JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 37th YEAR!

J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2020 Vol. 27 No. 2
(Rev. 1-30.) NATURE-HISTORY-RECREATION JACKSON PARK- WE DO IT! BE HERE!

BOARD elected 12/09/19
Louise McCurry, President
Anne Marie Miles, VP
Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary and Newsletter editor
Dwight Powell, Treasurer

JPAC usually meets monthly 2nd
Mondays, Feb 10, Mar 09, Apr 13

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

CONTACTS
Louise McCurry 773 844-2225
commissioner751@icloud.com

Gary Ossewaarde (Sec., mtgs.,
Newsletter, mail/membership)
1765 E. 55th St. B6 Chicago, IL
60615. 773 947-9541
garyossewaarde@yahoo.com

Dwight Powell (Treas.) 7206 S.
Luella, 60649 773 288-4943.
dwightpowell216@yahoo.com

Stewards: Jerry Levy (Wooded I
sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com
Norm Bell/Gail Parry (Bobolink)
normwbell@gmail.com
Nancy Joseph (Columbia Basin)
njoseph2008@aol.com
Ed Warden (63rd beach nat area)
ewarden@sheddaquarium.org

Chicago Park District-
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

Fieldhouse/Supervisor:
Bobbie Beckam 773 256-0903
Region Mgr. Maya Solis
312 747-7661, Area Mgr.
Farah.Tunks@chicagoparkdistrict.co
m 773 324-0450.
Security 312 747-2193
Lkft Cdr 312-448-3793

OPEN MTG -FEBRUARY 10 2020 MON. 7PM
AT JP FIELDHOUSE, 6401 S. STONY ISLAND AVE.
PRECEDED AT 5:30 BY INFO DISC OF LURIE DROWNINGS PROJ.

CONTENTS p1 About JPAC/links; pp2-3 MINUTES; pp4-5 BIG NEWS,
FEATURES, ANNOUNCEMENTS; p6 2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY
// JOIN JPAC FOR 2020. 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). Print:

WEB, PICS, http://www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org &
http://www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org/events (cal.- add /2018-01)
FACEBOOK, https://facebook.com/JacksonParkAdvisoryCouncil We do Twitter
Jackson Park In Your Pocket mobile app- From our website, apps.
BACKPAGES ARCHIVE www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac.
HOME http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac.html
NEWSLETTERS ARCHIVE www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters
MINUTES ARCHIVE http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/minutesarchive.htm

Keep current + NEWS details: http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/jpnewsbuls.htm
BOBOLINK website http://www.bobolinkvolunteers.org
FRAMWORK PLAN-OBAMA CTR-GOLF- www.southlakefrontplan.com
106/NEPA REVs- https://tinyurl.com/JPImprovemen
tns, our analysis:
www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/Section_106_OPCMobilityHistoricReview_2017.htm
Obama Ctr. and related – our continually updated mid 2018 page
http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/Obama_Ctr_Reviews_Updates.pdf
GOLF http://chicagoparksgolfalliance.org www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/golf.htm
JPAC’s Obama Center page www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPlibrary.htm
ACE Wooded I- info and links- www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ace2014.htm
Project 120 www.Project120chicago.com www.gardenofthephoenix.org
Friends of the White City (free tours): http://www.friendsofthewhitecity.org
www.JacksonParkWatch.org www.fotp.org www.chicagoparksfoundation.org
www.sosideneighbors4hope.org

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 January 13, 2020 Jackson Park Advisory Council Meeting

Louise McCurry convened the meeting and distributed the agenda at 7:10 p.m., with a quorum present and a total attendance of 20. Brief introductions were made. Distributed materials included an annual report on JPAC programs and activities and a provisional financial report for 2019. Final revision of the latter is attached to these minutes.

Treasurer’s Report. Dwight Powell reported the December and year-end final balance as $4,662.71. In December $860.00 in 2020 dues and gifts was deposited, $58.73 was spent on the fieldhouse kids holiday party, and $75.00 for the annual fee to our fiscal agent. We are in the black for the year [gaining $613.47 in 2019]. Dwight said we have a request to contribute to the purchase of team jerseys-- more information next month.

