JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 36th YEAR!

J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019 Vol. 26 No. 3

NATURE HISTORY RECREATION  JACKSON PARK- BE THERE!

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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 501).

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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.
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11 2019 JPAC MONTHLY MEETING

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse. A quorum of voting members was present and a total of 23 including new members, 5th Ward representative, UC Police, Obama Foundation, and two awesome toddlers. The passing of Alderman Hairston’s mother, Reva was noted.

January minutes were moved by Jerry Levy, 2nd by Edward Warden and approved later in the meeting. Treasurer Dwight Powell reported the latest balance of $4,259.24. Dues and contributions for 2019 are coming in very well. The finance committee has sent our fiscal agency partnership check to the Chicago Parks Foundation and is finalizing annual reports to CPF and Chicago Park District and IRS. A popcorn machine and supplies to use starting with the March 2 film festival were purchased at discount and partially covered by members and friends. We are looking into a snow cone machine for the summer.

News noted by the president: A film has been made about the Jackson Park Golf Association (featuring its oldest female golfer) and both golfing and the yacht clubs were featured on WTTW Channel 11. The official dedication of Ida B. Wells Drive downtown was held. Wells, inter alia was a significant figure and counter-story at the Columbian Exposition

Thurlow Haskell talked about the Museum Shores Yacht Club. He noted it is the (country’s?) largest black yacht club. In 2018 they started classes teaching youth motor boat skills and are recruiting for 2019. Visit http://themysyc.com, or (mornings) email themysyc59@gmail.com or call 708-738-2960 or 708-308-0784 and ask for Donna.

Nancy Joseph, Columbia Basin steward and a steward of OpenLands’ TreeKeepers in Hyde Park. The Columbia Basin responsibility runs southward from the Museum of Science and Industry to the lagoons. It includes the Basin and its native-planted edge, the ancient oak stand, the cherry trees planted starting in 2012, and stretches that have been native planted under the Army Corps GLFER project and more that will be native planted. This part of the park has now been designated a natural area. Nancy, Jerry Levy and their volunteers over the past couple of years have been armoring trees against beavers that appear from time to time, mulching, pruning, and exercising vigilance against vandalism to the cherry and other trees,. They have been thinning out the overgrown Basin edge, replacing invasives with native and pollinator-friendly plants. The palette is a diverse mixture, not checkerboard swaths of just a few species as in the larger parts of the GLFER project. Six school groups helped plant 1,500 plants in the fall--kids as young as 5 are welcomed. (You may see orange flags especially on the west side of the Basin—these identify new plants that are vulnerable and especially should not be walked on.) More planting will be done in spring including with corporate and service NGOs. Workdays for planting, pruning, and mulching will be posted in the Hyde Park Herald and on the Jackson Park sites and posts. There is not a regular schedule-- to be put on the list, email Nancy at njoseph2008@aol.com.

Ms. Joseph also described the pruning by TreeKeepers recently in Bixler, Nichols, Promontory Point, and Jackson (especially around the Museum) parks. Joseph noted that the certified treekeepers work under direction of the park district (or city outside the parks), and just standing on the ground and without machinery. There are 40 treekeepers in Hyde Park; several active members of JPAC are TreeKeepers. Sessions are on various days twice a month posted in the http://openlands.org website—some workdays are in parks and others on street parkways, both tending and inspecting and reporting on tree health. You can also sign up for classes at the website. Esther Schechter asked for attention to areas in the center and south parts of the park where trees and shrubs need pruning.

Other nature committee, safety committee, and facilities news: Jerry Levy said the next Wooded Island workday is on March 23 (4th Saturday), 10 a.m.-1 p.m. from the south bridge and will likely entail mulching the interior trail. This year, maintenance of the plantings will increasingly be turned over to the stewardship group by the contractor. Our Tree Identifier with map has been updated; copies will be available in boxes at each end of the Island. The numbers on the map match tags in the exemplar trees of the over 50 species on the Island.
The Wooded Island group also works with a group from South Shore at the South Shore Cultural Center Nature Sanctuary 3rd Saturdays at 10.

Our Nature Trail App Jackson Park in Your Pocket voice part, lost from the online provider, should be back up in a few days. Thanks, Ray Johnson.

Even in winter work groups have been coming to do work on LaRabida shore areas. The Park District will be inspecting damage to the walls at the end of the peninsula.

