JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 36th YEAR!

J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER JULY 2019 Vol. 26 No. 7

NATURE HISTORY RECREATION  JACKSON PARK- BE THERE!

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, 7/8, 8/12, 9/9, Oct 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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Norm Bell/Gail Parry (Bobolink)
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Nancy Joseph (Columb-MusCl)
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Lkft Cdr 312-448-3793

MTG- JULY O8, 2019 MONDAY 6PM
AT IOWA BLDG 1755 E. 56TH ST. Bring dish, chair.
Awards, reports from police and ald, review, ideas for rest of year


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).

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/minandresolu.htm

Keep current + news details: http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/jpnewsbuls.htm

BOBOLINK website http://www.bobolinkvolunteers.org

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

106/NEPA REVs- https://tinyurl.com/JPImprovements, 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


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 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 of $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 4**th** on 53**rd** 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

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**Lawsuit decided in favor of city and park district for OPC to proceed**

On June 11, Judge John Robert Blakey issued a 52-page decision in the lawsuit filed by Protect Our Parks in May 2018 objecting, inter alia to siting the Obama Presidential Center in Jackson Park. The process was long, rigorous, and at times contentious. Judge Blakey’s ruling examined facts, arguments, and laws to conclude that the state and the local bodies have the authority to act and can make changes that are public benefits in even historic parks. His legal argument can be viewed as either narrow or applying philosophy of judicial restraint. In either case a pathway is left between “anything goes” for parks and parks having to remain static and as originally designed, that parties can gain standing to sue when authorities are alleged to go too far and a robust case can be shown. Protect Our Parks intends to appeal, but in the likely event they fail, that might narrow the path to future litigations. In any case, there is a lot more process before any construction can start.

Notable also is that Aldermen Hairston and Taylor intend to file in July a proposed ordinance governing a Community Benefits Agreement.  GMO

**Repairs made to waterfall in the Japanese Garden**

In June, a team of Japanese Garden experts and Ministry officials from Japan and the Japan Consulate in Chicago made their second visit to the Garden. The immediate object was repair, make safety upgrades, and embellish the top of the waterfall area with additional stone placements and plantings as well as upgrades to the nobedon stone pathway. Granite boulders were selected from Wisconsin and delivered to the west side of the Darrow bridge for the work. Clauss Bros. performed the work in their contractor capacity. According to those who observed and documented the work, the laying of stones in a Japanese Garden is a highly precise and ritualized process. The team also continued to evaluate ideas and a framework for upgrading the garden as a whole in accord with JG standards. No detailed plans have yet been made for presentation, or funds raised, but it has been determined that the current fence and gates are stable. Under consideration is better, more direct access paths to the garden. Meanwhile, if you visit, expect to find at least one of the lower paths to the Moon Bridge flooded by the lagoon and both pools below the waterfall no longer separated from the lagoon. The waterfall should now be on. On a recent Sunday, Japanese sets of visitors came in buses.

**June 1. It's Your Park Day.** Louise reports: We had a total 67 adults and players and scouts.

Projects: Mulched 44 trees on three paths, chipped 2 trails and 4 wet picnic-area low spots, picked 10 bags of trash and numerous broken limbs. Jerome Scott of the Park District taught proper mulching to a tireless crew of mulchers and their kids. Paraisia Winston’s family won rain barrels. A Chicago Parks Foundation event.
‘Iowa’ building still a popular spot. The “Ten Thousand Ripples” peace sign at the statuary Buddha heads has been replaced. The bike rack is scheduled for stabilization (there is an underground water issue), and we have been waiting on a chess table. It’s a popular place for selfies and group photos. All should be spruced up for our annual picnic July 8. Find it at 56th and Everett.

Golf consolidation/upgrade. There has been speculation in the media about alternative approaches or phasing of golf plans. The Park District’s position) and that of the Golf Alliance) for now remains that it is only considering the one concept and that both planning and funding are far from complete or ready to go. There are also other complications. We will let you know when we know more. We are pleased that the many golf groups are working together to promote youth opportunities and golfing events now, and that there is general recognition that something needs to be done to bolster the shoreline, especially at South Shore, and that the courses need to be safe, modern, serving golfers of all capacity including families, and provide more, rather than less nature.

Responsible landscaping for the OPC site- what it would entail
Report on discussion with landscape architect Robert Rock of Living Habitats by Southside Neighbors 4 Hope at Jackson Park Fieldhouse April 27, 2019. Editor Gary Ossewaarde attended this public Earth Day forum. This report draws from the report by Southside Neighbors 4 Hope in their June 3 Newsletter. Facts for that were checked by Mr. Rock and members of the Obama Foundation. Visit www.sosideneighbors4hope.org. Mr. Rock is a Principal at Living Habitats, a Chicago landscape architectural practice, part of the Obama Presidential Center landscape team headed by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates. Mr. Rock stressed that as both architects and ecologists, Living Habitats and the whole team highly respect the environmental and ecological underpinnings of designing for this site, from stormwater management to birds, tree and plant succession, and from ongoing climate change. Planning is iterative to ensure the OPC will be successfully integrated into and hopefully improve this ecologically and historically significant site for generations to come.