New actions: Louise McCurry introduced and led discussion of hosting on March 14 a One Earth Film Festival-work project at 10, resource fair at 12, and screening at 1:30 of a film by RISE: “Child of Nature”, about grass-roots environmental and climate change projects worldwide, led by youth. Film rental cost is $350.00, with possible additional cost to be discussed later. Moved by Mary Anton, seconded by Anne Marie Miles to spend up to $350.00 for the film rental. Approved.

Presented by Louise and Dwight to purchase for the fieldhouse preschool class: a small-person table and 4 small-person chairs, at discount from a Park District approved catalogue shown, as in use at Nichols Park fieldhouse. Moved by Spencer Bibbs, seconded and approved to spend up to $250.00. Attendees donated $100 on the spot towards this purchase.

Minutes of the December meeting. There were no corrections or objections to the minutes.

High water and trees. Margaret Schmid noted in regard to the Newsletter feature on shore erosion, flooding, and high water table, that the trees on the west side of Wooded Island have been strongly impacted by high water and are leaning heavily. This was immediately reported to park district staff. It was also noted that OpenLands has a proposal and petition for tree rescue, replacement, and planting throughout the city.

Reports and presentations
Erin Adams said that children’s books are steadily shared and replaced at the two Little Libraries. Stickers and notices placed on the boxes are regularly removed—that’s not a proper place to post. It’s the only problem. We are looking for kid’s books on birds and helping birds—donations are welcome.

Fieldhouse program and recreation. Supervisor Bobbie Beckham thanked members for help with the heating failure in the building that evening. Pickleball, winter sports, and tiny tots programs are up and running. JPAC was thanked or the chairs and tables and for helping with the tumbling contest in December.

Shoreline erosion and flooding discussion was lead by Heather Gleason, Director of the Chicago Park District Department of Planning, with Phil Weaver, engineer with Westrec, which manages the harbors. They presented design for two breakwaters, one projecting from each shore into the harbor inlet near the lake at c.64th Street, to deflect wave action. They would be of sheet pile and concrete with a concrete cap, riprap along side, and the required lights. The Corps of Engineers is reviewing for compliance and permits. Depending on these and final cost and funding, they may not both be built at the same time, but it was implied work should begin this year. Many questions were asked about the breakwaters and the damage and temporary measures along whole shore and the park interior, and the long-term solution study requested. Gleason said temporary measures such as jersey barriers and boulders is being handled by CDOT. The many water-weakened trees are park district. She expected the breakwaters will reduce wave action and water pressure through both harbors and on the west shore, which includes Lake Shore Drive, the Lakefront Trail, and the historic harbor station, all of which are under siege. The breakwater will not address 67th, La Rabida, the Drive at 64th, 59th, 57th beach and trail, or impacts of high water in the lagoons and beyond and will not address the collapse of the inlet and harbor walls. Members noted that not only are boaters attached to these harbors (and oppose being moved to other locations) but so are small scale users including kayakers and fishermen, and that there is room in the Lakefront Plan for restoration of paddleboats and for dragon boats etc.
New partnerships and community action. Jackson Park and JPAC have an opportunity to participate in a near-drownings and Drowning Prevention Study being launched by Lurie Children’s Hospital with support from the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation. We will learn more at an open informational meeting ahead of the February 10 JPAC meeting – at 5:30 p.m.

Harris Community Action partnership for listening, learning, and community engagement and action in the park continues to be set up and defined through meetings and on-site tours. Xibai Ren, a student at the Harris School of Public Policy gave more details including updating and expanding our outreach and relationship-building to families and university students, identifying and surveying park users, and creating a more robust youth green team of volunteers. The PAC will have to manage and do the work. Several members expressed interest in participating in the committee.

Ken Dunn, The Resource Center, presented his initiative to create viable, best-practices recycling and composting/urban farming on a local scale, in place of what he called the city’s dismal failure and renege on these matters. He also called for reestablishment of the Chicago Department of Environment.

