funds for turkeys was previously appropriated for the Turkey Trot this Friday Volunteers were asked for tasks including shining flashlights for the runners. For the Halloween party, we had several volunteers and paid for food (thanks Dwight, Robin Carter of FritoLay) and carving pumpkins, Help is sought with Christmas/Holiday party (the day before break).

Angelina Sorrentino and Jennie Scheerer from the Chicago Parks Foundation described the Giving Tuesdays crowd funding campaign late November for teen programs and shared examples of teen programs-- at McGuane and Veteran's Memorial Parks [descriptions attached]. The Park District is also hiring middle school coaches in partnership with CPS. Noted by the Foundation team and by members is the need to structure and spotlight every program for teens, have extended hours, build upon and move beyond sports (McGuane has robotics, some have nature-based/biodiversity programs), and find or develop facilities. Suggested was using the coming Presidential Center as an impetus to start planning. President McCurry suggested exploring reuse of the currently un-programmed building north of the Jackson Park fieldhouse for teen programs.

Workdays. November 11 Bobolink volunteers gathered perennial seeds and pulled invasives. A controlled burn is expected sometime between now and spring. A volunteer group came to prep a raised bed children's garden by the tennis and pickleball courts by the fieldhouse. Groups also cleaned near La Rabida. More is needed by 67<sup>th</sup>.

Jerry Levy announced tentative plans for a workday November 19 from 10:30 a.m. mulching oak saplings and possibly creating a mulch path from the parking lot on Hayes Drive to the south entry bridge to Wooded Island. Levy reported that Army Corps work over the winter will be minimal. Among items he felt would enhance the Island and natural area experience are:

- A path with a sign pointing to the south entry and one or two similar signs north of the Island to help people find their way,

- Alternative parking such as the Museum west lot until the Darrow bridge is fixed and open,

- Opening the path around the south end of the lagoons from the Island to Bobolink as soon as plants are established,

- Benches at the lookouts, solutions to aesthetics of the trash cans there and erosion gulleys in the gravel,

- Planning re: security concerns.

Levy moved, Kenneth Newman seconded, and approved that JPAC prepare a letter to the Museum of Science and Industry asking weekend parking in its west lot for access to Wooded Island and the Japanese Garden.

Placed on discussion agenda: concern about after hours security on the Island and asking the Park District for its protocol, ideas or options that could include an arm-gate at each end like at the Golf Driving Range drive. **2**

Park program. Pierre Nealon said floor hockey is big and there is wrestling, tackle football for 8-12s, and teen hoops, an upcoming football event, and an Afterschool Mtters program. Turkey trot next Friday will feature relays of 800 yards to a mile for different age groups (volunteers needed to provide lighting). Seniors can inquire at the fieldhouse (773 256-0903) regarding cards and other activities.

Sylvia Brooks invited all to an appreciation for Maria Stone for playgrounds this Saturday at Norman's Bistro.

Election of officers for one year terms. Ballot forms were ready and the floor was opened for nomination. Esther Schechter and Jerry Levy nominated the present officers – President Louise McCurry, Vice President Anne Marie Miles, Secretary Gary Ossewaarde, and Treasurer Dwight Powell, all of whom were willing to serve. No other nominations were made and the above officers were elected. Per request, at the next meeting, having additional board members for specific tasks, as allowed by the bylaws, will be considered.

Moved to adjourn. Respectfully submitted, Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary.

### **In memoriam, Kathryn Ann (Kay) Clement**

Kay Clement was a great friend to parks and open lands, civil rights, and to Hyde Park, the South Side and Chicago, a leader in local and state politics, and a generous hostess. As a leader of the Daniel Burnham Committee, she fought against expanded and new highways through Jackson and nearby parks c. 1960, willing to chain herself to trees and be arrested. She helped found Friends of the Parks (on whose board she served for decades) and Jackson Park Advisory Council (a lifetime member), co-led the Promontory Point PAC, and worked for a good solution to the controversial Promontory Point revetment plans. She was honored by the city as one of 100 women contributors to our civic life. Her children include John Clement, whose wife is Loren Moltz, board president of Friends of the Parks and a member of JPAC. A memorial is planned for next spring.