Several trees came down and were reported by McCurry. Broken benches were reported by Schechter. Kenneth Newman noted the ongoing problems with the south end of 57th beach.

Recreation and fieldhouse. Supervisor Bobbie Beckam said that despite the weather, table tennis, pickleball, and youth sports are picking up. Jackson Park girls were among those who took part in Area 3’s celebration of National Girls Day, at Grand Crossing Park. An Opportunity Fair for youth jobs will be held February 16. Positions such as lifeguards are filled at this time of the year.

McCurry and Newman noted the reported costs of fieldhouse upgrade or replacement options, such as those brought the Clarendon Park community, seem to be very high.

Old/New business. Programs. McCurry asked the Membership Committee to meet next Friday at 2 in the fieldhouse to consider year and long term goals including increasing both membership and involvement, especially among a younger demographic.

One Earth Film Festival March 2. Jackson Park fieldhouse. McCurry and program chair Dawn Posey asked for volunteers for set up, greeting and seating, and more.

The festival will start with a park tour from the fieldhouse at 1 p.m. 3-5 p.m. there will be a fair with environmental and naturalist tables and more, with the centerpiece being screening of the classic about the environmental crisis, HOME. McCurry has viewed the film and said it is really one of the very best.

Guests are encouraged to register at http://oneearthfilmfest.org. Sugg. $8 to the Green Connections/One Earth Film Festival organization.

McCurry said that the organization’s deadline to pay an (increased) rental fee came up in a hurry, so the board approved and paid subject to ratification by the JPAC. It was noted that our budgetary condition has improved. Newman suggested we seek a sponsor for next year’s. Moved by Newman, 2nd by Zelia Stevens to approve the $350 fee. Approved.

Columbian Exposition tours will resume in April, Saturdays at 11 a.m. from east side of the Darrow Bridge. These are given by Ray Johnson, Louise McCurry, and Patricia Morse.

Golf course and program update. Craig Bowen, Community Engagement officer for the Chicago Park Golf Alliance gave a report on a recent stakeholder’s gathering to hear latest plan and program, including Alliance commitment as to how it will provide benefits for communities and for families and youth, and golfers of all skills, off as well as on the course. Commitments are on local hiring including for specialty skills, pipeline to college and careers, involvement of local businesses. There will be a 6-hole family course. Bowen said first work, as early as this spring, has to be on the shoreline. South Shore Cultural Center will be the first to be rebuilt. Charles Newsome of the Quadrangle Condominiums abutting the course said he attended the meeting and was very impressed and enthusiastic. There will be a segment on TV, Windy City Live, March 5. [Ed.: This was later postponed to allow more youth participation.]

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting March 11, 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse.

Gary M. Ossewaarde
Secretary
Obama Presidential Center. Protect Our Parks lawsuit. Press and other reports differ significantly. This is what our team (which includes lawyers) have gleaned either or both from attending and from the 21-page ruling in Federal District Court February 19, 2019. GMO

Judge John Robert Blakey ruled that the lawsuit may proceed, but to a fast conclusion, by trial or not. This ruling was NOT on the merits of the case but on a city and park district motion to dismiss and to determine which counts the plaintiffs have standing to formally pursue, in a six-week schedule that includes disposition of discovery, motions et al, briefings, and ruling on whether the case goes to trial.

The case rests upon proving whether public trust doctrine was violated and whether due process and public input were by various means circumvented or ignored- including whether there was deception, or bait and switch, and whether the land was conveyed to a private entity, or gives disadvantageous terms to the public. Counts 1 and 6 were dismissed; Counts 3-5 are essentially state matters, so not at issue in the motion to dismiss by local agencies and not mentioned in the ruling. Count 2 can proceed.

**Count 1**: dismissed. This count alleged aesthetic and environmental injuries/damages to individuals. The judge said that there is no evidence that these two persons actually used the park, so no case.

**Count 2**: standing was granted to proceed through the next stage. This count alleges collusion, deception and other crimes and misdemeanors and lack of public process resulting in taking land, especially lakefront parkland (thus from taxpayers without just compensation) and of using taxpayer money without due process by the Illinois legislature vote and votes by city bodies including the Plan Commission and City Council. (Plaintiffs may be asked to show evidence on each point including whether the land is being privatized, whether that is permissible and properly compensated for, all the way to how hearings and public meetings do not amount to proper input or were ignored). The judge also said in a footnote regarding the road changes that plaintiffs claim that the "city is using tax payer funds for environmental remediation and road work and that is illegal," environmental remediation and road work are not illegal use of taxpayer money.

