

Jackson Park Advisory Council Minutes, January 13, 2014

Louise McCurry opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the fieldhouse.

November minutes were distributed electronically and no corrections were noted. The December meeting was cancelled. Secretary Gary Ossewaarde noted that he has not been able to produce and mail newsletters the past couple of months due to illness and weather and will send electronic notices while pending a plan for the future of the mailed Newsletter and upgrade to an interactive website.

President's report. In the news are proposals to provide "**hydrological separation**" between the Great Lakes and Mississippi basins, because of the threat of invasives such as Asian carp. Louise will bring to the Park District questions about whether such would have any effects on Jackson Park waters and ecologies or require changes here, and will express the council's opinion that good circulation must be maintained in the harbors and lagoons.

The departments of transportation condemned and closed the **Darrow Bridge** to all uses. In light of impact of even a short closure on access to Wooded Island and Osaka Garden from the parking lot, which is east of the bridge, the role of the bridge as park connector, and the historic character of the bridge, JPAC has been working with the Park District and our elected officials, which are seeking funding for repair. The council endorsed seeking community support via letters and petitions for prompt funding and start to repairs.

Signage, and possibly a map in the park noting the Columbian Exposition and its footprint, is under discussion with the Park District.

The council supported our having a photo contest for youth and others, themed on the Columbian Exposition. Prizes were set at \$50 and \$25.

Naming of the north bridge to Wooded Island for Nancy Hays was on target for approval by the Park District, probably at the January board meeting [this did occur even though that meeting was moved]. A community dedication and celebration will be scheduled for spring, or as possible in light of closure of Darrow Bridge.

LaRabida Children's Hospital dedicates its new outpatient facility with public officials Monday, February 10, 8 am. JPAC members were encouraged to attend.

Friends of the Park- Annual Luncheon February 6 features Cook County Board President, Toni Preckwinkle on the Forest Preserves in the 21st Century, and honors councils, individuals, businesses and nonprofits who have helped advance the parks over the years.

Save the Date – March 29, morning- FOTP and CPkD annual parks and PACs Conference at South Shore Cultural Center. Reserve at 312 857-2757. JPAC members were encouraged to attend, and we will have posters.

Hyde Park Historical Society annual dinner is on February 22, 6:30 at Quadrangle Club, 1155 E. 57th St. Main speaker is Susan O'Connor Davis, whose book on Historic Hyde Park and its architecture has much on the Park. Community awards will also be given. Go to <http://www.hydeparkhistory.org> for information and reservation.

Adjournment. Next meeting February 10, 7:30 p.m. at the fieldhouse.

Respectfully submitted, Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary