**JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 36th YEAR!**

**J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019 Vol. 26 No. 6**

**NATURE HISTORY RECREATION  JACKSON PARK- BE THERE!**

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**CALENDAR** [http://hydepark.org/parks/jpac/2019 Spring Calendar.pdf](http://hydepark.org/parks/jpac/2019 Spring Calendar.pdf)

**JOIN JPAC.** Mail checks made out to JPAC to JPAC C/O Dwight Powell, 7206 S. Luella, Chicago, IL 60649. (Memb. can be printed from online and mailed with check.) (Fiscal agent Chicago Parks Foundation, a 501c3).


**FACEBOOK.** [https://facebook.com/JacksonParkAdvisoryCouncil](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](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac)

**NEWSLETTERS ARCHIVE** [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters)


**MINUTES ARCHIVE** [http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/minandesolu.htm](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/minandesolu.htm)

**Bobolink website** [http://www.bobolinkvolunteers.org](http://www.bobolinkvolunteers.org)

**FRAMEWK PLAN-OBAMA CTR-GOLF-** [www.southlakefrontplan.com](http://www.southlakefrontplan.com)

**106/NEPA REVs-** [https://tinyurl.com/JPImprovememts](https://tinyurl.com/JPImprovememts), our analysis: [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/Section_106_OPCMobilityHistoricReview_2017.htm](http://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](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/Obama_Ctr_Reviews_Updates.pdf)

**GOLF** [http://chicagoparksgolfalliance.org](http://chicagoparksgolfalliance.org) www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/golf.htm

**OPC** [https://obama.com](https://obama.com). CITY info [http://www.cityofchicago.org/OPC](http://www.cityofchicago.org/OPC)

**JPAC’s Obama Center page** [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPLibrary.htm](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPLibrary.htm)

**ACE Wooded I- info and links-** [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ace2014.htm](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ace2014.htm)

**Project 120** [www.Project120Chicago.org](http://www.Project120Chicago.org), [www.gardenoftheophenix.org](http://www.gardenoftheophenix.org)


**ELECTR. DELIV OF NL, ADDR UPDATE- garyossewaarde@yahoo.com**

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**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.

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Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. following our annual On The Table community discussion-Memo to the Mayor. Our report is appended below as part of the record. A quorum and total of 20 attended the meeting. Officer Ramey attended for University of Chicago Police.

Treasurer’s report. Our bank, MB Financial, was assumed by Fifth/Third on May 6. Our final statement of that date showed a balance of $3,752.29 reflecting $75 payment to the projectionist at the April 27 One Earth film screening. We received $75 in membership contributions (thank you Duwain and Chicago Ornithological Society) which will be deposited. We are getting new checks from the new bank, which has nearby branches.

Minutes of the April meeting were accepted.

Because the meeting started later than usual, due to the On The Table, a motion was entertained, made by Erin Adams to suspend for this meeting our practice considering officer and committee reports first. Approved.

Little Libraries. Erin Adams presented and answered questions on a proposal of South Side Neighbors with JPAC for book exchange boxes at the two playgrounds on 67th St. that could serve as a pilot. Copies of a letter proposed to be presented to the Park District this Wednesday were distributed and discussed. Adams had consulted with Brown Books and Paintbrushes organization. Books are in hand. Pat Harper and others advised that a committee be set up to oversee the boxes and create programming that encourages reading to and with and mentoring small children. Adams moved, others seconded, that the project be approved and volunteers for a committee be sought, and the letter for presentation to the Park District be approved. Approved. (Text of the proposal letter is appended.)

Trees/Forestry Advisory Council. Steward Nancy Joseph, and Sylvie Bendica, both with OpenLands TreeKeepers, presented on behalf of OpenLands Project a written proposal to Mayor-Elect Lightfoot to establish an Urban Forestry Advisory Board for the City of Chicago with proposed charge and projects. They asked that JPAC sign on to the proposal. They noted some of the deficiencies in current care, replacement, and expansion of trees in the city--poor care, lack of guidelines (including who is charge of what and what these can/should do), what is cut down, lack of staff, and weak attention to heritage trees including their futures (the park’s oak stands was mentioned). One goal is to start adding an additional 1,000 trees in the city each year. Moved by Joseph and seconded by Dwight Powell for JPAC to send a letter of support to Mayor-elect Lightfoot for the proposal and Urban Forestry Advisory Board. Approved. (Our letter is appended and the OpenLands proposal is found at www.openlands.org.)