**Winter Nature Photography Contest with Spencer Bibbs- December 3, 11 am at Nancy Hays Bridge** at the north end of Wooded Island. All ages, any equipment. Entries due Dec. 10 at JPAC Photo Contest Google Gp. Details: [jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org/events](http://jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org/events), <https://facebook.com/JacksonParkAdvisoryCouncil>

**Chicago Park District is partnering with CPS to provide after Community school sports learning activities in middle schools.. They are recruiting coaches—it is important that a diverse and large cohort apply. Visit [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com), Jobs- look for the link there.**

**About the CPD and park budget..... The proposed 2017 BUDGET HAS BEEN RELEASED** on the Park District's website<<http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/departments/finance/budget-and-management/>>. The public **hearing** on the proposed budget will be **December 7th at the main Park District building**, 541 N. Fairbanks, 8th floor Board Room, at 3:30 pm. Check CPD website 2 days in advance re: signing up to speak. **FOTP's budget webinar is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnsWQhUzdE3tApBZPGpgNLw>.**

**JPAC salutes the Calumet Big Marsh, where facilities continue to be opened and nature recreated.**

**There are lots of activities, programs, informational and action meetings regarding parks.** Sign up for PAC and citywide news from the websites of Chicago Park District, Chicago Parks Foundation ([www.chicagoparksfoundation.org](http://www.chicagoparksfoundation.org)), and Friends of the Parks ([www.fotp.org](http://www.fotp.org)).

**Thinking about the Library** (visit [obamapresidentialfoundation.org](http://obamapresidentialfoundation.org)). By Gary Ossewaarde, JPAC secretary  
A number of collaborations and individuals have begun comprehensive thinking about impacts and improvements possible from or in addition to the coming Library. The city and Foundation set up an Inclusion Council, but this seems mainly to be concerned with fundraising and outreach at this point. The Foundation's VP for Civic Engagement, Michael Straumanis is holding a steady stream of small and larger community input meetings (as are aldermen). [mstraumanis@obamapresidentialfoundation.org](mailto:mstraumanis@obamapresidentialfoundation.org).

Two groups, one led by Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization and Southside Together (STOP) prepared draft Community Benefits Agreements dealing with both community and park needs and pointing out site challenges. Both the Foundation and the City have so far been reluctant to have a formal CBA.

Dr. Brazier of Apostolic Church of God is holding ongoing separate convocations (so far by invitation) of business, stakeholder, and broader community groups (soon) with the Presidential Foundation, Chicago Park District, the City, CPS and officeholders to come up with community improvements that might dovetail directly or indirectly with the Library as well as challenges the Library presents. As part of the stakeholder group, JPAC, Jackson Park Watch, Project 120, and U of C representatives are among many that shared and discussed ideas. Minutes are promised to be posted publicly online—to be announced soon.

**The practicalities.** It has become evident that the planning phase for the Library itself will be long, and that decisions on specific aspects will determine or affect others, inside and outside of the 20 acre overall site and 5 acre facility footprint-- and to the overall extent of change in the park. That and the fact that no private or public money have yet been assembled for facilities in the park or in the communities despite ambitious ideas being explored. Important regarding the park are 1) the exact siting of the 5-acre Center within the 20 acres, and 2) whether parking will be on or off site (out of the park)-- these plus over all site use and security and maybe whether and what changes happen to Cornell Drive will likely affect whether and where current sports/picnic facilities will move. If the track moves (within the park) that could spark other moves. JPAC and users of course hope and expect that there will be no or minimal down time for any sports facilities. And JPAC members and park users of course are discussing both making sure there are not environmental, circulation or other setbacks due to the Library and construction and many hope for a variety of updates or improvements long sought, including for the present or possible replacement fieldhouse. This writer has assembled background information, log, documents and links about the Library and what people are thinking and saying about it in <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPLibrary.htm>.