**Count 6**: dismissed. This count alleges that the Presidential Center advances or could be used for political purposes, violating the plaintiffs First Amendment rights and tax law, regardless of what is said in the OPC Agreement covering uses. The judge called this “multiple levels of wild factual speculation” and said that if these issues cropped up after the center is open, the plaintiffs could re-file.

Overall, he said that if “public trust’ doctrine is to have any meaning or validity at all...at least taxpayers who are the beneficiaries of that doctrine must have the right and standing to enforce it.”

**At a February 27 court date for case management and ruling on discovery** and evidentiary disputes, the judge set a 45-day period for finalizing discovery, and also set a tight six-week schedule for final briefings and ruling on whether there will be a trial. March 7 document viewing, Apr 19 discovery closed, May 3 judgments, 17 replies, 24 final responses, May 30 hearing.

**Judge Blakey largely restricted, and set up management for remaining discovery-- documents the city needs to furnish.** The types of documents approved to be furnished concern projected costs, environmental and traffic studies and projected financial benefits to the OPC. He directed the city to appoint an official to be read to plaintiff and be deposed on these. (The judge had previously noted that material on most of the issues was already on line and could be "googled.") When pressed on exactly which documents were sought, the judge said he would micromanage the process and set March 7 for the next hearing on discovery. It became evident (see below) to our readers that much of the material sought was already provided or readily available, or doesn't exist, or is inadmissible, including thoughts and conversations of officials and staff and amounts to a fishing expedition. Specifics:

Specifics as parsed by JPAC’s team that includes lawyers: Eleven categories of evidence discovery were ruled upon.

**Discovery 1.** The conversations of legislators who passed the state OPC legislation including with the Mayor. The Judge said the legislation there was ample public record and it is illegal to question staff about subjective conversations; he would not let them ask private thoughts of every alderman and legislator. The Judge asked if city could appoint someone to read the public documents to Protect Our Parks (POP) and explain them to POP. There is a 30v6 called the limited scope request which applies to this ruling.

**Discovery 2, 3, and 4.** Moot due to Judge's ruling last week.

**Discovery 5.** POP request for Traffic study costs, road changes cost, environmental site cleanup costs. City lawyers explained that everything they had was already turned over. The Judge ordered them to check for any more. If there is nothing new, then so be it.
Discovery 6. Financial Benefits to OPC for itself. POP said OPC could get rich from naming rights, meetings, museum fees etc. City said the Use Agreement gave the city control as with agreements with other Museums in the Parks, that the Use Agreement has all questions asked in discovery 6 answered and called the recitation “speculations” about potential benefits. Judge Blakey said that IF there were any documents about benefits to OPC that were not in the Use agreement, to please share with the POP. And to appoint someone to read over the Use Agreement with POP and explain it.

Discovery 7. Fair Market Value and Fair Rental Value of the OPC site. POP said the terms are actual an OPC windfall because of low rent. City said the ownership of land goes to City and no Appraisal of the rental value exists. The Judge said that if there is no appraisal or rental value, then city can't produce it for discovery. Discovery 8. POP requests all Soil analysis and remediation costs. City says they have given POP all that they have. The Judge says check again and see if there any other cost reports and share them. If there are no more then city can't share more.

Discovery 9. Moot from previous week’s ruling. Discovery 10- POP says the site may be on Lake Michigan (Lakefront public trust) submerged land, says it does not trust the city Historic Map. The Judge asked POP if they have other maps. They said they have writings. The Judge said bring them all to me and I will rule on them.

Discovery 11. Moot- previously ruled. Rule 56-D pertains--the Judge had denied without prejudice the previous motion to dismiss.

NEWS AND MORE
PROMONTORY POINT CONSERVANCY will be installing a limestone boulder with plaque to commemorate naming of Promontory Point (56th and the Lake) to the National Register of Historic Places. This highly vetted honor was achieved by the Conservancy (formerly Save the Point), Chicago Park District and many partners. A party at Promontory Point will be announced for spring or summer. For information or to help the Conservancy raise the remainder of its commitment for the project, visit www.promontorypoint.org or mail check (made out to Hyde Park Historical Society, memo Promontory Point) to Hyde Park Historical Society, 5529 S. Lake Park Ave., Chicago, IL 60637. (HPHS, a 501c3 not for profit, is fiscal agent for the Conservancy).

