



JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 35th YEAR!

J.P.A.C. NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2018 Vol. 25 No. 9

NATURE HISTORY RECREATION JACKSON PARK- BE THERE!

BOARD elected 11/2017
Louise McCurry, President
Anne Marie Miles, VP
Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary
and Newsletter editor
Dwight Powell, Treasurer

JPAC meets monthly 2nd
Mondays, 9/10, 10/?, 11/?, 12/10

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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MTG- SEPT 10, 2018 MON 7PM 6401 S. STONY I
Guests, minutes, reports, old and new business incl. Oct.
Mtg (Oct. 8th is Columbus Day observed.)

CONTENTS p1 About/Ann'ts; pp2-3 MINUTES;
p4 NEWS and CALENDAR [9-17 ENV REVIEW MTG SSCtr 6pm]
http://hydepark.org/parks/jpac/2018_summer_schedule.pdf

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/Sept2018.pdf>

MINUTES ARCHIVE <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

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

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.fotp.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 AUGUST 13, 2018 JPAC MONTHLY PAC MEETING

Louise McCurry convened the meeting at 7 p.m. in the fieldhouse. A quorum of voting members was present and a total of 20 including some new.

Treasurer's report. Dwight Powell gave the balance as \$3,609.91. He noted \$407 in donations and expenditure of \$273 for food for the close of training for the c24 Junior Counselors and their mentors for summer camp. The donations included \$110 from a new member. A very nice thank you card to JPAC was hand-written and signed by counselors and staff. The treasurer and president recommended and the council consented that we not give book bags to the summer camp kids this year but explore bought or donated tablets for next year. Powell noted that the treasury is getting low and encouraged donations, especially by active members.

Fieldhouse and recreation. Physical Instructor Pierre Nealon added his thanks for the meal and said this is the first year the junior counselors (age 14- 18) are paid and the program formalized. JPAC pushed strongly for these. The program continues next year. Developing adult responsibility and skills is taught and is a requisite for returning next year.

Football. 171 kids participated in football camp, which had no injuries. Coaches are certified to follow anti-concussion and other safe play protocols. The parent support and rapport with the baseball and football teams was incredible. Junior Bears is of course supported by the Chicago Bears.

Baseball. He said it is a challenge to recruit youth, especially in this area, for baseball, but kids were delighted to learn the game despite their skepticism that it's "too slow." The Jackson team made it into the final four citywide games. The program, for ages 9-13, is Intercity Baseball, sponsored by the White Sox and others. To build on learned skills and keep interest, Nealon hopes to have a winter indoor baseball camp.

Track and field and the displaced ball fields. Nealon said he is very pleased that construction of a new track and field is underway. He said its design and amenities are a big improvement, and will replace unsafe and non-compliant features of the present track and field. (Announcement about the new track elicited appreciative remarks by several members.) The ball teams displaced by the new track are using two new ball fields along 63rd and another will be made or readied. Asked about ball field funding and whether all tree cutting connected to these changes are done, information was not available at the meeting. [Ed.: tree schedules, diagrams for the track and field are on the city website and show the swath of trees that is still left on the outsides.]

The fall class and program schedule is available in the fieldhouse and on the park district website, and sign up is opened. Programs include (many for various age groups): football, cross country, gymnastics, basketball, weight/fitness, (free) pickleball, walking groups—and also nonathletic--crocheting and the preschool decorative arts program. The new preschool program that JPAC and park staff requested had 6 kids this term. Nealon is working for at least 10 this fall.

General comments. Members said that programs need to reflect the needs and interests of the community and include vigorous outreach and recruitment and parental participation. PAC and community members do help, especially at day camp, but more are needed. Enrollment is inclusive of more communities.

Members said we need to push for a new fieldhouse that can have, for example air conditioning and can accommodate teaching kids life skills including swimming. McCurry noted that new water pipes and other utilities along Stony Island should lessen the shutdowns and breakdowns in the present fieldhouse. Members noted the lead problem with Chicago water, citing studies and the shutting down of park drinking fountains, and also lack of ADA compliance generally in the parks.

Nature areas, workdays, and the park. Bobolink. Norm Bell and Gail Parry said the meadow really bloomed this year. Although it is dry now, we had a wet spring and deep prairie roots are keeping things OK. On August 28 a group of DePaul University freshmen will be coming to work in the meadow. The September meadow workday is moved to September 15 (9 a.m. to noon) from the 8th.