McCurry reminded us of the year’s standing programs, the first one being One Earth Film Festival March 14, and workdays starting in March. OEFF Poster choice preferences were given.

Moved to adjourn- Fran Vandervoort. Next regular meeting February 10, Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

NEWSLETTER- ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FEATURES.

DROWNINGS AND ACCIDENTS- WHY DO THEY HAPPEN, WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THEM?
Drownings, under-reported near drownings, and lack of swimming and water-survival skills in our communities are a serious, poorly-documented problem, compounded now by the high-water-level waves and riptides and, some say, limited lifeguard hours at our beaches. To understand the issues better and help develop solutions, Lurie Children’s Hospital and the Chicago Park District, with funding from the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation, has selected Jackson and two other parks that have multiple water recreation resources for a Drowning Prevention Study to be conducted this year. The Advisory Council has provisionally agreed to become a participant. MEMBERS, THE COMMUNITY, AND STAKEHOLDERS such as boaters are invited to A PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION led by the Study team MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 5:30 PM in Jackson Park Fieldhouse, ahead of the regular JPAC meeting. (In case of rescheduling an e-notice will be sent.)

THE LAKEshore EROSION AND EFFECTS OF HIGH LAKE LEVELS AND RAINS continue to be top priority. JPAC has been sending to the city and park district documentation of conditions and impacts throughout the park that have become progressively worse, including since our January meeting. These include more collapse of harbor walls, shoreline revetments, and bike trails, and loss of beaches. We have suggested spots at which placement or reinforcement of barriers could give temporary reprieve. City, state, and federal officials and agencies are actively seeking and applying solutions and funds. We urge you to be careful in approaching shores. And we urge you to stick to the nature trails—and avoid leaning trees.

MAJOR STATE IDNR GRANT ANNOUNCED FOR ‘IOWA BLDG,’ POSS. OTHER CAPITAL (rev. 1-30)
The office of State Senator Robert Peters (13) announced January 22, per releases from Governor JB Pritzker and Chicago Park District, $625,000 for Jackson Park under the state’s Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) program, under the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The OSLAD program matches up to one-half for the project. The program since 1987 is funded from the state Real Estate Transfer Tax and this year’s $29.8M goes to 85 local projects (including in 4 Chicago parks) to “acquire open space and develop and improve recreational facilities.” The bulk in Jackson (to start this year) will go to the long-sought stabilization and continued upgrades at the 1930’s ‘Iowa’ comfort pavilion (across from Montgomery Place) that JPAC is working to become a mecca of healing and quiet programming. Possible work (with concept drawings to be show in coming months (might include washrooms, kitchen, roof, walks, the platforms/patios). Next suggested projects are at ball fields or dog areas. Public/ stakeholder input will be sought. Background on Iowa Bldg. is at http://hydepark.org/parks/jpac/iowa.htm.
SECTION 106 REVIEW AOE (Assessment of Effects of the Obama Center and federal projects on Historic Properties in Jackson Park). By Gary Ossewaarde, rev. 1-30
The Final Report was published in January at (among others) https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dcd/supp_info/Jackson-Park-Improvements.html. The mandatory consulting agencies and the voluntary consulting parties held a webinar and have a 30-day period to concur or object, with specifics, if they wish. The non-mandatory consulting parties, of which JPAC is one, can send a letter of concurrence or objection to the whole and or to individual findings. The agency overseeing the Review process (Federal Highway Administration) does not have to consider or reply to the voluntary consulting parties, only to the consulting agencies—state transportation and historical, FHWA, National Park Service, and Historic Preservation Advisory Council in Washington.) Next, the state and federal agencies with authority can concur or object, then negotiations of means to avoid/mitigate items determined in the report to have adverse effects will be held with the proposers to arrive at Memorandum of Agreement- but it seems the Report is not recommending any mitigations and that Historic, NEPA (envir.) and parks reviews as well as FHWA and the Army Corps are satisfied. It does go to the state historic officer and the Advisory Council in Washington.

