



THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER

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FRIENDS OF HOLSTEIN PARK: FOCUSING ON FAMILY LEARNING



Holstein Park, 2200 N Oakley Ave. Submitted by Kathy Rice from Friends of Holstein Park.

The Friends of Holstein Park works hard to build community and raise funds to support our park. We sponsor a wide range of events that reflect the interests of our unique neighborhood, including an Easter Egg hunt, an apple pie contest now in its 11th year, and – new in 2016 – a community-wide yard sale.

Another new initiative is our family learning pilot program, a series of events that has been warmly received by community members. With the help and support of supervisor Shannon English and Holstein Park staff, FOHP has so far held three events and is planning for more.



The goal for this program is to give families a chance to have fun together while they explore the world and learn something new. Activities are designed to take advantage of new research about how children learn, and parents are provided with take-home tips and follow-on activities.

Our first offering, *Get Your Paws on a Good Book*, was a dog-themed literacy event featuring lots of books, storytimes, crafts, and a pretend dog park. Volunteer story readers demonstrated how best to read to children, park staff ran the craft room, and park partner We Got Game came up with creative games for our dog park. Next, Think Spatially/Family Night Field Day highlighted the importance of spatial thinking. Park partners We Got Game and Bucktown Music devised activities that promote this important cognitive skill, and FOHP devised handouts with practical tips for encouraging spatial thinking at home. Finally, park partner Stone Soup Shakespeare conducted our Shakespeare

Workshop, using acting games to introduce families to Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*. Those same families returned to the park that evening to see the Shakespeare in the Parks performance. Friends of Holstein Park is planning additional family learning events for 2016. We hope to make the program a permanent fixture at Holstein Park and to develop relationships that will bring family learning to other parks. Advisory Council members across the city who are interested in starting a family learning program are encouraged to contact Kathy Rice, k.m.rice@sbcglobal.net.

Want your PAC featured in the PAC Highlights section?

Please give us a little history about your PAC and the great work your PAC has done. Why did you start? Was there a hurdle that you overcame? Is there a great project you'd like to share? Please include 1-2 pictures and no more than 300 words. Send submissions to Nicole at machucan@fotp.org.

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

September 30th:
Friends' Volunteers in Parks (VIP) nominations—
Extended Oct. 2nd

October 1st: Park District Volunteer Appreciation Event at Northerly Island

October 5th:
FOTP & Revolution Brewery Fundraiser

October 6th: IEPA Riverfront Clean-up grant workshop—
CANCELLED

October 6th:
South-East Chicago Area-Wide Plan Public Open House #2

October 19th:
Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting, Ellis Park @3:30

October 23rd:
Friends of the Parks' 20th Annual VIP Awards Reception

November 3rd:
Friends and The Law Project 501c3 Info Meeting to PACs

November 17th:
Friends' Annual Gala

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR THE DATES! Friends' Seed Grant Application Workshop is coming in early November.

The FOTP Tree Says...



FOTP ARCHIVES: Friends & The Chicago Marathon



Top: Runners from the First Chicago Distance Classic, photo published in 1977 FOTP Newsletter courtesy First National Bank. **Above:** Friends' former Director Erma Tranter, coordinator of the 1977 Mayor Daley Marathon, photo published in 1977 FOTP Newsletter courtesy of the Chicago Sun-Times.

This month's FOTP Archives article comes straight from Friends of the Parks 1977 newsletter, rewritten here as it originally was in 1977.

"No large running clubs. No major running races. No marked running paths. No organized running clinics or seminars or classes. That was Chicago one year ago.

Now, quite suddenly, the city of the broad shoulders has become the city of fleet feet. What once was an urban wasteland for running has, overnight it seems, emerged as a runner's mecca. And the Mayor himself speaks of turning Chicago into the distance-running capital of the world, with the first annual Mayor Daley Marathon as the overture. How did all this happen?

It happened because, in Chicago last year, there already were hundreds of people running — but running in different directions. Friends of the Parks, along with other committed groups—Midwest Masters, Road Runners of America, the Hyde Park YMCA, the Loop YWCA,

American Medical Joggers Association, the Evanston Running Club among them — to focus on running and then dig in and work as a catalyst to bring about what can only be described as a Running Revolution in Chicago. Essentially, the revolution began last fall.

'We started talking 'Chicago Marathon' in October,' explained Bill Robinson, Friends of the Parks treasurer and avid runner. 'New York City was drawing 3,000 for its run in Central Park. San Francisco has its Bay to Breakers race, which drew 11,000. Of course, there was the marathon in Boston. And we knew Chicago had the best running route of them all. Here we had this beautiful lakefront, providing a perfect running trail without the usual traffic tie-ups. A marathon would be a great way to show off the city.'

...have your group's Treasurer present treasury reports at every meeting. This month's bit of advice is for those PACs or small community groups that have bank accounts. If your group falls into this category, then having treasury reports presented at each meeting helps the overall group understand the status of the account. It also helps protect those with signatory rights on the account and also the organization. (It is known in PAC history that money was stolen by a signatory on the bank account). All in all, treasury reports help with transparency, something I, the FOTP Tree, think is quite important.

So what should a treasury report include?

- The monthly bank account balance
- Summary of what money was spent (expenses) and came in (income)
- A spread sheet or some other balance sheet reflecting the above
- The monthly bank statement for the account reflecting the monthly balance

Whatever form this information is presented in, it should be clear and readable to executive leaders who might not have the fiscal sophistication as a banker or accountant, for example; they should be able to look at a document and understand what money was spent and came in each month, and they should be able to see on a tracking sheet of sorts (like a spreadsheet or word document) that each month's spreadsheet balance matches each month's bank statement balance. This way, everyone is in the know and hopefully such reporting helps with group transparency and group accountability — all good things!