12 YOUTH ATTENDED THE ORIENTATION FOR THE 6-WEEK CADDY CLASS February 23. This immersive youth program is aimed at a start on preparation for life, college, and careers as well as for paid positions at various area golf courses as soon as this summer. Thank you, Tracy Raoul, Jackson Park Golf Association. The class provided set-up at the One Earth Film Festival.

ONE EARTH FILM FESTIVAL A GREAT SUCCESS—connecting communities for action.
JPAC and Jackson Park hosted one of the numerous March environmental and climate change screenings in the 8th year of the One Earth Film Festival/Green Community Connections programs. 108 (including 12 children) attended the March 2 festival at the fieldhouse, consisting of community resource fair, introductions and discussions, and screening of a seminal and one of the best films on the background, meaning, and solutions to climate change, “Home.” 15 partners set up informational and discussion tables. Also, 20 went on the park tour early in the afternoon. Thank you, partners, OEFF and team, set-up team including caddy class, Eric Hammond for AV, JPAC Program Chair Dawn Posey, Dwight Powell and Zelia Stevens for popcorn (none left over to compost!), Gary Ossewaarde and Esther Schechter registration, and congrats to raffle winners. For remaining films, getting involved, and latest draft of the multi-city Climate Change Agreement visit www.oneearthfilmfest.org.
Thoughts from the Membership Committee meeting February 15, 2019. By Louise McCurry.

Present also: Anne Marie Miles, Gary Ossewaarde, Dwight Powell, and Reggie Seay.

Who Are We? Park caretakers engaged in and promoting:

1. Recreational activities
2. Green and Blue spaces volunteer actions
3. South Side Youth Recreation, Education, and work opportunities advocacy in the same
4. Community Engagement- events and advocacy
5. Reducing Global Warming through our parks advocates.
6. What additional should we anticipate with the OPC or other changes in park, communities or society?

Ways to recruit more volunteers—Herald column, other local and college papers; membership tables with brochure, schedule, application at our and outside events. (Application text was suggested)

Start special groups programs- “Parents in the Park for nature”, “Seniors in the Park:”, “Dogs in the Park” etc.

Assignments were made.

2018 in Review

Activities
We held dozens of workdays- regular and ad hoc, often with a few to dozens to hundreds, led by our trained stewards and leaders tending natural and other preserves (incl. Earth Day, It's Your Park, beach sweeps, and creating beach access for patients.) Our adoptees include six playgrounds.
We monitored and toured the park regularly and reported many problems and issues.
Helped grow recreational programs in the fieldhouse and park.
We evaluated big plans and attended a large number of public and stakeholder meetings on the same.
We attended PD Board meetings and communicated frequently with CPD staff, reporting much.
One Earth Film Festival screenings/environmental advocacy and screened more ahead of meetings
Migratory Bird Day fest in May.
Conducted two Community Trust On the Table discussions.
Provided goodies and book bags for park/camp kids & events.
Conducted maintenance and created paths at the Iowa Bldg and at LaRabida beach--we are particularly proud of engaging scouts and high school kids.
We participated in 3 golf tournaments to raise funds for parks and in adaptive golf.
We conducted over a dozen regular plus special tours for people from all over the world
Hosted Make Music Chicago day and ongoing music lessons on our piano. Music/reading progs and book giveaways for small kids. We welcomed and recruited volunteers for Nights Out in the Park events
Recruited high school kids for jr golf and caddy programs. Chipped playgrounds and trimmed weeds.

Goals under consideration
Growth and outreach- more members, volunteers, partners from more demographics. Grow a sustainable fund balance to do things. Engage and listen to Kids-Youth through Millennials. Grow park district programs with wider recruitment. Ensure a safe, attractive, park (all parts of it) with a variety of things to do and ensure every part of the park is “adopted” and has volunteers etc. responsible for each.

