



THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER

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PAC HIGHLIGHT: THE BURNSIDE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Burnside Park, 9400 S. Greenwood Ave.
Submitted by Safona A. Calderon, Burnside
Park Advisory Council Secretary



In the 1970's residents of the Burnside Neighborhood went to the late Honorable Judge William Cousins, former independent Chicago 8th Ward



Alderman, about acquiring land located on the 9300 South

block of Greenwood as a neighborhood park. The Chicago Park District acquired Burnside Park in 1970 with the help of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 1998, the park was renamed Burnside after the community area of the same name where it is located.

Burnside resident Barbara Britten, who attends many functions at other Chicago neighborhood parks, became concerned that there were no activities, events or resources within the park and went to the Chicago Park District officials with her concerns. It was at that time, just over two years ago, that the Burnside Park Advisory Council (BPAC) was formed. Our mission is to be the voice and advocate for Burnside Park neighborhood residents.

In the couple of years that Burnside Park Advisory Council has been in existence there have been many accomplishments (but we still face many challenges as well). Each year Burnside Park Advisory Council attends

the Park Advisory Council Conference, with the amount of members attending increasing on a yearly basis. The last 2 years the Kidsmobile and Rollin' Recreation has visited Burnside Park. The Park has also hosted Movies in the Park. Burnside PAC has also collaborated with Friends of the Parks for two years straight on the Earth Day Clean-Up where Burnside residents, of all ages, cleaned Burnside Park. During the event Concerned Citizens of Burnside, Inc. partnered with the PAC and provided refreshments. Our president, Barbara Britten, attends many activities and events sponsored by the Chicago Park District and Friends of the Parks with hopes of acquiring insight on how to improve Burnside Park. Burnside Park Advisory Council and Concerned Citizens of Burnside, Inc. collaborate throughout the year to bring events to the park. Events planned for the year include an Easter Egg Hunt, Mother's Day and Father's Day event, Back to School program, Pumpkin Carving (pictured below) and Christmas Tree Decoration and Sing Along (which we are hoping to partner with Harold Washington Elementary School).

Despite all the many successes, we are still faced with a slew of obstacles in order for, "Burnside Park to give children and families in the community a safe place to have fun and be active," as stated by Chicago Park District Superintendent Michael P. Kelly at ribbon cutting at Burnside Park on July 6, 2014. The Park is plagued by non-residents committing illegal activities within in the park and on the sidewalks **(continued on page 2)**





—> *(continued from page 1)* in front of the park. To help reduce and deter some of the illegal activities, residents of the 9300 South block of Greenwood had parking permits installed on the block. PAC President Britten spoke at Park District Board of Commissioners this past summer regarding the many needed upgrades to the park, both service requests and capital developments. Some of the most needed improvements and needed capital developments include resurfacing of the basketball court, brighter lights throughout the park, walking track, and field house.

In regards to the latter need, the Chicago Park District suggests that park advisory councils hold their meetings in the fieldhouse of the park. Burnside Park does not have a fieldhouse and the supervising park is outside of the neighborhood and is only accessible to residents of Burnside via automobile or bus, thus making it nearly impossible for Burnside residents to attend the meetings there. Not having a fieldhouse also hinders the amount of residents who can attend events. Not having a fieldhouse also means there is no access to public restrooms and nowhere to hold the events in inclement weather.

Despite all our obstacles, we push forward and provide events that are meaningful to our neighbors. We are moving with full steam to acquire help with the much needed improvements to OUR park.

To contact Burnside PAC, email burnsideparkpac@gmail.com

PPO/PAC RESOURCES: FREE FLYER MAKING VIA CANVA

Canva.com is a website that can be useful when creating branding and organizing your marketing. Here, you can find many free, colorful templates or even create your own designs, and share it with your team. With the free access, you have the possibility to: share your projects with up to 10 people; create and edit graphs for learning and organizational purposes; and access the resources with advice about branding, social media, marketing, and design. It is a great resource for not-for-profit organizations and is easy to use, with a tutorial accessible at any point. Their statement is: "Create beautiful designs with your team. Use Canva's drag-and-drop feature and layouts to design, share and print business cards, logos, presentations and more." Find more info at www.canva.com.



FOTP ARCHIVES: SEED GRANT FUNDS



In 1999, Friends of the Parks identified the need for an organizing tool to draw together neighborhood park advocates around their local parks. In 2000, we initiated the Seed Grant Program to award grants to park advisory councils, park partnering organizations and open space stewards for direct projects to improve Chicago's parks. Since then, we've awarded over \$150,000 in grant funds to local groups. These Seed Grants require a commitment to a specific project and provide the opportunity for small successes in parks, with the hope that they build on existing community assets, advance the credibility of local park groups and lead to even larger accomplishments. Some of the objectives of the grant program were to promote and develop leadership skills, and to support projects that educate children, celebrate cultural diversity and incorporate the arts. **Visit www.fotp.org to apply for a 2018 Seed Grant, due March 9, 2018 @ 5pm.** Right: Margate Park air conditioner units in 2000.

THE
FOTP
TREE
SAYS...



...follow grant instructions! This month's tidbit is inspired by our own Deputy Director of Program and Resource Development, Sandra Del Toro, who presented to a packed room of park advisory council (PAC) and other park partner organization (PPO) members at our February Seed Grant Info Session. PACs and PPOs learned about the best-practices of grant writing and used the Friends of the Parks' very own Seed Grant as a case study to highlight and use as an example. One of the themes that reoccurred throughout the session was to follow the instructions of the grant application or grant RFP (request for proposals) to a T, whether it is mailing the RFP with a post-mark or using the correct font; she has seen grants denied for failing to follow these directions!