The final report was somewhat changed in tenor and conclusions, included additional research and the Historic Boulevards (added to the National Register in 2018), and responses to objections. Almost every historic property inventoried in or outside Jackson Park was found not impacted or not adversely impacted by the changes except the Jackson Park- Midway Historic Cultural Landscape District and the Chicago Historic Boulevards District. According to federal criteria, any change or design departure to the parks from what qualified the park for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (period of significance ~1895 to 1968) could be considered an adverse effect. These could be large scale deviations or cumulative effects down to specific elements or features such as vegetation, intersection or road geometry, or over-corrections for past deviations from Olmsted design. But most individual changes were considered not significant or were said to be offset, or mitigated (although not necessarily sufficiently), or considered improvements such as for safety, water management, pedestrian circulation. Noted also was that the Illinois Department of Transportation has already objected to the finding of adverse effect and ruled that the changes are not significant enough to jeopardize the park's qualification for the National Registry. State Historic and FHWY will likely do the same.

Friends, opponents and skeptics of the projects zero in on statements in the Report (summarized on page 75 and reiterated at the webinar) finding that the siting of the Center and the road changes are local decisions with no federal funding and so are not subject to Federal Review: “The actions of the City described in this report authorizing construction of the OPC, closing roads, and relocating an existing track and field in Jackson Park do not require Federal funding or approval and, therefore, are not subject to the NHPA’s requirement to consider avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of adverse effects to historic properties.” Again, observers pointed to findings that therefore seem to say that there are no further avoidances, minimizations, or mitigations needed or to be recommended for development of the Memorandum of Agreement. Critics have and will allege flawed assumptions, processes, and conclusions in the Review and AOE and also say that the section of replies to previous comments or objections was dismissive. The Review team will post the January 23 Webinar and parties will respond, but, as said above, will not necessarily respond.

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT 2020 BUDGET. (rev. 1-30). The proposed budget is $487M, 5% higher than last year's. There is a small tax increase in the small proportion of tax bills that go to the Park District-- c$3.99 of the bill on a $262,000-assessed property, generating a total of $5M.
We have been informed there are no cuts in program (or as far as we know staff or maintenance) for Jackson Park. Program fees stay the same and continue equity variation for different community demographics including $3M in discounts and scholarships. After school programming is increased, as is sports programming- particularly a new partnership with the U.S. Soccer Foundation and a new teen apprenticeship initiative with After School Matters including in powerboat training. Perhaps Jackson and the yacht clubs can utilize some of these new initiatives. The major new sports facilities are at Adams-Medill Park and Gately Stadium (the latter on the far south side). Both are expected to bring in new revenue as will other managed assets such as Soldier Field and harbor fees, increased $3-5 per stall. We will have to see whether new harbor fees may be problematical for Jackson Park, where there are accusations boaters are being pushed
to other harbors or priced outside the system and where getting boats in and out harbors are acknowledged (in our Framework Plan) to be less than ideal. Park permits have a new 3-tiered system-- off season vs. peak and by demand for location. Prices are steeply increased for performance and festival venues- to as much as $450,000. (There are such occasional uses in Jackson and nearby parks; cultural centers will be looked at one by one). The top fee for commercial filming is nearly doubled to $10,000 although it has not gone up for several years. Parking fees go up at the most prime locations, and there are length-of-parking cost adjustments due to increased state take.

Staff. 11 full time positions are cut, mainly in a joint sports program with CPS. Pension payments go up (partly funded by TIF surplus out-pay) to $33M, but not nearly enough to ramp from 32% to (mandated) full funding to prevent pension bankruptcy c2026- CPD is asking a change from the state. Salaries go up by $6M, largely to cover substantial equity pay increases in the most recent labor contracts-- our rec. leaders will now make $15 an hour, and attendants receive a 28% increase. Employees will now pay an additional 1.5 of salary into their healthcare over the next 3 years.

**OBAMA FOUNDATION NEWS.** The Foundation continued to receive numerous donations, including a $5M gift from Nike Foundation for the recreation and conference center, and a gift from the Obama’s themselves. The Foundation sponsored numerous local and world summits, held a distinguished-panel discussion on the role of place and place-making at the U of C’s new community-oriented Green Line Performance Center, volunteer projects, training sessions such as helping college-prospectives with their applications, and job and contract resource fairs, and awards to schools, students and educators.