### **Jackson Park staff and JPAC work to provide for our children and teens:**

Sports of all varieties including Windy City Hoops, football, track, weight room, drumming...advocating for more for ages 8-12, girls, thinking outdoor facilities beyond playgrounds, fix up of playing courts.

Teen club thinking and communicating about peace, aspirations and stewardship including at the Peace Sculptures at Iowa bldg.; history essay contest.

Nature photography classes and contests and Nature and Migratory Bird Day tours and activities (No child left indoors); preparing a Jackson Park in Your Pocket video app on park history, nature, and features.

Giving books to the new fieldhouse library and revive reading and tutoring.

Volunteer workdays/community service leadership-(clean, remove, plant); creating a hands-on youth garden. Volunteering at and providing for holiday and day camp end celebrations, awards, backpacks.

(JPAC is exploring having a JUNIOR PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL.

**Chicago Parks Foundation is crowd-funding (through Nov. 29), and you can otherwise give through them, for a variety of teen programs** in parks (CPD will select the programs.) Visit. The following examples of teen initiatives in parks is from the Foundation's MPAC and is used with permission.

The **McGuane Junior Park Advisory Council (JPAC)** is an organization run by teens with the supervision of adults from the regular McGuane Park Advisory Council.

JPAC strives to **bring fresh perspectives from youth in the community into the park**. JPAC members are encouraged, but not required, to serve as volunteers at events hosted at McGuane and Palmisano Parks. JPAC members also help with social media promotions.

One of the first goals JPAC has set is to **create programming that resonates with youth who might not participate in the park's lively athletics offerings**. Currently, the JPAC is pursuing activities involving technology and/or robotics. The JPAC also hopes to help promote fitness and wellness programs that incorporate activities that differ from traditional park programming.

JPAC serves as a **fantastic outlet for building leadership skills in teens** and each member has the opportunity to contribute to this endeavor.

### **Program Spotlight: Veterans Memorial Park. Veterans Memorial Park offers**

Seasonal Sports Club and **Teen Club** throughout the year. Over **50 teens participate** in these programs. The teens participate in all the sport tournaments such as basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, flag football, and floor hockey. They have been successful as well, **winning Citywide Championships** in Boys Volleyball and Co-Rec Softball this year.



Teen Club gives teens a space to come and socialize with each other, participate in friendly games, and play sports. This time is designated for teens only. The program also takes teens on field trips to Lincoln Park Zoo to see the zoo lights during Christmas time. This gives them an opportunity to meet other teens and enjoy a night out with their friends.

One specific teen stands out to the staff at Veterans Memorial Park. She has been playing sports for the park since she was 8 years old. As a teen she has been volunteering as a junior counselor during Day Camp, coaches a team for our Cubs Care Baseball Program, and assists staff coaching Inner City sports teams. She is passionate about working with youth, and will someday be a Chicago Park District employee. (Robert Quinones, Veterans Memorial Park)

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**A Happy Thanksgiving to members and friends from Team, Jackson Park. Members and friends can give to JPAC this time of year- ask for a form at [garyossewaarde@yahoo.com](mailto:garyossewaarde@yahoo.com).**

Your hard work and persistence took us from just removing waste and overgrowth to laying out gardens, smoothing surfaces of new playgrounds, and considering classrooms and gym spaces needed in a new or renewed fieldhouse and from giving our first nature and history tours to creating a Park in Your Pocket tour Ap. Major progress has been made in reducing deteriorated and dangerous spaces while increasing spaces such as at LaRabida where patients can be wheeled down to the water's edge. Bus loads of kids now come to do volunteer work or tour and have pictures made among nature and landscape and inspiring art in our historic, exciting, and beautiful urban park.

People have reported an aura of moon glow above the Skylanding sculptures. Maybe like the Peace Rising sculptures by the Iowa building this can inspire new expectation for peace, reflection, care and renewal. The Jackson Park team gives a grateful "Thank You" to all close and near for engaging in and thinking about their park. We ALL did it. Now we need to keep up the momentum.

**Jackson Park harbor- A great place to fish.** The November 18 Chicago Maroon carried an interview feature by Greg Ross. Some of the fishers (and salmon snaggers) have been coming for 50 years.