



## JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 34th YEAR!

# J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER March 2017 Vol. 24 No. 3

JPAC- PROTECTING NATURE, PRESERVING HISTORY, SUPPORTING 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, 03/13, 04/10, 05/08

**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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Security 312 747-2193

**MONDAY MARCH 13, 2017 7p.m.**

**at the fieldhouse, 6401 S. Stony Island Ave.**

**AGENDA** (Full agenda will be presented at the meeting.-please  
send AGENDA item/additions requests to the president.)

**Guests,**

**Officer's and Committee reports, New and Old Business,  
Announcements. Adjourn**

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**>>> 2017 MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS** - Mail checks made out to  
JPAC to JPAC C/O Dwight Powell, 7206 S. Luella 60649. (Memb. Is taken  
online but check must be mailed.) Basic level: \$35. (Fiscal agent Chicago Parks  
Foundation, a 501c3.) <<<

**WORKDAYS RESUME.** Bobolink 3/11 9 am-12, Wooded I 3/25  
10 am-1. [parrybell@ameritech.net](mailto:parrybell@ameritech.net), [jslevy@jeromelevylaw.com](mailto:jslevy@jeromelevylaw.com)

**WEB, links,** <http://www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org>

<http://www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org/events>

**FACEBOOK** (please "like" us). <https://facebook.com/JacksonParkAdvisoryCouncil/>

**This Newsletter:** <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters/March2017nl.htm>

Alt. home, index & Newsletters: <http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac.html> and

Indexes [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac), [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/newsletters)

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

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

Obama Library- [www.barackobamafoundation.org](http://www.barackobamafoundation.org) incl. sign up for e-updates

JPAC's Obama Library page [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPLibrary.htm](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/ObamaPLibrary.htm)

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

SKYLANDING [www.skylanding.com](http://www.skylanding.com) [www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/golf.htm](http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/golf.htm)

BOBOLINK website: <http://bluestem.info/bobolink/>

[www.JacksonParkWatch.org](http://www.JacksonParkWatch.org) . [www.fotp.org](http://www.fotp.org). [www.chicagoparksfoundation.org](http://www.chicagoparksfoundation.org)

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

**ELECTRONIC DELIV OF NEWSLETTER-**[garyossewaarde@yahoo.com](mailto: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 February 13, 2017 Jackson Park Advisory Council meeting

President Louise McCurry convened the meeting at approximately 7:10 p.m. a quorum and a total of about 30 being present.

February minutes were moved by Jerry Levy, 2nded by Esther Schechter and approved.

Treasurer. Dwight Powell reported \$5,067.31 in our account and two checks cashed totaling \$119.05.

Persons from several golf organizations providing youth with caddy, mentoring and scholarship opportunities, spoke including Dion Madkins of the Golf Academy and representatives of The First Tee of Chicago including two young girls, Jada and Riley.

Thanks to JPAC members including Dwight Powell and Fran Vandervoort, persons from the Golf Alliance and WGA's Evan Scholarship program (based in Chicago) met with youth of Hyde Park High about forming a team and caddying this year. Similar meetings are being set up with other mid-South schools. Volunteers are sought to train and mentor youth in golf. Twenty youth caddies will be subsidized in the park this year. The South Shore Excel Academy anticipates having a golf team for the first time in several years. The golf team was asked to consider kids and schools in the middle grades as well.

Brian Hogan and Michael Ruemmler of the Chicago Parks Golf Alliance answered questions—welcomed as part of an important vetting and planning process by Jerry Levy head of the golf committee. Hogan and others said that the engineering firm SmithGroup/JJR is examining drainage, soils and damage and was not yet prepared to plot the golf lies, but noted PGA requires 7000 yards per. They stressed that the golf will stay in the current footprint, that in combining 27 holes into 18 longer holes, effort will be made to provide both challenges and comfort to those who want a simpler golf experience. They would work to keep fees, if possible even lower than the Park District can, grandfather priority access tee times and events of the area and Jackson Park clubs. When work is being done at a regular spot for such a golf event, the event will be moved to another part of the course. The remake will pay attention to safety in both the golf lies and circulation in the course and to the communities. They are not ready to say what the schedule of work is, but want to go now with the youth programs. They would like to start at South Shore (not sure which hole will be recommended), which is the simpler course, working on perhaps three holes at a time. Golfers recalled that Waveland has an indoor practice facility and they would like to have something similar here.

Margaret Schmid of Jackson Park Watch and another said they want no work done until after a new plan is drawn up for all Jackson Park. Mr. Hogan Golf Alliance said such matters are in the provenance of the Park District. Dwight Powell said it is important for the people of the South Side to get things done; we need action-- but also to work together and stress the positive aspects of Chicago. Sharon Lewis said that because of these proposals other things are getting fixed.

