



THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER

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VIP AWARDS: HONORING PARK VOLUNTEERS & STAFF

This past October marked Friends of the Parks' 20th Annual VIP Awards Reception. Since 1995, Friends of the Parks has honored the outstanding volunteers, community groups, and city and county employees who have made significant contributions to their parks. VIP awardees are nominated by community members in the City of Chicago and it is a great honor for us to share their stories and honor these individuals and groups. See the full details about this year's winners on our blog (www.fotp.org/blog) and photos on our Facebook page, and read the profile below on the Brown Park Advisory Board VIPs.

STEWARDSHIP AWARD

Daniel Ebel (Indian Boundary Park)

PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL AWARD

Brown Park Advisory Board (Brown Memorial Park)

COMMUNITY GROUP AWARD

Prairie District Neighborhood Alliance
(Women's Park)

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER AWARD

Gary Morrissey & Tom Murphy
(West Ridge Nature Preserve)

ADVOCACY AWARD

Morgan Halstead, Charlie Billups &
Grassroots Illinois Action (Humboldt Park)

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER AWARD

Gary Morrissey & Tom Murphy
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OUTSTANDING PARK DISTRICT EMPLOYEE AWARD

Angela Jackson (Dawes Park) &
Carmen Rodriguez (Unity Park)

"SMOKY SAKURADA" FRIENDS OF FRIENDS AWARD

Tom Drebenstedt & Jason Quaglia



Led by a collaborative core of volunteers, the Brown Park Advisory Board has recently become known as models and leaders in the community and even the PAC world.

It was not too long ago that the organization was able to boast two major accomplishments. First, the Board has recently been successful in advocating for an adjacent vacant parcel to be added to the existing park. Second, this year [would have] marked (if not for the rain) their second annual Picnic in Brown Park, a celebratory and honorary event recognizing Sidney Brown, the

first fallen African American firefighter in Chicago, his family and families of the other 12 African American Firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty since Brown's death in 1983. Firemen's bagpipers, honorary guests, entertainment, music and much more have made the event a very special and unparalleled one over the past two years.

In addition to these recent accomplishments, they're working on small beautification projects in the park to continue to make it a lively and safe space in the community. They have also taken on the goal of fundraising and planning for a two-story field house for community members in the park.

The Board holds a unanimous fervor, dedication and tenacious vision to make this park a magnanimous space and staple for the community. The group not only values and understands the importance of each board member, but they understand the important role of working with other people, groups and entities as critical to getting things done and building strong relationships. There is little doubt to those who know them or know of their work, that this group will accomplish their goals; big developments lie in the near future at Brown Memorial Park.

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

November 3rd:

Friends and The Law
Project 501c3 Info
Meeting for PACs

November 9th:

Park District's Board
of Commissioners
Monthly Meeting

Week of November

14th: Proposed
2017 Budget
Documents
Released on Park
District's website

November 15th:

Seed Grant
Applications
Released

November 15th:

FOTP Webinar—Seed
Grant Application
Information

November 17th:

Friends' Annual Gala

November 30th:

EPA Grant Deadline
for river and stream
clean-up events

December 7th:

Public Hearing on
Chicago Park District
Budget

December 14th:

Park District's Board
of Commissioners
Monthly Meeting

December 15th:

Friends of the Parks'
Quarterly Netsch
Lecture

PAC RESOURCES: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Chicago Park District's Board of Commissioners' monthly meeting allots time for community members to speak on behalf of their parks in the "People in the Parks" section. This 2-minute platform is used by some to tell the Board what is important to them about their parks, what are current challenges or needs, their positions and thoughts on current projects, or statements on behalf of their community group or PAC. This space can be used as vehicle to advocate for the park your group represents. There are many other ways that you can advocate for your park, even if done in tandem: speak with and build relationships with your alderman, your park's Area and Region managers, your State Representative, local/community based non-profits and groups, and staff at Friends of the Parks. All requests to speak during the Board's People in the Parks section must be made by 4pm the day before. The following link lists information on how to sign-up to speak at the monthly Board meetings: www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/departments/board-of-commissioners/speaking-at-meetings or call (312) 742-4299.

FOTP ARCHIVES: SEED GRANT FUNDS

In 2000, Friends of the Parks initiated the Seed Grant Program to award small grants to park advisory councils, park partnering organizations and open space stewards for direct projects to improve Chicago's parks. Since then, Friends has awarded over \$150,000 in grants for cultural programs, movies in the parks, mural projects, recreation equipment, education programs, garden development, just to give you a few examples. Right: Kenwell Park beautification and gardening project in 2000.



Whether you delight in the winter weather or will take the time to hibernate, the Chicago winter is right around the corner. This is the perfect time to think about the activities and events your group can put on to keep park neighbors excited and engaged in their local park, particularly while outdoors.

- Sledding races or contests — The winner gets a gym membership at the park! (As a possible prize perhaps.) Or if you have a dog park a dog-sledding contest too!
- Snowman contest or a snowman day — Let's fill the park with snow-people & have hot chocolate afterwards! If you want to further promote the creativity, make it a snow sculpture contest.
- Make pinecone bird feeders—Hunt for pinecones in your park and return to the craft table to make a bird feeder.
- Winter Movie Night—If you have a white wall, can borrow someone's projector and have a laptop that can play a movie, then what's stopping you?!
- Family story reading night — Pick a season-relevant children's book and set up crafts tables for a family friendly night.
- Winter Olympics or carnival— snowball bullseyes, snow-hurdle jumping, Bozo bucket-style snowball tosses, and so many other options!
- Outdoor snow painting—Use food coloring as your paint and the snow as your canvas. Search snow paint for how-to's.
- Other ideas: Snowangel day, tree lighting and decorating, caroling, wreath decorating, gingerbread house making competition, hunt for animal tracks, winter walk-a-thon, crockpot recipe contest, clothing drive, candy-cane hunt, and so much more!

Many of these ideas can be mixed and matched. What's your great idea on how to get your community involved in your park and outside this winter?

THE
FOTP
TREE
SAYS...

