

Jackson Park Advisory Council April 9, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Louise McCurry convened the meeting 7:30 p.m. at the fieldhouse. 17, a quorum, were in attendance, including Lynette Hill from Alderman Hairston's office.

Louise illustrated with pictures places and activities in which JPAC has made a difference over the past few months: 'Iowa' building. Wooded Island (including the tree survey and former rose garden rehab). Bobolink Meadow (both involving many large and small groups, teams, and organizations including over 300 from classes of the UC Laboratory Schools and groups from Hyde Park High. In and around the 59th interior tennis courts. 63rd St. beach house cleanup and police patrols. The beaches and 63rd St. fishing area. Three major tree plantings and more coming. Darrow bridge area cleanup. LaRabida/Promontory Circle including recovery of former beaches and one of Chicago's few bedrock outcropping, now being used by the public. Several public workshops. Many talks to groups in the natural areas.

A walk-through by LaRabida is planned with the Park District.

Attention was requested to some problems at the 'Iowa' building- undesired occupancy, and lights out on the north face.

Lynette Hill, 5th Ward Office, answered or would get back on request for non-ticketing of cars (having windshield notices) for a large group coming to clean up the park April 26 under the Tourism Bureau; support for the naming process of the north bridge to Wooded Island for Nancy Hays (the review group having changed), and a walk-through of parts of the park. Lynette was also asked for advice and help on moving, at minimal cost, LaRabida play equipment that has been offered for general park use.

Preparations are underway for the Composting workshop with Ken Dunn on May 5 afternoon. We are working on having bins and other supplies. We are also looking at getting green means to be able to water plants should a drought materialize. Fran Vandervoort circulated draft of a brochure on the park and JPAC. A weekly "box" that would include events and information from JPAC is expected in the Hyde Park Herald (thanks to Fran). JPAC outreach included many contacts made at the Black Star Project Fair at St. Sabina Church.

Bobolink work April 14th will concentrate on garlic mustard in the north meadow, and a group from Apostolic Church will pick up golf balls in the general area and clean along fences. There will be an extra workday with OpenLands in the Bobolink on April 28 planting c15 oaks. Both workdays are 9 a.m.-noon. The prescribed burn was a huge success: grasses, flowers et al bloomed fast afterward. Butterflies are back, including buckeye butterflies that had been absent a while.

The tree survey continues on Wooded Island April 14 and 21 10 am-1 or 2 pm. Jerry Levy was very grateful for the groups of students from universities (Loyola, Northwestern, U of C) and the loyal set of adults who walk the 48 sections and measured and entered the data. One of the survey's purposes is to create a database, another is as a tool to plan for the expected die-off of ash trees (due to the ash borer epidemic), replacing them gradually with a shift back toward the oaks which historically predominated. Present oaks are mostly either a limited number large mature, vulnerable trees or iffy saplings. Sustainability is sought.

About 33,000 plug-plantings from a large species list are expected this spring for the former rose garden. The birds are in abundance, partially because of the early warmth.

Earth Day workday will be Saturday, May 21, 2-4 pm. Beach cleanup is planned. Meet at 63rd beach house.

Park, fields and program. Eric Hammond, Recreational leader. Numbers are up for track and field. The new artificial turf draws—and will even more for football later, and more schools were visited. Summer signup is underway. There is an increase in cheerleaders, but it is hard to entice the girls for tennis and other sports. **2**

Fitness classes and the weight room are popular. Use of a banner to advertize programs was suggested, and the aldermanic office will promote.

Aaron Stephens from Apostolic Church's large sports program encouraged JPAC to survey in other parks good-condition and superior ball fields for the various kinds of baseball and softball and advocate for them here. Some to photograph were suggested to Aaron.

Louise said that funds are needed to paint the lines and re-net the 59th tennis courts. She said a bid was put re improvements of the roadway to the courts.

A member reminded that we need to seek bleachers for the Take the Field.

Esther Schechter noted problems with and along paths and bike trails (including along Cornell including by the Take the Field) and the area next to the community garden east of Cornell Drive. Louise noted that individuals can report problems directly by going to the Park District website and going into Contact Us.

Louise said she will be gathering a group to survey benches and fountains as the season advances.

A visioning workshop for the Lakefront Trail will take place April 18, 6:30 p.m.at the fieldhouse.

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting Monday, May 14, 7:30 p.m. at the fieldhouse.

Respectfully submitted, Gary M. Ossewaarde, Secretary _____

JPAC gives a hearty thanks to "Hug Chicago"/Unites and the Convention & Tourism Bureau & other orgs volunteers who mulched, planted, and cleaned(!) in Jackson Park April 26. And to all other volunteer groups and volunteers for regular, Earth Day, tree inventory, and specials.

Turning Kitchen Scraps into Gold: composting workshop with Ken Dunn of the Resource Center. **Saturday MAY 5, 1:30-3:30 at the 'Iowa' building, 1700 bl. 56th near Lake Shore Drive, north of the Museum, across from Montgomery Place. Best practices, hands-on.**

Regular workdays in the park

May 12. Bobolink Meadow- 2nd Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon. **Meet in the north meadow.** Website <http://www.bluestem.info/bobolink>. contact, tell you're coming: parrybell@comcast.net. 773 288-1260.

May 26. Wooded Island- 4th Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon or. **Meet at Darrow Bridge so of MSI.** Contact, tell you're coming: Jerry Levy, sjlevy@jeromelevylaw.com.

Various Saturdays or Sundays early afternoons- La Rabida / Promontory Point or for specials: Louise McCurry, commissioner751@comcast.net. 773 844-2225.

Wooded Island Bird walks Weds 7 a.m., Sats 8 a.m. **Meet at Darrow Bridge**

Discover Croquet toloughlin@hotmail.com, 773 631-1422

Discover Lawn Bowling biguylor@comcast.net, 708 366-8228

Learn more about lovely Osaka Garden <http://www.friendsofthejapanesegarden.org>