



JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 34th YEAR!

J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2018 Vol. 25 No. 1

NATURE, HISTORY, RECREATION

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

JPAC meets monthly 2nd
Mondays, 01/09, 02/12, 3/12

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.

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.
dwrightpowell216@yahoo.com

Stewards: Jerry Levy (Wooded I
silevy@jeromelevylaw.com
Norm Bell/Gail Parry(Bobolink)
parrybell@ameritech.net Fran
Vandervoort (Nature trail /app)
fv2335@gmail.com

Chicago Park District-
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com
Fieldhouse/Supervisor:
Bobbie Beckam 773 256-0903
Region Mgr. Maya Solis
312 747 747-7661, Area Mgr.
Farah.Tunks@chicagoparkdistrict.com
773 324-0540.
Security 312 747-2193

Mtg moved-TUESDAY JANUARY 9 2017 7PM
JACKSON PARK FIELDHOUSE, 6401 S. STONY ISLAND AVE.
Guests. Officer's & Committee reports.
New and Old Business, Announcements. Adjourn

CONTENTS p1 About/Ann'ts; p2 Minutes; pp3/4 – news & reflection:
Darrow br, Sec. 106, Framework, OPC & garage, golf

>>> 2018 MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS DRIVE

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 501).

WEB, PICS, <http://www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org> &

<http://www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org/events> (cal.- add /2018-01)

FACEBOOK. <https://facebook.com/JacksonParkAdvisoryCouncil/>

Jackson Park in Your Pocket mobile app- from our website, or
www.VaMonde.com, Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.

THIS NL: <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters/January2018.pdf>

ARCHIVE www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters. HOME, BACKPAGES INDEX

www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac. <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac.html>

Keep current + news details: <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/jpnewsbul.htm>

FRAMEWK PLG-OBAMA CTR-GOLF- www.southlakefrontplan.com

106 Hist review process- <https://tinyurl.com/JPIImprovements>.

ACE Wooded I-news and links- www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ace2014.htm

Obama Center <http://obama.com>. and <http://go.obama.org> JPAC's Obama Center
page www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPLibrary.htm

Project 120 www.Project120Chicago.org, www.gardenofthephoenix.org

SKYLANDING www.skylanding.com

GOLF www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/golf.htm <http://chicagoparksgolfalliance.org>

BOBOLINK website <http://bluestem.info/bobolink/> JP WATCH, FRIENDS, FOUNDN:

www.JacksonParkWatch.org . www.fotp.org. www.chicagoparksfoundation.org

Friends of the White City: <http://www.friendsofthewhitecity.org>

ELECTRONIC DELIV OF NEWSLETTER- 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 DECEMBER 11, 2017 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MTG

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m., a quorum being present. Total was about 17.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved as circulated.

Gary Ossewaarde gave the treasurer's report. Bank balance: \$4,010.75. Moved by Ossewaarde and seconded by Jerry Levy and approved to buy up to \$100 for the day camp holiday party with remainder towards kid's tables for the new preschool program, and that JPAC will pay for the tables.

Wooded Island and special areas and repair needs. Jerry Levy reported that major planting, especially along edges and at overlooks, will resume in the spring after removal of invasives (which were cut to ground this fall and will be early sprouters in spring) and an expected controlled burn. More new planting including sedges will be done in areas off the island, mainly south of the lagoons. The strawberries planted outside the island are mostly temporary ground holders and will be replaced with a more diverse palette later.

Reported by members- trash and overgrowth under Darrow and Hayes bridges (which have already been reported) and condition of trees and undergrowth in the cherry tree area north of the lagoons.

Louise McCurry: Beavers have been seen again at the Driving Range house and LaRabida Hospital. Humane removal is planned. LaRabida area- most of this year's cleaning, cut back and path renewal work is done- thanks to large groups. Frederick Douglass memorial boulder was moved 30 feet- by whom is unknown.

Safety committee- Kenneth Newman is reporting bench breakdowns and vandalism.

Fieldhouse and programs. McCurry said that mold-infected areas have been isolated from water sources.

Pictures were taken for reporting of remaining broken windows in the South Room.

Pierre Nealon, instructor, thanked JPAC for the 12 turkeys and other goodies for the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot.

The holiday party is next. The wrestling team competed in qualifications at Ogden Park and will move on the regional meets in January. The tumblers also participated in qualifications. Participation in the Teen Club is now a requirement for basketball. Winter programs at the track are highly popular.

McCurry requested without dissent that she submit at the upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting the petition of JPAC and others to name the former Coast Guard rescue station for Jesse Madison, who managed CPD and its reform under the Harold Washington Administration and secured funds for both the station and harbor upgrades. She explained that renaming the 59th Marina had originally been proposed, but that stakeholders had suggested the Station would be more appropriate and might help attract funds for repair and restoration work. After CPD does its diligence and recommends, the Board will start a 45 day comment period.