Wooded Island. Jerry Levy sent word that 30 U of C Lab School students worked August 4. The next workdays will be August 25 and September 22 (10 a.m.-1 p.m.).

McCurry mentioned that we have various large groups that do work each year in the park—schools and colleges, corporations, and service organizations. At least three such sessions including with Scout and Eagle Scout Troop 599 have worked at LaRabida, and there will be more. The past weekend much trash and **2**

overgrowth on the wheelchair paths to the shore were removed. As part of the Eagle Scout ecological project, marram grass (which stabilizes shore against wave action) and pollinator-friendly and other species were planted. Parents were highly supportive and worked alongside the scouts. Dwight said he would seek to engage the scout troop in South Shore in work projects in the park.

Beach: August 28, Tuesday, 3-5 JPAC will participate in a beach clean at 63rd St. Beach, followed by a picnic in the play fountain courtyard celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Columbian Exposition. Several groups were recruited by Alliance for the Great Lakes for 57th and 63rd this year and now it's the PAC's turn.

Reminder- we are partnering with South Shore Nature Sanctuary. Workdays are 3rd Saturdays 10-noon. The expert on species and weeds is expected to give another class in the fall.

Other: The park district is working to have the crews of the Chosen Few festival or CPD remove the fence they put across the path to the wetland bridge and overlook at the southeast corner of the east lagoon.

Fran Vandervoort brought up concerns about proposals in the Lakefront Plan for restoring a bayou or connector between the inner harbor and the lagoons, fearing invasive species, fish unsuited for the lagoons, and pollutants would get from the harbors into the lagoons. McCurry said she had been assured that the proposal had been scrubbed during internal final vetting due to these concerns and fear that soccer and other fields would be flooded and that to and between fields would be burdened.

Safety. Kenneth Newman reported to the park district and CDOT numerous safety issues along the beaches and lakefront bike trail 63rd to Promontory Point and illegal parking. McCurry lauded the bike patrols. The flooding 59th underpass now has a wooden trestle and pumps on order, but ultimately the floor will have to be raised above the water table. The same may be true at others.

Other Activities, Programs.

Iowa building. A temporary chip path will be installed to 56th St. by volunteers. Members supported a permanent path and other ADA steps. Much work is needed, but it is more visible and open. More patio was found around the building. Intergenerational programming is being developed with partners. Chess tables are sought for use by Montgomery Place and other residents. A dog-walking related activity was suggested.

JPAC members and park kids rode on a float in the Bud Billiken Parade.

The Sailing program of the park district and harbor yacht clubs was full with 30. It stresses ecology as well as safety and life skills. Other programs bring the total learning navigation skills at over 100.

The piano in the park was highly successful with over 150 kids involved to date. Pierre Nealon was in charge of its availability and repair; jazz musicians Thaddeus Tukes and Bethany Pickens engaged the kids. Sharon Lewis was the JPAC point person. Region manager Farah Tunks is working on a winter program for us.

The kids loved the Shedd Aquarium big tank of fishes at the fieldhouse. Those who went on the research vessel cruises were amazed—and sometimes appalled at what's in the Lake.

SummerDance south of the Museum, with Steel Drum Band was highly popular.

Coming: a movie on the Museum lawn, Tiny Trikes at the 67th playlot, and Flowers for the Living at 63rd Beach. Sharon Lewis reported for Cherry Theard that JPAC will give out Cracker Jack at a picnic honoring the 125th anniversary of the Fair at a picnic at 63rd St. Beachouse (play fountain courtyard) August 28 5-7.

Programs by others included a Friends of the Parks panel on Frederick Douglass and Ida B. Wells at Hyde Park Historical Society followed by a walk to the Douglass memorial in Jackson Park (McCurry said she wishes to have a plaque to Wells in the park) and a talk also at the Historical Society by Robert Nelson of South Shore on his experiences as the park district's last in-house harbor master, recounted in his book, "Dirty Waters".

To be considered by the Program Planning Committee: Sharon also reported that James Terry of the Creative Artists Association wishes to discuss with JPAC a proposal to bring to the fieldhouse the Rolling Toy Show, which is a puppet program and experience with 10,000 pieces, very tactile.

DJ Marcel of Gallery Guichard hopes to offer a program teaching kids how to become DJs, similar to that of Herb Kent here a few years ago.

New Business, Announcements and Opportunities. Newman said the Friends of the Viking Ship are increasing their activity to restore and display the ship.

Fran Vandervoort led preliminary discussion of a possible memorial to Leon Despres in the park.

McCurry: Japanese gardens and techniques (tending nature as meditation and medicine), a South East Chicago Commission workshop Aug. 22, South Shore Cultural Center with expert Chisata Takuchi from Japan. Fran Vandervoort noted that a mural that was at the Columbian Exposition is on display downtown. The Sierra Club will hold a planning workshop August 18 at University of Chicago, Ready for 100, preparing for activities to promote green energy including on September 8.

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting September 10 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse.
Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

NEWS ITEMS AND CALENDAR

BULLETIN- 9-17 6PM PUBLIC MTG OBAMA/JP NEPA ENV REVIEW CONVENED

Another great sports day in the park **August 4** - tournaments in tennis, volleyball, plus White City tour at 11 and a piano concert with our piano at 1.

August 11 and 12. Sat.: A beach volleyball tournament at 63rd St. Beach following sunrise ceremony. JPAC, Scouts, Jackson Park Park Kids, Obama interns were among those marching in the Bud Billiken Parade. Sat & Sun: **Eagle Scout Troop 599** directed by Scout Master Jim Poueymirou, Asst Scout Master Jamel Brown, Adrian Govis, and Jim Sowerby worked at La Rabida. Eagle Scout Derek deJong, and parents took out lots of garbage and cleared paths to the shore at La Rabida Hospital—patients and families immediately started using the widened paths. This work also gave breathing room to Milk Weed and other pollinator plants planted last year. Then they planted 5 butterfly bushes. Eagle Scout Matthew Chang led planting of 25 marram (sea grass) plugs at the water's edge as part of their Eagle Scout ecology project. The long-root plugs are intended to control flooding and undermining especially at the historic World's Fair wall and by LaRabida outpatient wing. Sadly, it was discovered that the 6 foot tall rock and steel barrier that was put here to prevent lake flooding of the Hospital has now shrunk below the 2 foot steel holding wall.

Fall Class and Camp Schedule is at the fieldhouse and online - Preschool crafts, Textiles, Tumbling, After School, Table Ten, Baskb, Stop Traffing, Fitness (some \$); following free: Pickleball, Teen Club, Walking Club.

PAC AND PARK ACTIVITIES See http://www.hydepark.org/parks/jpac/2018_summer_schedule.pdf.

ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) PUBLIC MEETINGS. 2nd Mondays 7 pm September 10. Check future nwslettrs for changes for Oct. and Nov. (holidays observed) and for environmental films ahead of meetings.

WORKDAYS -Bobolink Meadow 2nd Sats 9-noon. But 9/15 Driving Range lot. www.bobolinkvolunteers.org.

Wooded Island 4th Saturdays 10-1. 9/8 (see bottom of p.), 9/22. South bridge. silevy@jeromelevylaw.com.

WHITE CITY & PARK TOURS. Saturdays 11 am. Meet in pkg. lot east of Darrow Bridge so. of MSI.

PIANOS IN THE PARKS. Anyone can play our piano outside the fieldhouse in good weather. Free short "lessons" by Thaddeus Tukes Wednesdays at 1 through August -check at fieldhouse for later.

Sept. 8, Saturday, 10 a.m-1 p.m. SPEC. WOODED ISLAND WORKDAY. South bridge. Make & place new fences for new vol. oak saplings and newly planted trees and gathering seeds. silevy@jeromelevylaw.com.

Sept. 13, Thursday, Lakeside Lawn Bowling hosts Senior Games. www.lakesidelawnbowling.webs.com.

Sept. 14, Friday. ADAPTIVE/ ABILITIES GOLF TOURNAMENT IN JACKSON PARK, 2nd annual. About 11 a.m. at Partee Golf Clubhouse. Volunteers encouraged: larry.labiak@chicagoparkdistrict.com.

Sept. 15, Saturday, 9-noon. Bobolink Meadow Workday. Golf dr, range pkg lot. parrybell@ameritech.net.

Sept. 22. Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. WOODED ISLAND WORKDAY. South bridge. silevy@jeromelevylaw.com.

Watch for announcement of a celebration in Sept. of 125th Anniversary of World's Columbian Expo. 4