**BUSY BEES VOLUNTEERING IN JACKSON PARK**

Work in the park kicked off for 2020 on Dr. Martin Luther King Day January 20 with a morning cleanup and chip raking in a cold, snowed-upon Dickerson Playlot at 56th and Stony. Working away were preschool parents— exactly the kind of community involvement we need. In the afternoon, a huge program involved work and tours in and around LaRabida Hospital by the Hospital and Honeycomb Collaborative with the Obama Foundation.

Save the date for Saturday afternoon FEBRUARY 22 for a Black History Month program expected to include readings, books and discussions with children on black history in the park. JP Fieldhouse. Details/confirmation Louise McCurry, commissioner751@icloud.com.

**Regular workdays.** Bobolink (2nd Sats), 63rd beach (3rd Sats) and Wooded Island (4th Sats) workdays restart in March or April. And occasional at Columbia Basin- for that and Openlands pruning group contact Nancy Joseph (contacts for stewards on front page lower left). Schedules will be 2020 Calendar next month.

**SPECIAL WORKDAY AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS OPPORTUNITIES** include at the

One Earth Film Festival March 14,
Earth Day April 18 (team captains can sign up now with Friends of the Parks),
Migratory Bird Day Festival in early May, and at
It’s Your Park Day in June.
Make Music Chicago June 21. And so on.

And we will need help surveying needs of park users, freshening playgrounds, and managing large special groups coming into the park.

2020 GIVING IS OFF TO A GREAT START, BUT we need many more dues and small gift givers to meet our budget commitment to grow programs and involvement, encourage and reward the kids, and help the with supplies and classroom needs of the fieldhouse.

RSVP to Gary to get a form to mail to our treasurer with your dues or gift.

Year beginning balance (carryover)   $4,049.24
Year end balance                  $4,662.71
Net surplus                      $  613.47

ACTIVITY
Carryover plus income             $4,049.24 + $2,825.00 = $6,874.24
Deposits (Revenue/income)         $2,825.00 (Jan-Dec)
Withdrawals (net Expenses)         $2,211.53
Deposits vs. Withdrawals –Gain     $   613.47

Receipts from dues and contributions credited only to 2019- $2,175.00 from 29 persons and organizations. (A large deposit was made in December for dues/contributions 2020.) Thanks.

We are also grateful for significant in-kind contributions and services to JPAC from:
Erin Adams and partners (Little Libraries)
Chicago Bears (100 Huddle)
ChiGivesBack Foundation (toys)
Chicago Community Trust and Partners (On the Table)
Chicago Parks Foundation
Make Music Chicago
Louise McCurry
Anne Marie Miles
Museum of Science and Industry (including Newsletter mailing)
Gary Ossewaarde
Dwight Powell AND OTHER INDIVIUALS INCLUDING Zelia Stevens and Fran Vandervoort
Shedd Aquarium
Food companies for donations and heavy discounts including Dunkin’ Donuts 87th Stony Island, L&P, Roseland
Old Fashioned Donuts, 6700 Stony Island Pizza Hut, South Holland Walmart, and others.

2019 was an outstanding financial year for JPAC in terms of increased results in all categories—giving and income, increased spending on programs, balance sufficient to avoid bank fees, our end balance, and the surplus. JPAC’s finances are sound and in good standing. We thank our fiscal agent Chicago Parks Foundation and new bank 5th/3rd.

JPAC funds appropriated/spent on park facilities, programs, events- $1,684.89. Our largest expenditures went to reward and treat the day camp kids and teams (including popcorn machine), give supplies for start-up of new park programs including for pre-K, and to present our own and shared programs including One Earth Festivals, Migratory Bird Festival, and Make Music Chicago. We also contributed to enhance several large and small events by others in the park.

For 2020 we will budget along a similar trajectory for fundraising and expenditures. Also, we will work with partners on new initiatives to better understand whom the park is serving, whom it could be serving that it isn’t now or could be serving better (including via park safety), and to recruit greater engagement by all age groups, especially for stewardship programs and projects.