Section 106/Framework; next JPAC Meeting. McCurry reported some highlights of the Section 106 Historic Review and the 3 scenarios presented in the latest South Lakefront Plan meetings, for example varying degrees of shoreline protections and additional parkland by harbors and LaRabida and various scenarios for coordinated moving or concentrations of recreational facilities and a new dog park. Sharon Lewis, Transportation/Connectivity chair, said she was excited about commitment to rebuild and add paths in all the scenarios. Because a closed meeting requiring presence from JPAC is expected to be set for January 8 , moved, seconded and approved to MOVE THE JANUARY JPAC MEETING TO TUESDAY THE 9TH.

Chicago Parks Foundation is among those organizing free community conversations, Come to Supper.

McCurry proposed that JPAC host one January 19 6 p.m. in the fieldhouse on the topic of strategies to stop bullying and harassment among kids and youth. Approved by consensus. Details will be announced including invite and whether it will be potluck—Chicago Parks Foundation has offered food.

Election of Officers. Jerry Levy, nominating committee, reported the slate approved at the November meeting (all of whom agreed to serve) and opened the floor for other nominations. Hearing none, he moved for approval of the slate by acclamation. Of 10 qualified voters present- 10 voted Aye, with no nays or abstentions. President Louise McCurry, Vice President Anne Marie Miles, Secretary Gary Ossewaarde, Treasurer Dwight Powell.

Sharon Lewis donated a bullhorn to use on our tours and other programs. Moved to Adjourn. Next Jan. 9.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

Our wishes to all for the best in the New Year. JPAC'S FIRST MEETING OF 2018 WILL BE ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 7PM AT THE FIELDHOUSE. It is moved from our usual 1st Monday. SEE OUR 2017 ANNUAL REPORT IN THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER- <http://hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters/November2017.pdf>

JPAC HAS LAUNCHED ITS **2018 MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDRAISING DRIVE**. Contributions are not necessary to participate in JPAC voting or activities but do help us help the park and provide programs for users and keep you informed. Form at our website or http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/2018_memb.pdf.

PARK PROPOSALS AND PLANNING YEAR-END UPDATE AND REFLECTIONS By Gary Ossewaarde **Darrow Bridge offered “for sale,” per law when a replication not reconstruction...**

The bad news is CDOT has determined that little if any of the currently-closed historic Columbia (aka Clarence Darrow Memorial) bridge is in condition to be reused—in which case the old must be offered to a party that might reconstruct it elsewhere under strict conditions. Up to 95% of the stones are assessed fractured or otherwise unsalvageable and metal is rusted. We expect to hear more on the basis and evidence for the determination that the new bridge needs to be a structure of new material (a “replication” rather than one of the higher legal “solutions”- reconstruction, repair, or rehabilitation.) A guess is that CDOT considers there is not enough usable material, and mixing to be too costly and/or structurally dubious. Certainly, we hope, at least that some of the visible, very historic ornamentals such as some railings can be incorporated.

The bridge is historic under National Register standards and is a state bridge. The whole park was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and also became a Chicago Landmark as part of the Museum of Science and Industry designation. It was first built in 1880 by Burnham and Root as East (or North Pond) bridge, underwent at least two major reconstructions and expansions for and shortly after the World's Fair, and was twice repaired in the 20th century. In 1957 it gained the further cachet of being named the Clarence Darrow Memorial Bridge. Qualifying features include its unique balustrades and its truss style typical of bridges placed throughout the Columbian Exposition but later demolished or replaced.

It is also a key connector across the park, and the paths all the way between Stony Island and the Lakefront are considered part of this project. Olmsted twice incorporated it into his plans of curving pathways, in this case then intended to carry light touring traffic in an oval defining the north sector of the park. Its vistas, as Olmsted intended, are among the most stunning in the park. And Clarence Darrow, a community and national figure and intimately associated with the bridge, adds great luster and is the occasion for a major annual gathering at the bridge (where his ashes were scattered) on the anniversary of his death March 13, 1938.

The replacement must be historically true in accord with the National Environment Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Under guidelines of the Department of Interior and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency there are four levels of repairs and reconstructions- in this case it would be a “replication,” meaning most or all the material is new but must be in accord with the old. Beyond the question of necessity for a completely new structure, is how much and in what ways it must be like the old. This is being wrestled by designers and in the series of public meetings already started. The new bridge will be just for pedestrians and bicyclists, and in any case railings et al have to be up to modern safety codes. Often, new materials are less costly or lighter, or the original materials (including stones from an original quarry) are not available. Another particular consideration here is public access to the underside of the bridge—in the various early versions it was sometimes open below, and again after the reconstruction of Columbia Basin edge c. 2004. But at other times the lower level was sloped and blocked, inadvertently preventing exploration and fishing but also preventing setting destructive heating and cooking fires. The bridge has already undergone extensive documentation including boring and tectonics and initial design options.