Some of our partners, sponsors, associates and donors: Thank you
Chicago Parks Foundation, Museum of Science and Industry, One Earth Film Festival and participant orgs, Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, Community Trust/On the Table, OpenLands, Hyde Park Historical Society, Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference, HP Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, YWCA, U of C (Civic Engagement, Accelerator, Service Center, Police, student clubs), Obama Foundation, Art Institute, Changing Worlds, Montgomery Place, Shedd Aquarium, LaRabida Hospital, Scouts, golf and other sports and school clubs and teams including caddy program, CPGA, Lakeside Lawn Bowling, yacht clubs, Lucky Trikes, Nights Out in the Parks, Make Music Chicago, Jackson Park Highlands, 67th/Ridgeland, 1Woodlawn, Apostolic Church, Schools and colleges volunteer teams, Vivian Harsh Society, Curry Foundation, L & P Candy, Hart Barber Shop, Walmart, and generous individual donors and members.
**CALENDAR**

**Free Youth Caddy Program classes.** Prepare for paid positions at local private and public courses including Beverly, leading to college and careers. Offered by local diverse golf associations and instructors led by Juan Espejo. 12:30 p.m. at Jackson Park fieldhouse. Orientation Feb. 23, classes 6 + weeks into April. No registration required.

March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8… **Bobolink Workdays,** 9 a.m. –noon. 2nd Saturdays/ meet at driving Range parking lot off Hayes Dr. [http://bobolinkvolunteers.org](http://bobolinkvolunteers.org), normwbell@gmail.com.

March 13, 10 a.m. **annual Clarence Darrow** commemoration and lecture- east of Darrow bridge, south of MSI then gathering and talk inside MSI. This year Paul Durica, leader of famous “Pocket Guide” tours, reads from Darrow’s renowned plea for mercy in the Leopold and Loeb case.

March 23, April 27, May 25, June 27. **Wooded Island Workdays.** 10 a.m- 1 p.m. 4th Saturdays. Jerry Levy. sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com.

***March 30, Saturday, 8:30 am-2 p.m. All PAC members and volunteers are invited, free, to the ANNUAL PAC CONFERENCE.** Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Jackson. There are three sets of sessions, plenary sessions, lunch/discussions with experts, and resource fair. One focus is on good, bad, and productive practices and productive relationships incl. with park staff and with officeholders. Registration is open - visit park district or [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com) or [www.chicagoparksfoundation.org](http://www.chicagoparksfoundation.org).

Saturdays April 6-October, 11 a.m. **White City tours**- Columbian Exposition. Meet east of Darrow Bridge.

**Earth Day** work projects and festival --April 27 this year. (Register with Chicago Park District, Friends of the Parks.) JPAC will announce programs for our park.

Watch for a tree planting event this or another day in April.

**Migratory International Bird Treaty Festival**—date tba in May, Saturday morning, by Driving Range parking lot- watch for details.

Watch for On the Table ® community conversation in May.

Watch for 2nd Annual Jackson Park Flashlight Tour. Tentatively May 18 evening. Details and registration coming.

June 8 or 15. **It’s Your Park Day** cleanup and volunteer activities and tours.

**DIY Park Tour—IT’S BACK--JACKSON PARK IN YOUR POCKET** smart-phone app. Get the app at [www.VaMonde.com](http://www.VaMonde.com) or the Apple App or Google Play stores. Play all or part to plan your visit to the park, or at each stop when you’re in the park.

A membership and contribution form follows, for those to whom it may apply.
Monday, November 19, 2018

JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP / CONTRIBUTION FORM for 2019

Dear Member/Friend: With our park rising fast but with much to do and at stake, can you support us, financially or by joining? Your contact information ensures that you receive the monthly JPAC Newsletter by mail or email, lets us reach our friends with emerging park issues and special opportunities, and helps us fund supplies for park kids and workdays and hold special lectures and events. E addresses are especially welcome. JPAC meets 2nd Mondays 7 p.m. usually at the fieldhouse, 6401 S. Stony Island Ave.

NOTE: "Dues" are NOT required for participation or for voting at JPAC meetings (there is a modest attendance requirement).

Please return this form with your check made out to JPAC to a meeting or mail to JPAC c/o Dwight Powell, 7206 S. Luella, Chicago, IL 60649.

TODAY'S DATE

NAME__________________________

ADDRESS_______________________

PHONE(s)_______________________

EMAIL_________________________

_____ $35 INDIVIDUAL FRIEND (BASIC MEMBERSHIP DUES)
_____ $100 GUARDIAN
_____ $250 CONSERVATOR
_____ $500 PATRON
_____ $1,000 FOUNDER
_____ OTHER

MY INTERESTS IN OR CONCERNS ABOUT THE PARK, or I wish to volunteer for a Committee: Nature, Program and Youth, Connectivity, Sports/rec., Safety, and Outreach/fundraising

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PAC is a recognized advisory body to the Chicago Park District and operates under the fiscal agency of the Chicago Parks Foundation, a 501c3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible in accord with law.