New business and Announcements. McCurry announced that a video featuring the two Jackson Park golf caddies / local high school graduates who won full scholarships will be on at 1 a.m. tonight on Windy City Live.

-May 17-18 is the Hyde Park Garden Fair, May 18 is the Plant & Geranium Sale at South Shore Cult’l Center.
-May 15, 29 --first 2 Listening-planning meetings for the South Shore Cultural Center (there, 6, 6:30 resp.).
-Flashlight Tour of Jackson Park May 18 8:45 p.m. [note- will be rescheduled due to weather]. Fran Vandervoort will distribute bookmarks promoting our App “Jackson Park in Your Pocket” and download link.

Duwain Bailey invited all to attend the One Woodlawn community summit May 30 6 p.m. at Apostolic Church, 6320 S. Dorchester. You can call 312 399-7548 for more information.

-June 1 It’s Your Park Day. Mulch is coming for trees south of the Driving Range and in picnic areas south to Hayes Drive and westward. We’ll also pull plastic from lagoon edge. We’ll start 9:30 or 10.
-Pianos in the Park with lessons for kids and the June 21 (Friday) noon-7 p.m. and Make Music Chicago (Nights Out in the Park programs) are coming back this summer. Volunteers are needed for June 21.
-McCurry received consensus to place on the agenda of the June 10 meeting establishment of a Jackson Park Youth Green Team, similar to the former Junior Ecology Teams (JETS). She needs names to contact.

Moved to adjourn at 8 p.m. Next meeting June 10 7p.m. Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary
Memo to the Mayor follows JPAC-convened On the Table community potluck

Jackson Park Advisory Council  
6401 S. Stony Island Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60637  
On the Table -- Memo to Mayor Lori Lightfoot May 13, 2019

Dear Mayor Lightfoot:

A diverse group of residents and park users from South Shore, Woodlawn, Hyde Park and beyond convened at Jackson Park Fieldhouse May 13. Participants spoke out for equitable and sustainable solutions to the issues facing Jackson Park, surrounding communities, and the greater South Side and shared thoughts about the import of the Obama Presidential Center (OPC) coming to Jackson Park. We want to share our hopes and thoughts with you and ask for City commitment and help to realize our dreams. Jackson Park Advisory Council invites you to join us in a tour of our remarkable, historic park to see its needs and potential and what we are already doing with limited resources.

All of us feel strongly that the coming of the Obama Presidential Center (OPC) in Jackson Park is the lynchpin for a renewed future for both our park and communities. What follows is our reasons and hopes for the future.

Jackson Park  
Community residents and stakeholders have already collaborated to develop the South Lakefront Framework Plan to revitalize the park to equitably serve the communities and our youth for the 21st century. We need commitment from your administration to carry out the following key recommendations of the Plan.

- Plan and fund a new fieldhouse. An upgraded, expanded full-service class-A fieldhouse would replace the current deteriorated facility that lacks sufficient space. The new facility would contain thoughtful, up-to-date programming for users of all ages, but especially youth, who need skills for new futures and alternatives to the streets, and with more evening and weekend activities, can take advantage of Jackson Park as a safe, neutral space.
- Repair and reinforce the endangered South Lakeshore. We call special attention to continual erosion of and deterioration of the LaRabida Hospital area, various harbor shores and walls, and beaches, and threatens Lake Shore Drive and the renewed Lakefront Trail.
- Implement infrastructure improvements for safety, connectivity and access to the lakefront and throughout the park. Plans proposed for the OPC campus design offer an opportunity to reunite the park and provide safer access to recreational areas including any renewal or upgrade of the golf course. Compared to the north side, paths throughout the park are in deplorable shape. And it is inequitable to have to wait 7-10 years for a critical structure like the Darrow Bridge to be replaced while new flyovers are built up and down the lakefront. Infrastructure improvement allocations have not been fair to the South Side.
- Provide for ongoing renewal and expansion of sustainable, ecologically sound landscaping and habitat throughout the park that takes into account climate change and the needs of wildlife. Jackson Park is an uncommon expanse urban woodland and open land, but much has been lost, is dead, or is beyond its prime. The OPC landscape design plan, coupled with the just completed habitat restoration in the natural areas, provides a template for ecologically sound landscape restoration for the future.