If not to be reused, the bridge must be publicly offered as a whole to anyone who can show in a proposal by 4 p.m. February 28 that they can finance and document the move and reconstruction of the entire structure and maintain and use it as spelled out under the Act. If no party steps forward and is accepted, parts of the dismantled bridge can be given to members of the public to use for educational purposes, not for resale. When the bridge was closed as unsafe in 2015, JPAC led a drive to ensure its reconstruction. After fits and starts, approval and a \$5 million grant was obtained through CMAP (Metropolitan Agency for Planning). Applications to replace the bridge have not yet been filed. Ongoing approvals are needed from the IHPA and other agencies, as well as public comment and integration into the Framework. Construction- 2019? **3**

The big projects and topical planning

Additional broad public meetings have not been set as of this date. Although it is frustrating to be looking at separate tracks of project, subject and large footprint planning, there is an advantage to close focus on the parts that will have to be integrated.

Section 106 historical and environmental assessments are an open-ended process and will take many months of research and meetings with stakeholder and focus groups before ready for public meetings. An observation: the proposed inventory of historic structures and land features has everything (but missing a few features?) over 50 years old without priorities. Take a look at <https://tinyurl.com/JPIImprovements>.

South Framework Plan reassessment set forth 3 scenarios that are now in public comment and stakeholder focus meetings. Public meetings will resume later in the winter. Visit the plans and leave your comments at www.southlakefrontplan.com. It would help us at JPAC to see them also- garyossewaarde@yahoo.com. Basically, the scenarios cluster or scatter park activities (that aren't major fixed or historic features) so they are more rational or convenient to users and reinforce one or several of the major characteristics of the park from Olmsted forward. One can vote, or pick and choose items, or offer other ideas. This is a big and complex park, so a lot of thought will be needed.

The Obama Presidential Center design for the Jackson Park section seems to be largely set, and is an integral whole (including hydrology) difficult to rearrange unless completely reconceived, unless one of these were to happen: the garage were moved to main site (which the design team said would be quite damaging to the park as well as difficult), or Cornell Drive conversion and traffic/other changes at the north were to be dropped. It seems that despite continued tweaking, the proposed area roadway changes are what the city wants to go with regardless of the Obama Center and regardless of golf consolidation. **CDOT** is holding its own set of public meetings on road closures and expansions.

Placement of the parking garage across from Jackson Park on the Midway (a site that is a long ways from being conveyed) has caused much disagreement. The latest design, presented by the Obama Foundation at an invite meeting December 20, is considerably softened, and simplifies the activities (except a small playground) on the hill into a basically pastoral park experience with respect for this as a historic space honoring women at and since the World's Fair. It includes a way to offset the loss of Olmsted's connection and vista from Jackson Park to Washington Park (caused by elevation the railroad) also providins views in the other direction to Lake Michigan to the east. Widespread feel was that this design would be a good one for this focal nexus of the Midway boulevard, Jackson Park and Stony Island even without any garage or with the elevation reduced with or without an underground garage. On the other hand, many do not want any garage or feature there or any conveyance to a nonpublic entity. Midway PAC resolved against the garage. Others are concerned that division or focus on particular aspects or interests or else on huge hopes may overtake effort for resolutions in the broadest interest. Meeting notes: <http://hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPLibrary.htm>.

Golf. December 21 both Park District Superintendent Michael Kelly (as reported by Fran Spielman in the Sun-Times) and Brian Hogan of the Chicago Parks Golf Alliance (CPGA) (in a communication to JPAC) said they are committed to publishing and rolling out in the first quarter of 2018 a design plan with layout for golf consolidation for public meetings and discussion. Hogan said that the principals remain committed to the professional standard golf consolidation. Kelly said that even though the community support and funding are not yet developed, he looks forward to developing them and showing benefits and the need for improvements to the golf facilities and also to infrastructure for safe mobility and connectivity—admittedly expensive but needed, he said, regardless of golf consolidation.: "...If not now, when?" This writer has observed strong community constituencies both for and against the consolidation, yet many questions and concerns beyond layout need to be answered. A major sticking point has been whether and what changes or relocations would be made to an important and popular nature sanctuary in at South Shore Cultural Center. No decisions on that have been revealed as of present. South Shore Cultural Center PAC after careful consensus building adopted a resolution supporting the golf proposal but stipulating conditions including improvements desired for the entire South Shore Cultural Center footprint and for each part (especially capital and programming), stressing that golf and the nature center should remain in their footprints, and that those proposing changes should demonstrate why.

Meanwhile Jackson Park Golf Association shares a new short video about its collaborative youth program-- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdazKLws5cl&feature=youtu.be>. JPAC would like to help create more experiences , teams, et al in golf and other sports (as it did with the caddy program and is currently done in soccer) for both elementary and high school students.