



JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 34th YEAR!

J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER June 2018 Vol. 25 No. 6

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, 4/09, 5/14, 6/11, 7/09

DUES/ VOLUNTARY CONTR.
\$35 per person. Opportunity
levels are available
TO JPAC c/o Dwight Powell,
7206 S. Luella, Chicago, IL
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**JUNE 11, 2018 MON 7 PM AT JACKSON PARK
FIELDHOUSE 6401 S. STONY ISLAND AVE.**
Prize-winning ENVIR MOVIE on oceans AT 6. Plus Sierra Club
Minutes, reports, discussion of ideas for PAC 2018-19

CONTENTS p1 About/Ann'ts; p2 MINUTES, CALENDAR incl. Piano
in the Park/Make Music Chi w Lyric 6/21. p3 ON THE TABLE report.
p4 UPDATES

>>> 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, apps.

BACKPAGES ARCHIVE www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac. HOME

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

NEWSLETTERS ARCHIVE www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters

THIS NL: <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters/June2018.pdf>

MINUTES ARCH <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/minandresolu.htm>

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

BOBOLINK website <http://www.bobolinkvolunteers.org>

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

106 REVIEW- <https://tinyurl.com/JPIImprovements>, our analysis:

www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/Section_106_OPCMobilityHistoricReview_2017.htm

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

OPC <https://obama.com/>. CITY info <http://www.cityofchicago.org/OPC>

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.org, www.gardenofthephoenix.org

Friends of the White City (free tours): <http://www.friendsofthewhitecity.org>.

www.JacksonParkWatch.org . www.fotsp.org . www.chicagoparksfoundation.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 MAY 8, 2018 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MEETING

The meeting was held at a special day and time and followed JPAC's annual On the Table (Chicago Community Trust) dinner discussion, proceedings of which follow the minutes.

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the fieldhouse, a quorum being present.

Minutes of the April meeting were moved and approved.

Treasurer Dwight Powell reported a balance of \$4,090.93. A deposit of \$76 was since made. Expenses include \$53.03 for the film festival program. Moved and approved were expenses of up to \$250 for the summer day camp, Migratory Bird Day, and to buy more business cards promoting Jackson Park In Your Pocket.

McCurry reported we are signed up for two In Your Parks activity days—individuals are asked to sign up with the Chicago Parks Foundation website, www.chicagoparksfoundation.org by June 8 and let Louise know you are coming. On June 16 teams will clean 57th St. beach and around the Columbia Basin and lagoon north edge- meet at 57th St. beach 10 a.m. On June 23 teams including 200 from Roosevelt University will clean 63rd St. beach and along Hayes including by the Inner Harbor. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Jackson Park fieldhouse.

Jerry Levy will teach about native plants and ecology in conjunction with work days at South Shore Cultural Center Nature Sanctuary 3rd Saturdays at 10 a.m. On the 4th Saturday, May 26, Jerry's workday on Wooded Island will include tree identification—meet 10 a.m. at the south bridge to the Island.

Bobolink Meadow has new plantings. Workdays are 2nd Saturdays 9-noon. Bird tours given by various groups on Wooded Island and the Meadow including 8 and 10 a.m. on Saturdays, mornings on Wednesdays.

Piano in the Park is coming to Jackson Park for the summer. Dawn Posey said the "outdoors" piano arrives c. 11 a.m. June 19 by the fieldhouse entrance. June 21 has a full day of programming with Make Music Chicago Hyde Park. The idea is for adults and kids to sign up for short introductions or lessons with a volunteer professional piano teacher. The piano will be brought indoors for the night and during inclement weather.

There was a discussion of looking for creative ways to get schools more involved in the park and students doing community service hours in the park.

Alderman Hairston held a well-attended meeting at South Shore Cultural Center May 7--extended presentations, questions, and engagement at boards about the Obama Presidential Center and its Community Commitment with the design team, CDOT-proposed road changes, the replacement Track and Field, and South Lakefront Plan. Changes to the Obama Center were announced. The Chicago Plan Commission will consider the OPC, roads and tracks May 17 and City Council these and more in phases later in May and later.

Moved to adjourn. Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary. NEXT MEETINGS **JUNE 11**, at fieldhouse, FILM ON OCEANS AT 6 PM. **JULY 9 (annual Safety picnic, with police) at Iowa Bldg.**

Sats at 11- History tours (Darrow Bridge east).* June 9, July 14 9 a.m.-noon Bobolink Meadow Workday June 11 6 p.m. Prize-winning movie on oceans + Kyra Woods of Sierra Club brief talk. w. 7 p.m. JPAC mtg. June 16 and 23. It's Your Park Day cleanup and activities.** Please sign up by June 8 with Chicago Parks Foundation --and Louise at 773-844-2225.

June 16 10 am meet at **57th St. beach** for history of the park and split into teams for beach cleanup and cleanup around the Columbia Basin and north edge of the lagoons.

June 23 meet at JP fieldhouse for teams with 200 Roosevelt students to clean, some 63rd St. beach, others along the inner harbor and Hayes Drive.

PIANO IN THE PARK. June 19, Join us 11 a.m. -piano arrives for the summer outside fieldhouse. Teachers give free short lessons that day and through summer. **MAKE MUSIC CHICAGO June 21 10 a.m-7:30 p.m.** In gym and outside fieldhouse. **NOON- LYRIC OPERA ensemble** inside. www.makemusicchicago.org.

May 26 (invasives, ID volunteer oaks), June 23, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. **Wooded Island Workdays.**

ON THE TABLE Community Potluck-Discussion May 8 2018, Jackson Park Fieldhouse

JPAC for the third year hosted a Chicago Community Trust On the Table® “Your Voice Matters” community discussion of ways to engage and improve the community “With the Urgency of Now.” The Chicago Park District and Parks Foundation participate in these citywide discussions, now international. Nearly 20 attended our discussion, including regulars and a mix of guests. We were pleased to have Park District region and downtown staff participate. Program chair Dawn Posey and President Louise McCurry handled sign up and logistics. Dwight Powell brought the all-important cake to go with some great dishes.