We support an expanded program of tree planting under the direction of a Forestry Advisory Board. And we ask that you be mindful that Jackson Park is a “blue” as well as a “green” park—Lake Michigan alone is a priceless resource whose health and shores need attention and restoration.

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Obama Presidential Center
The Participants believe the OPC will be a gateway and engine to the rebirth of the South Side of Chicago through its ability to change city and community attitudes about our neighborhoods, redirect economic investment resources to the South Side, and help develop and leverage our human capital.

Jackson Park is an appropriate location for the OPC because of its prestige as a Frederick Law Olmsted designed Park and it exemplifies Chicago’s long tradition of locating great cultural institutions in its lakefront parks. Olmsted developed a design philosophy based on his reporting of conditions in the slave economy of the South and the industrial economy of the North. He believed in parks as democratic spaces for all in a natural setting blending landscape, nature, and recreation. He accepted buildings and roads and changes that serve a good purpose and harmonize with their setting. What better place is there for a forum and museum honoring the first elected African-American President?

The OPC itself has a very small footprint in the park (20 of 560 acres) but will vastly upgrade that part and generate significant ripples of change throughout the park and neighborhoods. For the park, we look for it to encourage further repair and restoration and new programming and induce more people to enjoy, explore and learn in the park. For our South Side communities, we hope it will bring current and new residents new opportunities and resources as well as foster hope, pride, and empowerment to collaboratively tackle problems.

The OPC presence brings the park’s history and messages of equity, inclusion and hope into the 21st century. Jackson Park is already a unique junction of transportation, education, healthcare, nature, Lake and land, and peoples and culture. Now we hope it will change the way people think about the South Side, and how South Side residents think about themselves as citizens of Chicago and the world. Our participants described the possibilities in words such as “generational opportunity,” “paradigm changer,” “South Side at the center,” “laboratory setting the national agenda,” “people coming together,” “parity.”

We thank you for your attention and look forward to hearing your comments and response. Again, we invite you to tour our park with us. Jackson Park Advisory Council will be in touch with you.

Cordially, Louise McCurry, JPAC President

Support for Openlands proposal for an Urban Forestry Advisory Board as per letter to the Mayor

Dear Mayor Lightfoot:

By resolution of the PAC, May 13, 2019:

Jackson Park Advisory Council supports that the City of Chicago create an Urban Forestry Advisory Board (UFAB) to confer public health, safety and quality of life benefits to our residents by guiding the City in its stewardship of Chicago’s public and private trees. The UFAB Board would bring together stakeholders to develop policies and administrative processes for the City to more carefully and efficiently plant, care for and remove trees. This is especially critical in light of the City’s limited resources and impending threats to urban trees at a time when we should be investing in trees and a green biosphere in Chicago.

Cordially,

Louise McCurry
President, Jackson Park Advisory Council
Support for Little Library boxes at the two 67th Street playlots

Park Enhancement Committee
Chicago Park District

May 13, 2019

Dear Members of the PEC,

This letter documents the support of the Jackson Park Advisory Council (President Louise McCurry) for the plans proposed by Erin Adams (South Shore Neighbors For Hope) to install two “Little Free Library” boxes, one next to each of the two playlots on E. 67th Street, on the southern boundary of Jackson Park.

The Council reviewed Ms. Adams’ proposal at our May meeting (May 13th) and the council voted to approve her plans and forward this proposal to the PEC with our full support. We are confident, particularly with the closing of the South Shore Chicago Public Library for renovation, that these libraries can serve a vital resource for early childhood literacy on the South Side. Their location next to these playlots (which are located across the street from residential units with many young children) will make books easily accessible to the children and their parents.

Ms. Adams also discussed her collaboration with Candice Washington, founder of Brown Books & Paintbrushes, a program to promote early childhood literacy and healthy racial identity, to apply for grants to purchase books to stock these libraries, on top of many boxes of donated books that Ms. Adams has accumulated.

