JACKSON PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL 36th YEAR!

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NATURE HISTORY RECREATION  JACKSON PARK- WE DO, BE THERE!

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// JOIN JPAC. 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 501c3).

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BOBO LINK website http://www.bobolinkvolunteers.org

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

ELECTR. DELIV OF NL, ADDR UPDATE- 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.
Louise McCurry convened the meeting in the fieldhouse, with a quorum of members and a total of 35 in attendance, several persons being new—introductions were held later. The agenda was distributed.

**Treasurer’s report.** Dwight Powell. Balance at the end of July was $4,631.41. This represents an increase of over $1,000 thanks to memberships and appeals to our friends by Powell. Gary Ossewaarde noted that we need this and more to keep over our minimum balance to avoid bank fees and cover costs for summer camp, high this time of the year while this is usually a slow time for dues. Feeding the kids and counselors, and our junior green team and caddies, at the end of summer camp lets them know the PAC and community care. We also tell them a little about the park and encourage them to care for and use their park. We currently have 18 financially contributing members (individuals and institutions) compared to 15 all last year. We are grateful.

Minutes of the July meeting were moved by Mary Anton, seconded by Anne Marie Miles and approved.

McCurry reported for the various committees, projects, areas, and concerns in the park, inviting others involved to add more information at various points.

**Flooding** from high Lake level and waves and from excessive rains affected many areas of the park, from the shores and beaches through open fields, reaches of the lagoons, and trails and paths. Among major public areas affected are beaches, Lakefront trails and 59th underpass, Bobolink Meadow, docks and access for boats into and out of the harbors, LaRabida peninsula areas, and parts of the Japanese Garden. Affected also are buildings including the Old Coast Guard Station and the golf clubhouse. Our Treekeeper team has reported that a number of trees have been undermined by high groundwater and come down. These effects have been and will continue to be pinpointed for the Park District, with appeal to take an accelerated look at short term and long-term solutions including restoration or creation of breakwaters. Suggested: we can all be eyes and ears and can clear trash blocking drains.

Our summer junior green team has done various projects in the park. They are recruited from Carnegie and UC Lab schools and colleges.

67th Street corridor including playlots. Police actions and patrols have curbed gang and illegal activity. Erin Adams reported that permission has been received from the park district to install the two Little Library boxes at the two playgrounds. (The boxes are becoming popular in other south side parks also). We have books, including some to give to families. She will call for help in installation and in starting reading hours for the little kids (likely Thursday evenings), especially since the South Shore branch library is closed for renovations.

**Japanese Garden.** An overall sustainability plan and potential new projects are under consideration by a team of experts from Japan and the U.S. and the park district. Margaret Schmid (who helps prune the Garden) expanded on changes and repairs made at the waterfall and her concerns about commitment to and robustness of a community review process. (Ed. A generalization that there will some manner of community process was given by the park district presenters at their July presentation- see minutes. In the August Newsletter.) McCurry said the process has not been decided but plans will certainly be openly reviewed. Jake Young pointed out that design is dictated by Japanese Garden standards applied by those giving the grants, and overseen by people at the park district who are not only knowledgeable but really care and think deeply about this and Japanese and other gardens. He said we are really lucky we were chosen for these grants.

**Golf matters.** Louise reported that some kids came recently to the fieldhouse wanting to play golf, but there are was no guidance to give because there are no free spare clubs and balls for kids. JPAC has contacted various partners to ask their members if they could donate some older or spare clubs and balls to have at the golf clubhouse, or to give to serious junior golfers. Meanwhile, our caddies will be going to Medinah to observe part of the BMW tournament and it is hoped meet with Tiger Woods and other players. Tiger is reported as
strongly supporting resources for golf scholarships. Louise showed the framed General Assembly letters for our Evan Scholarship winners. These are displayed in the fieldhouse.

Fieldhouse and park. Park Supervisor Bobbie Beckam reported 163 in summer camp, concerts for the kids including by Apostolic Church of God Youth Orchestra, readiness for fall sports competitions, and that the park ranks no. 8 in the state as a picnic destination. He thanked the council for feeding the kids and counselors and caddies at the end of summer camp.

Louise noted our colorful new temporary sculpture along the fieldhouse entrance, Red Green Construction, by Ray Katz of Pontiac, Michigan. It as selected by a poll of members. It seems to express the surrounding neighborhoods coming together around the park. And indeed, more people seem to be coming into the fieldhouse—over 50 bringing in pets to be vaccinated. We also have two rain barrels by the fieldhouse to collect water for the flowers. In addition, there were 5 park tours this month. Kid’s piano lessons are done (we would like more), but anyone can try out this upright with marked keys.

Chess tables are in at the Iowa Building; we are working for more improvements. MSI had another outdoor movie, and another Summer Dance will be held behind the Museum August 14.

Concerns- 63rd St Beach area and beyond. Kenny Newman noted shoreline damage and erosion. He also said Reggie’s bar and café is said to be finally opening about Labor Day; we should monitor it.

A question was asked about the meaning of the stated lease length for the Obama Center. There was not time to address this other than if it’s built it will stay indefinitely as museums do.

Announcements included South Shore Monarch Butterfly Festival August 17, South Shore Festival at SS Cultural Center August 18, South Shore Youth Symphony at the Center August 23, and 5th Ward Back to School Picnic August 24 at 63rd St. Beach house.

Moved to adjourn. Next meeting September 9, Monday, 7 p.m. at the fieldhouse.

Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary

Iowa Building incrementally improved.

CPD just installed our Chess tables at the Iowa Building. This will help activate this site with positive game activity and provide opportunity for social and cultural activity between the seniors at Montgomery Place across the street and community members. Suggested has been a usage description to post near the tables. Anyone have ideas or contacts for organizing a chess tournament or chess lessons- with press coverage so it will become cool for our kids to learn chess there? The tables join our 10,000 Ripples Peace Circle and the youth writing project that will completed its summer class with a performance visit there. Also added recently are bike racks, although these might have to be moved or adjusted due to water issues. And JPAC and recruited groups such as scouts and green team work to keep the area in top shape. Next is planting lily bulbs around the perimeter of the Chess Patio. Also under planning consideration are permanent concrete paths.

A temporary sculpture by the fieldhouse and a closing party for the summer day camp

JPAC provided ice cream, popcorn, hot dogs et al for the kids, junior counselors of the day camp and our caddies and caddie trainers August 2. Participating were Dwight Powell (organizer), Craig Bowen, Brian Hogan, Gary Ossewaarde, Zach Ramey (of UC Police, which provided beverages), and Esther Schechter.
Staff in charge were Bobbie Beckam, Andria Frink and Erica Robinson.
We served remaining ice cream and other treats at the installation of our bright sculpture that we hope will help call attention to the fieldhouse and its offerings. This is under a program that provides Art in the Parks.

Water safety and boating programs help raise horizons for kids and youth
The Museum Shores Boat and Water Safety Education Program made the front page of the Sunday Tribune Life and Travel section August 18, by Darcel Rockett. The program, started in 2018 by Donna and Gilbert Carson and Daniel Knight, is called Project H.E.L.M., (Harbor Education Life-Safety Mindset), which received a grant this year from the Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities funding collaborative. Purpose of the six-week boating class based at 59th Marina is to teach kids in South Side neighborhoods basic water safety, boat operation, and life skills and confidence. The article pointed out that drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death for kids 1 to 14 years old, and African American Kids have the highest unintentional drowning rate of all kids. So many kids do not have the first step of learning to swim, so we need more of that. One place that swimming is taught as well as the basics of sailing is at the Jackson Park Yacht Club (the classes are jointly Park District and yacht club). Our harbors also have kayaking groups. JPAC officers Dwight Powell and Anne Marie Miles are two who have strongly advocated for such programs and for keeping and increasing their funding.

They spoke up about Jackson Park at the CPD August 14 Board of Commissioners meeting
Alderman Leslie A. Hairston, 5th.
1. Noted that she had visited the BMW golf tournament in progress at Medinah Course to assess management of and effects of a large multi-day tournament on course, community, and businesses.
2. Expressed her concerns with safety and aesthetics from high natural plantings by 63rd Beach. She also said they seem to put nice turf and ornamentals along the north side but low-maintenance plantings on the south side (and then fail to maintain that).
3. Expressed urgency about lack of breakwaters and other protections along the lakeshore and high water ponding and inability of boats to get in and out of harbors, and of an upended eyesore dock. She read a letter of complaint on these matters from Museum Shores Yacht Club. She said that the South Side seems to get attention last on these matters, and the sections south of 57th Dr. were not repaired like most sections of the lakeshore, with CPD current thoughts way behind the need.
4. Demanded to know who they can't get concessions on the south side, citing two years with the Reggie's bar at 63rd beachhouse empty and lack of a concession or at least space usable to yacht clubs and community in the old coast guard station, instead using it for CPD offices.
5. Citing poor oversight, she asked a written performance review of Westrec management of the harbors, asking input from the yacht clubs. She also said that waste cans are disappearing or are overflowing.

Louise McCurry, President of JPAC.
1. Also cited the need for breakwaters and other attention to the shore and areas affected by high lake levels and excessive rains. Among areas affected far from the shores and beaches are paths in the Japanese Garden, lagoon edges, and various trails and paths including the Lakefront trail.
2. She asked for a meeting with the PACs to together address concerns with that and other issues (how can we help?) and with a revised partnership agreement requirements and forms that increase burdens on PACs and groups wanting to do recurring workdays and activities in the parks and also create burdens on staff.

Brenda Nelms, Co-President of Jackson Park Watch
1. Said that among many problems (which she enumerated) with the proposed golf consolidation plan or any upgrade there is management of the high water and lack of shore protections and possible impossibility of any underpass that would avoid filling with water.
2. Pointed out the many trails and paths that fill with water.

Kenny Newman, member of JPAC
1. Also stressed the water and shore problem, citing other areas on the south lakefront with similar problems.
2. Asked for accelerated improvements at the Iowa Building including concrete ADA paths, and said the new bike racks should be moved because they are over an area of water seepage.

Gary Ossewaarde, Secretary of JPAC
1. Thanked the Park District for starting search for solutions and funding for the shore and water problems but stressed urgency, with some needing short term emergency actions.
2. Thanked the Park District for seeking funding including grants for important features of the park such as the Iowa Building and Japanese Garden. He noted that the Iowa Building is slowly coming along-- now has
chess tables, and the Garden has a bevy of Japanese and local/park district experts revving up planning for further sustainable realization and asked public involvement without it being fussed or picked to death.

3. Noted that with attention and grant seeking turning to a dog area, the dog walkers and community need to be fully engaged and choose what they want and where in accord with rules.

4. Pointed out the (federally funded) 63rd beach natural area is important, is being managed and has work days under Shedd Aquarium, but may need some pruning and evaluation.

The merit of historic reconstruction of Darrow Bridge was noted by President McCurry (despite media reporting to the contrary) during a tour by Preservation Chicago looking at parts of the park to be impacted by proposed projects and identified as having effects on historic character or features of the park.

Thank you from Louise McCurry to Apostolic Church of God Youth music program, which performed for Jackson Park summer day camp July 25. To Haley and Elizabeth [Norman]:

It was an honor for JPAC to Partner with Your ACOG Youth Music Camp Players concert today. Thank you for bringing your ACOG youth orchestra camp musicians to teach our summer camp kids about orchestra music and playing orchestra Instruments….Thank you to each of the kids and teachers. Particularly I am grateful to the 3 youth musicians who were willing to bring their violins, explain how to play, and allow our kids the thrill of making Music with a bow made of hair and strings made of metal. Our kids have so much hope and curiosity and so little money. I was thrilled with the rapt attention that the young camper paid to your flute music. Just learning HOW and WHAT to listen for in music is an important brain development skill…We welcome you to our team that is actively and positively changing kid's (and their parent's) lives.