Trees: Mr. Rock said that the current condition of the trees, assessed initially by Bartlett Tree Experts showed nearly 40 percent in decline or undesirable. On closer look, many more trees proved to be threatened or damaged by soil pathogens or soil admixed with leftovers of Columbian Exposition buildings. And the palette lacks biodiversity-- nearly half the trees are from three genera, and there is a distinct lack of a middle story of plants. We have an opportunity to create a palette that both can adapt to climate change and weather swings and, by using time, vegetation size and growth rate, choreograph healthy landscape generation as the site matures. [Ed. Note- yes, a large majority of current trees will be gone, but a larger number of trees and more shrubs and ground cover than exist today will be planted.]

Birds: From the start, the landscape and building architects have worked closely to identify hazards including to the vast number of birds who pass through or use the park along the migratory flyway. Strategies to avoid strikes include bird-safe glass, avoidance of blind glass corners, and keeping a correct distance between vegetation and buildings / windows. The most effective suite will be employed.

Water: Large areas of the site are designed to capture water from even 100 year storms and retain it, harvesting stormwater for irrigation and grey-water reuse. Intersecting water that presently flows across dirty Cornell Drive into the lagoon will improve the health of the lagoons and Wooded Island.

Soil: The existing soils (which will mostly have to be removed for construction) are layered with both good soil nurtured by vegetation over the past century since the Columbian Exposition, and bad soil from construction and demolition of structures, roadway expansion, or pathogens. The best will be harvested and preserved during construction so replacement soils can be inoculated with this heritage soil’s microbiology to help support the new landscape’s establishment and growth and speed up carbon sequestration.

JPAC/Jackson Park Summer 2019 Calendar rev. of 6-25-2019
(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 July 8 (6PM Annual PICNIC-IOWA BLDG.), August 12 at the fieldhouse at 7.

REGULAR WORKDAYS- BOBOLINK 2nd Sats 9-12. 63RD ST. BEACH NAT AREA 3rd Sats 10-12.
SO SH CULTL CTR NATURE SANCT 3rd S 10-12 WOODED I. 4TH SAT. 10-1. Columbia Basin,
TreeKeepers- Nancy Joseph njoseph2008@aol.com.

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!

(Exceptions to above) Except as otherwise noted, contact Louise McCurry with questions.
We need volunteers to help with special events and workdays -contact Louise McCurry,
commissioner751@icloud.com, 773 844-2225.

From June 22 our Piano has been tuned and will be available to play 9-6, outside or in the lobby. (Closed
Suns)
June 25, Tuesdays through July 30, 1-2 pm- Free short lessons on our piano with Thaddeus Tukes!

June 29- Woodlawn 5K Dash and Food Festival—promoting healthy non-violent communities. By Diversity in

June 29, Saturday, 1-3. Southside Neighbors 4 Hope holds a discussion with Ghian Foreman, new director of
Emerald South Economic Development Collaborative. Jackson Park Fieldhouse, June 29, Saturday, 1-
3 pm. This second conversation will provide an opportunity for community residents to talk about the
steps needed to ensure that the neighborhoods around the OPC will benefit from its construction and
operation in Jackson Park. Foreman, who grew up in the Hyde Park – Kenwood area, has been a long-
time community leader, investor and developer on the south side.
Please give yourself time as lots of events are scheduled that day including 8-5 Woodlawn 5K Dash
and Food and Health Festival (Midway Pl. closed)

June 29, Saturday, 8:45 p.m. Rescheduled JP Flashlight Tour. SOLD OUT.

July 6, Saturday, 10 am-1 pm. Rescheduled Wooded Island Workday. Pulling invasives. Meet at south bridge

to island. sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com.

July 8, Monday, 6:30 pm. JPAC’s ANNUAL PICNIC MEETING at the Iowa Building (1750 block of 56th St.
opposite Montgomery Place Retirement Community). See the new amenities.

July 11, Thursday, c11 am. Play for the Parks- Chicago Parks Foundation annual golf fundraiser for parks.

July 13, Saturday, 9 am-noon. Bobolink Meadow Workday. Meet at golf driving range lot.
www.bobolinkvolunteers.org.

July 20, Saturday, 10 am. 63rd St. Beach Natural Areas workday. ewarden@shedd aquarium.org.

July 24, Wednesday, 6 pm. Summer Dance. Music Court lot area se of MSI.

July 27, Saturday, 10 am-1 pm. Wooded Island Workday. Meet south end of Isle. sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com.

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 south of MSI.

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

August 24, Saturday, 10 am. Wooded Island Workday. sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com.

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

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NIGHTS OUT IN THE PARK. Movies. MSI lawn, dusk/8:15- Aug 10 Wonder Woman, Aug 24 at 63rd beach (title tba), Aug. 28 MSI lawn Local Film Showcase.

Summer Dance (6 pm Music Court & lot se of MSI) July 24, Aug 14. Draws from all over! Band. Various styles.

SUMMER CAMP & session registration opened online April 23, in person April 27 for programs 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.

Go Run Chicago holds FREE TIMED RACES at 63rd St. Beach - Saturdays at 9 AM- last JULY 20. Register at www.gorunchicago.org.

SOME OTHERS’ EVENTS

Ellis Park (35th and Cottage Grove) invites you to Jazzin’ on the Roof July 26 5-8. $20.

HBCU association will hold an open golf tournament August 17. Jackson Park- clubuse Hayes and Richards. Events of Senior Games late summer.

Museum of Science and Industry. Wired to Wear special exhibit.
A special exhibit of rare materials from the U-505 Sub is on display. http://www.msichicago.org.