Topics discussed at tables and then reported: What Past PAC initiatives are you proud of?

What current PAC initiatives do you participate in/like?

What new JPAC initiatives would you recommend?

Were you inspired with a new idea, what new thing will you do “With the fierce urgency of now”?

Accomplishments: 1- Bringing attention to needs of community to enhance park experience—voices could be heard. Reported problems, solutions found. Stewardship of nature and Wooded Island and Bobolink Meadow. Nature and landscape restorations, tree plantings and promotion of open lands. Cleanups. Improved park safety. Art in the park including Peace Heads, Sky Landing. New playgrounds. Arts/performances, films, lectures including ours and with partners. Getting technology and media outreach running including Jackson Park in Your Pocket. We keep trying new initiatives to involve folks. Helping create other PACs and PAC communication.

Present initiatives involved in: One Earth Film Festival, stewardship, cleanup, park safety and issue walk/bike/drive through, tours, intense participation in the public discussions and evaluation about park future/framework plan and projects including OPC, our own and partnership programs.

New initiatives suggested (I have underlined things that the PAC could organize to itself do):

Make an annual action plan, focus or campaign. Membership campaign. Develop a process for listening to and mediating the varied demands on the park. More volunteer initiatives, volunteering. Fix the Iowa Building. Replace lost trees and plant more including outside the park. Make gardens in the park and neighborhood-- work with groups like NeighborSpace and OpenLands. Get shoreline fixed, expanded and friendlier to people. Fix and purpose the Coast Guard Station for public use, perhaps with a water taxi station, update harbors and athletic fields, Bring more programming including cultural to fieldhouse and outdoors such as concerts, dance, art, film and distinct things for all ages and demographics. Golf and other recreation initiatives for youth and persons with disabilities. Ways to be a stronger clearer voice. New ways to get awareness and our word out—Media , Marketing, hands-on- from history to nature to what the park has to offer. Youth engagement. An anti-littering campaign or program. Seek discounted parking for those doing work in the park and families, more parking. Get OPC to put in practice and document commitments including women in trades.

What one thing will you do? Work in my locale to galvanize and get more volunteers, Encourage members to work on the goals. Get involved in the stewardship programs while enjoying the nature. Work to get PACs talking and working together and doing joint programs.

News and Issues

Obama Center and park planning. The City's informational website is www.cityofchicago.org/OPC. The extensive webpage and archive by this editor, Gary Ossewaarde with lots of discussions and links, is <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPLibrary.htm>.

April 11 the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners received the **South Lakefront Plan** subject to continued internal refinement and any changes in the final recommendation and MOU of the federal environmental review process particularly as it involves the OPC, road etc., and more.

May 7 Alderman Hairston held a Ward meeting at South Shore Cultural Center with all the parties and departments, and contractors related to the Obama Center proposal gave detailed presentations including design changes and took questions.

May 17 the Chicago Plan Commission heard presentation, took testimony on and voted in favor of six recommendations regarding the Obama Center and related road and infrastructure changes. The meeting and related rallies ahead were quite emotional, but testimony for and against and the numerous questions asked provided much information, varied perspectives on issues and the park—some very moving, and sometimes contrary understandings or misunderstandings even revisionist history of what exactly is involved. There are of course deep disagreements about how to manage the changes and potential benefits while protecting long-term residents and neighborhood character and about what's best for and appropriate in parks and for the City. There is much yet to be either decided or revealed, particularly about what the lease conditions and obligations will be, what land is actually lost or gained (depending on how you define "parkland"), design and materials, the costs, financials and economics, and impacts including of, and on traffic, and what are the best ways to both stabilize and invigorate neighborhoods without displacement.

The City Council Zoning Committee gave approval May 22 and City Council May 23 (47-1). Meantime a lawsuit was filed. We are waiting the announcement of the next Section 106 historical review meeting, on effects and mitigations.

Of necessity all these processes have to move in parallel, informing each other at key stages in order to avoid the inefficiency of spending inordinate time and money before proposals have been formally asked and approved in principle. At this point, the Park District and City needed to say "this is what we intend to do" even if in the end they don't or can't exactly do it in whole or part.

Park water fountains. Because of lead issues, the park district will be leaving off a number of lead-standard violating fountains in less-travelled parts of the parks. They will leave those in busy locations that have safe lead levels if run continuously, retrofit safe fountains with push button operation, and gradually remove or repipe numerous fountains. After Memorial Day, if you find fountains not running or button-operable that you think should be, or else broken or leaking let us know and we will report and inquire—give as exact a location as possible including nearest numbered lamppost.

May 11 a celebration of life was held at South Shore Cultural Center for Robert Pickens, former Chicago Park District commissioner and VP, advocate for Jackson and South Shore Cultural Center parks, barrier-breaking Olympic wrestler, Chicago Bear, and astute businessman.

Thanks to the many who contributed to making our two celebrations, May 12 and 19 of the **International Migratory Bird Treaty a wonderful time for all**. Activities included trail walks, building bird houses and feeders, bird ID, a work activity and more.

The full summer schedule including our own programs and of Park District Night Out in the Parks programs is being assembled. We also continue ongoing and new partnerships and collaborations including with Chicago Parks Foundation, Lucky Trikes, One Earth Film Festival—we are in our second series with 4 environment movies, starting June 11. Members are starting an anti-litter and proper disposal of hot coals initiative, now in pilot deployment on the south edge of the park. Other initiatives may be proposed June 11.