Golfers, Caddies, JPACers visit the BMW golf tournament at Medinah Club

Some went via a bus sponsored by Chicago Parks Golf Alliance and local golf associations. Golf is one of the few sports in which you get to see stars up close, which is especially interesting to youth engaged in sports and looking for careers. Louise McCurry documented the large number of trades and labor personnel, permanent and temporary, it takes to put on a major tournament, and the surprisingly good wages they earn, and also to see how much the attendees spend, part of which, along with a number of charitable contributions, ends up in the communities.

JPAC/Jackson Park Summer 2019 Calendar rev. of 8-25-2019

(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 Sept. 9 at the fieldhouse at 7. (Events are subject to change.)


SEE SEPT. 7 FOR SPECIAL WORKDAYS THROUGH SEPT. INCL. W. CHICAGO BEARS SEPT 7

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.

CLASSES AND CAMPS. 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 or fieldhouse. August 6—fall registration opened for session starting in late Sept. or October.

SATURDAY BIRD WALKS offered by Chicago Audubon members. Starts at 8:00 a.m. and covers a distance of two miles. Birders walk counterclockwise around the Columbia Basin and cross bridge onto Wooded Island. Exiting Wooded Island at the south end, the birders take the soccer field trail and enter the Bobolink Meadow, returning thence to the start point at the East Parking Lot. In late fall- early spring, the birders check the lakefront and Outer and inner Harbors. Metered parking is available in the East Parking Lot that is accessible from South Lake Shore Drive at the light at 5800 / Science Drive. Go through the parking lot to the west End. Birders meet in the southwest corner of the East Parking Lot.
Piano in the Park. Our key-marked upright is available to play during park hours. Children encouraged.

Sept. 7. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SEPT. 7, 13, 20, 21, 22, 28** - CONTACT LOUISE 773-844-2225.

**Saturday, September 7th | 1PM - 3PM Bears Huddle for 100.** 14 Participating Parks Across the City. "In honor of their 100th season, the Chicago Bears are hosting a “Bears Huddle for 100” volunteer initiative to get fans to donate 100 minutes of their time to help communities. Louise McCurry writes: I am forwarding this information about our Jackson Park Corporate workday for the Chicago Bears to you because Bears also build fields, play Golf, support bike paths, and built our first Jackson Park turf field. We are hosting the Bears 100 for 100 tree mulching and clean up to introduce the Bears and their media to the possibilities we know exist in Jackson Park. It’s a chance for a one on one conversation and pictures with the Bears. Let’s bring our diverse community out for Saturday September 7, 1-3 pm. Meet at the Fieldhouse 6401 Stony Island.

The Chicago Parks Foundation and Chicago Bears will provide all necessary materials to complete your park’s trash pickup and tree mulching activity.

Materials include: gloves, trash bags, water, snacks, signage, t-shirts (limited quantity)

JPAC will host a check-in table to sign in volunteers, distribute snacks and t-shirts (while supplies last), and guide volunteers through the activity. **For information visit Chicago Bear’s website at [https://www.chicagobears.com/community/bears-huddle-for-100](https://www.chicagobears.com/community/bears-huddle-for-100)**

**September 7, Saturday, 1-3. Meet at the fieldhouse.**

**AND SEPT. 13, 20, 21, 22, 28- help is needed with groups coming to work in our park- contact Louise at 773-844-2225.**

Sept. 13- UC Service, 21- at La Rabida (as well as 63rd beach nat’l area group), 22- Au Pairs international group, 28- at 63rd beach.

September 9, Monday, 7 pm. Jackson Park Advisory Council meets at the fieldhouse.

September 14, Saturday, 9 am-noon. Bobolink Meadow Workday. Meet Dr Range lot. [www.bobolinkvolunteers.org](http://www.bobolinkvolunteers.org).

September 14, Saturday, 10 am-noon. Columbia Basin nat area workday. njoseph2008@aol.com.

September 21, Saturday, 10 am-noon. 63rd St. Beach Nat Area Workday. ewarden@sheddaquarium.org.

September 28, Saturday, 10 am. Wooded Island Workday. South end Island. sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com.