We are confident this will be a positive addition to our park and will more fully enhance the Chicago Park District’s relationship to our south side communities.

/s/ Louise McCurry___________________________________________________________

A busy month…

Service events in various parts of the park- cleanups including plastic, removal of invasives, or planting, often with tours: April 13 (Roosevelt) + Bobolink. April 17 (at Huckleberry with UC Police). April 20 (U of C at Iowa B) April 22 & 24 (over 5000 native plants planted at Columbia Basin with Obama F and other groups). Also a cleanup and paths day on the LaRabida peninsula.

May 4 (cleaned and re-chipped 62nd playground. May 10 (Evanston students tour “Youth Eyes on the Park”). May 11 Bobolink (with Lab School students). May 15 (Lab School, others mulched Wooded I interior trails). May 25 Wooded Island workday.

Events. April 27. Environmental Festival Day. Virtual tour of the OPC and presentation, discussion, and Q & A with Robert Rock of Living Habitat about the site and tree/landscape condition now and what thinking has gone into making a good soil, ecologically progressive landscape, habitat and drainage, and bird friendliness. Followed by Screening and discussion of Leonardo DiCaprio/National Geographic film "Before the Flood Comes" (One Earth Film Festival) with Resource Fair, raffle, refreshments.

April 29. Golf associations honored local winners of two Evans Scholarship winners, Tim Arlington and Abdul Raoul. May 2 Channel 5 News filmed and featured programs in the park that enhance lives, such as Dovetail. May 11 Migratory Bird Day Festival teaching (thanks, George Rumsey- giant banner; thanks Field Museum). May 13 On The Table(T) conversation on how major capital and program improvements in Jackson Park can enhance neighborhoods (see Memo to the Mayor in this Newsletter).

Other involvement- April 23 (PD engineers inspect LaRabida, harbor walls). April 24 (needs-tour with State Sen. Peters and stakeholder groups). April 29 (debate on future of the golf course, at 1st Unitarian).

And people presence- birders, bikers, strollers, busloads of tourists, sports players, class and camp goers. 5
News, reminders and views

Get out there and enjoy the migratory birds and spring wildflowers. Such beauty is both welcome and fleeting.

Not all drinking fountains may be on in the park this summer. About 350 drinking fountains will be removed from Chicago parks because of lead contamination. “About 350 will be removed and 350 will be fixed with lead service line replacements,” the Park District tells us. Those in/at the fieldhouse and by the Golf Driving Range are among those that have been replaced.

Beavers have again been spotted in the park. Please report if you see them or evidence of their famous work ethic. They are humanely relocated.

Track and field. There have been questions raised about our present field and track and the replacement facility started, but on hold south of the Obama Center site. The following feature is mine, but draws for some points upon JPAC president Louise McCarthy’s letter to the editor in the Hyde Park Herald May 22, 2019.

Background. There had once been a cinder track in the vicinity of the later golf driving range, and late in the 19th century two tracks (for men and for women) and gymasia were designed by the Olmsted’s and built near 63rd Street and Stony Island. They became used for bicycles and were later removed for road configuration and for structures. The first field on the current site (in the 6200 block of S. Stony Island) was built in 2000 as a result of efforts by community leaders and officials with JPAC input, and received major funding from the NFL and Chicago Bears owners. It had natural grass in the center, whose condition was very bad, and was undersize for high level competition.

In 2011, the Pritzker-Traubert Foundation launched Take the Field initiative with the park district to build new artificial-turf field and tracks in several Chicago parks. Five years later it was in the path of the Obama Center, so the Obama Foundation agreed to pay for a new, competition-standard, multi-sport track and field south of the site. It was planned with the various teams in several large and focus meetings. Construction was started and the base poured, but was halted in conjunction with the lawsuit against the OPC, leaving an eyesore.

All of these modern fields have always been multi-sport, used by high school and other teams—but not AYSO or other youth teams- for football, soccer, rugby and as part of track and field events.