Reports. Wooded Island. Levy announced the first workday of the season for March 25, 10 am. Meet at the south gate. New, larger tree ID tags are ready. Planting will resume in the spring. He replied that although the Island is open, the fences will stay up because of contractor liability for the new plants.

Bobolink Meadow. Norm Bell said the next workday is March 11, 10 am from the south end. A controlled burn was held, plants should be popping up soon.

La Rabida. Soccer kids did a cleanup and looked for fossils on the limestone beach March 4.

Jackson Park in your Pocket app is awaiting final editing and Park District approval.

Social media. Jake Young. The U of C team has strengthened our site and Facebook and Twitter. The online donation and blog should be going by the end of March.

Playground- A memorial bench will be installed at the 67<sup>th</sup>/Ridgeland playground.

Committees. Rules. Chair Jerry Levy reported that according to the bylaws, committees are established either by motion at council meetings or by the board; chair appointed by the president.

The PAC passed a resolution at the December meeting for a committee on nature and science issues. **2**

The board determined that this will be under the general nature committee that includes Wooded Island, Bobolink Meadow that is currently co-chaired by the stewards.

Ad hoc Golf committee. Jerry Levy reported that the special ad hoc committee of 10 established by the board and appointed by the president met and heard a detailed report from and asked extensive questions of Brian Hogan the Chicago Parks Golf Alliance about the golf proposal. Members each gave detailed views and all voted to recommend support pending the feasibility and design study and that certain conditions and commitments be met, including a public course with low City and local fees, grandfathered times et al for local clubs, and that ecological standards be met. (Report is appended to the February Newsletter.)

Chair Jerry Levy proposed that, as a response to recent transformative proposals for the park and widespread requests for coordinated planning, JPAC establish an ongoing general committee to review proposed changes, projects and construction comprehensively-- how does each affect others, how and do they work together or not, do they serve and meld with the park as a whole, what broader planning is needed? Responsible agencies and direct stakeholders would be invited to join or send representatives to join the appointed JPAC members. Invited would be Chicago Park District, Obama Foundation, Chicago Parks Alliance, 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Office, Friends of the Parks, JPAC, Jackson Park Watch, and Chicago Department of Transportation. Others can be added, but initially not too big. Jerry so moved and Dwight Powell seconded to establish such a committee to review and oversee park projects and their fit and coordination with each other and the park as a whole. The motion carried, with no dissent and a few abstentions.

New business—The Park District PAC Conference February 25 was recommended to all as a great learning & networking experience. Reg. Bill Hill was commended for his work on the event planning committee. Moved to adjourn. The next meeting will be on March 13, 7 p.m. in the fieldhouse, 6401 S. Stony I.  
*Respectfully submitted, Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary*

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**ITS PARK WORKDAY TIME AGAIN- Bobolink 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays 9-noon, Wooded Island 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays 10-1. Special days may be scheduled.**

**Keep your schedule open for Earth Day April 22 (which here generally includes beach sweeps as well as Wooded Island work)**

**Migratory Bird Day is May 13 this year –date and activities will be confirmed.**

**On the Table May 16.** The Chicago Community Trust oversees a suite of community potluck conversations in communities around the city around a subject on this day. Suggestions and offers so far have been to hold it at a residence in South Shore or as a picnic in the park—please contact us with your preference or idea.

**It's Your Park Day cleanup – June 17.**

**>>> One Earth Film Festival March 2017 citywide. [www.oneearthfilmfest.org](http://www.oneearthfilmfest.org) <<<**

**>>> Mar 13 @10-annual Cl. Darrow gathering e of bridge then talk in MSI [darrowbridge.org](http://darrowbridge.org)<<**

**Those who attended the PAC Conference February 25** at Malcolm X College learned much in multiple formal breakout sessions and table gatherings with experts from other PACs, PD staff and park-experienced. The networking was great—each park or PAC is not out there by itself! Go next year!

**And speaking of working together,** stage-one of conversations (including with proposers), studies, and consideration of the changes proposed or coming to the park and its surroundings is certainly underway—community planning coalitions and committees and advisory councils are already talking (including about how to secure benefits for, improve, and prevent harm to communities) and looking forward to being able to review concrete proposals or recommendations from engineering and design firms or set forth their own plans. Larger input conversations are coming. People may disagree about whether a whole new plan is needed for the park, but it is amazing how a major proposal makes both the powers and the people take a good look at the park grounds and facilities, and what does, does not, or might work and for whom. We've already learned a lot. Let the next stage begin.