



# THE PACT:

## THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**PAC Highlight:** 1  
*2017 Park Advisory Council Seed Grant Recipients*

**PAC Resources:** The 2  
*Park Advisory Council Handbook*

*The FOTP Tree* 2  
*Says...sometimes you just have to try something else*

### Friends of the Parks



17 N State St  
Suite 1450  
Chicago, IL 60602-3315



(312) 857-2757



www.Fotp.org  
Email: Info@fotp.org



www.facebook.com/  
friendsoftheparks



www.twitter.com/  
fotpchicago

## FRIENDS OF THE PARKS SEED GRANTS: 2017 PARK ADVISORY COUNCILS SPOTLIGHT

The application for the 2018 Burpee Seed Grants closed last month and the 2018 grant recipients will be announced at our 2018 Parks as Democracy? Conference this coming June. While we secretly work with the park partner organizations who will receive funds this year, we wanted to highlight the work of our 2017 grant recipients!



**\$300—Community Garden Launch, Pottawattomie Park Advisory Council.**  
Pottawattomie Park, 7340 N. Rogers.

The Pottawattomie Park Advisory Council has a core group of dedicated members who work hard to continuously refresh their committee to bring in new perspectives and prevent their long-time members from feeling overworked. The Council experiments with different types of programs and projects, and we are extremely resourceful in finding ways to fund these ideas. To stretch

the dollars as far as possible, they scavenged for pallets in the neighborhood and disassembled them so that the main construction material, wood, was nearly free.



**\$600—Senior Blues & Brunch, Ogden Park Advisory Council.**  
Ogden Park, 6500 S. Racine.

The 2017 Seed Grant received from Friends of the Park (FOTP) gave Ogden Park Advisory Council (OPAC) the ability to host a Senior Blues and Brunch event. We were able to serve 84 seniors and they came out to have fun. The seniors were very active. They enjoyed line dancing as well as the food and dessert that was served. The park and it's facilities was exposed to

seniors that had not come to Ogden Park in the past. The brunch was part of a larger effort to develop a Senior Program to create a safe space, increase park awareness, improve health and heighten social engagement of Englewood's seniors.



**\$500—Citizen Science Center, West Ridge Nature Preserve Advisory Council.**  
West Ridge Nature Preserve, 5601 N. Western.

The Seed Grant was used to purchase materials for their new Citizen Science Center activities. The materials included educational items for learning to identify a variety of wildlife and tools needed to observe them. These activities were designed to monitor animal species in order to determine the effect of human activity on the wildlife. — continued on pg. 2

continued from pg. 1 — **\$600—Sports Equipment, Douglas Park Advisory Council.** Douglas Park, 1401 S. Sacramento.

Using the 2017 Seed Grant funds, the Council purchased equipment for the new Douglas Park Huskies Special Olympics Floor Hockey Team. The team is part of the Special Recreation program, which also hosts a variety of athletic programs for over twenty Special Olympics athletes, and in 2017 Douglas Park added a floor hockey team! Establishing the team allowed the Douglas program to be more visible in the community. As a result, the enrollment

for Special Recreation has increased. Not only has enrollment increased, but so has the confidence of those who have been part of the program for years. The Seed Grant afforded the opportunity to purchase the necessary equipment for the team, including helmets, gloves, shin guards and measuring tape. The athletes are excited to participate in a new event and are looking forward to winning a trophy for Douglas Park.



## PAC AND PPO RESOURCES: THE 2010 PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL HANDBOOK & SNEAK PEAK OF THE SECOND EDITION

In 2010, Friends of the Parks released a reboot of the former *Park Advisory Council Guidebook*, the *Park Advisory Council Handbook*. The handbook was and remains to be a tool for Park Advisory Councils (PACs) as it offers guidance on how to be an effective park advisory council and to encourage expanded partnership opportunities. The purpose of this handbook is to provide PACs with information and technical assistance needed to help them become a more effective advocate and voice for local parks. The guide describes how to get involved with your park advisory council and the step-by-step process you can follow to launch a new one. We are working to develop an updated second edition of the *Park Advisory Council Handbook* that will provide the same guidance as the first edition, but will reflect the current realities and strategies needed to get your park's needs met. Find the 2010 version on our PAC Resources page on our website at [fotp.org](http://fotp.org) and see some sneak peaks of the content below!



...Sometimes, going through the channels outlined by the Chicago Park District will address an issue that has arisen in your local park; sometimes, though, following the Chicago Park District's recommended steps will not and the PAC or PPO might need to develop a larger strategy incorporating multiple approaches to get your park's and community's needs met. The following are a variety of methods you can adopt to work towards addressing an issue:

These are the steps often recommended by the Chicago Park District that can work to address an issue:

- One of the first steps to address an issue is always to communicate the issue to the park's Area Manager — or even also the Regional Manager.
- Communicate the issue to the District's Office of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs.
- If you feel that the District has violated its policies and you believe there is misconduct or abuse, you can report the issue to the District's Office of the Inspector General.

When you've done the above and you find that those actions are not working, you can consider forming a holistic and thoughtful strategy that adopts one or many of the following approaches. Staff at Friends of the Parks are always available to discuss these options and your strategy.

- Use the "People in the Parks" section of the District's monthly Board of Commissioners meetings to bring attention to the issue.
- Meet with your local alderman to see if they can offer support and identify what that support will be.
- Use the Freedom of Information Act to get information and documents from the Chicago Park District that can shine light to your issue.
- Develop a campaign to organize and to call upon park neighbors and other community organizations to 1) write letters to the District, 2) present testimony at the Board of Commissioners meetings, 3) sign petitions, or 4) some other action.
- Send off-the-record communications or press releases to local or city-wide media outlets about the issue

To learn more about these options, contact our staff at (312) 857-2757. And keep your eye out for our upcoming 2nd Edition of the *Park Advisory Council Handbook* and our next *Parks as Democracy?* Conference.

THE  
FOTP  
TREE  
SAYS...