The field and track are artificial turf. Both that and grass turf can present safe-use issues, but JPAC was shown (as the track was proposed to be rebuilt in 2011) studies showing that artificial turf is safe or safer. Even though artificial surfaces have to be repaired or replaced (which is expensive) from time to time, grass fields (such as along Hayes Drive) need constant maintenance, and when torn up as they are when played on after rains, they present real safety hazards and often have to sit idle while the turf replenishes or is replaced. Of course, the artificial surface is not a “growing one”, but the facility in Jackson takes up only a small part of the park. Most would say our youth and keeping them off the streets is worth it. F.L. Olmsted designed parks for people and recreation and not just for nature and landscape.

These teams, by the way, not only clean up after themselves but engage in community service activities in the park, just as AYSO does in the shared-use fields along Hayes Drive in addition to constant repair of the grass field at its own expense.

Payment of user fees by teams helps keep the cost of the many park programs affordable or free while it places part of the burden that would otherwise be borne by taxpayers on those who wish to have restricted use of a public space for certain times. Note—the fees do not go back to the “earning” park precisely to prevent conflicts and conflicts of interest among the many user groups of the specific park and to discourage inter-park competition and inequity.

JPAC thinks a good, equitable bargain was struck by and for all that allows our park to serve and bring together many people, especially youth, from our neighborhoods in a neutral, safe space. Gary Ossewaarde
JPAC/Jackson Park Spring-Sum 2019 Calendar rev. of 6-02-2019

(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 June 10, July 8 (6:30 Annual picnic at Iowa Bldg.)


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.

(Events are subject to change.) Except as otherwise noted, contact Louise McCurry with questions. We need volunteers to help on the following -contact Louise McCurry, commisioner751@icloud.com, 773 844-2225. June 1, 21, and special-group workdays.

June 7, Friday, 10 am-noon. 57th beach and vicinity with UC Community Service project. Meet Iowa Bldg on 56th.


June 15, Saturday, 10-12. 63rd St. Beach natural area workday. 3rd Sats. CPD & Shedd Aquarium.

June 20, Thursday, 9 am-6 pm. Opening day of Pianos in the Park. Outside in good weather, or inside. Lessons see 6-25.

June 21, Friday, 12-6 pm. MAKE MUSIC CHICAGO. Youth and children’s ensembles perform at the fieldhouse. (Subject to change) Includes at 12 (inv.) Schools Making Music in the Parks, 1:30 Chicago Gymnastics, 3:30 (inv.) Hyde Park Ballet, 5:30 Lyric Chorus of Chicago outreach org.

June 22. Saturday, 10-1. Wooded Island Workday. Meet south end of Island. sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com.

June 25, Tuesdays through July 30 1-2 pm. Pianos in the Parks. Thaddeus Tukes gives short lessons on our piano.


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

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NIGHTS OUT IN THE PARK. (More likely coming) Flashlight Tour (to be rescheduled), Movies (MSI lawn, dusk) June 19 Back to the Future II, Rest 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.

Go Run Chicago holds FREE TIMED RACES at 63rd St. Beach - Saturdays at 9 AM- JUNE 15, JULY 20. Register at www.gorunchicago.org.

SOME OTHERS’ EVENTS

Play for the Parks golf tournament raises funds for parks events, projects. A weekday in mid July starting at 11 am.. Visit www.chicagoparksfoundation.org for details and registration.

HBCU association will hold an open golf tournament August 17.

There may also be an adaptive golf tournament in September. And part of the Senior Games is usually in Jackson Park.

We recommend the many events and workdays in our neighbor parks.


June 16, Sunday, 3-5 pm. Hyde Park Historical Society History Fair Program. At HPHS building, 5529 S. Lake Park Ave. Meet the winners of the Society’s award for the best student projects on the history of Hyde Park Township from the 2019 Chicago Metro History Fair. See the students present their projects and hear commentary by distinguished members of our panel: Timuel D. Black, Jay Mulberry, and Susan Ann Johnson (Chicago Area Women’s History Council). Includes HPHS Award for Excellence winners who have advanced to competition in Springfield: Safa Azad, Nichole Tran, and Sophia Villacarlos of Von Steuben High School -- documentary: "African Americans and the Columbian Exposition." Please RSVP Kathy Huff, kathy@rogerhuff.com or 773 241-4171.


Museum of Science and Industry: Wired to Wear special exhibit.