

THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER



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WILDWOOD PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL: OUR FIRST YEAR



Wildwood Park, 6950 N Hiawatha Ave.
Article submitted by the Wildwood Park
Advisory Council.

In the spring of 2017, the Wildwood Park Advisory Council formed so that the community could advocate for new playground equipment after a series of incidents wherein equipment was vandalized, resulting in the removal of 2



slides. The founding PAC members prioritized procurement of new equipment and immediately launched a community planning process to design the new playground in collaboration with the Chicago Park District. Throughout the planning process, the PAC members emphasized accessibility, maximizing our space, promoting physical fitness and fun! At the same time, members were committed to bringing more community events to the park and reducing the chances of the new equipment being vandalized.

After approximately 12 months of advocacy, planning, and collaboration the Wildwood PAC was thrilled to witness the groundbreaking ceremony for a new playground in May along with the installation of two additional security lights! Equally as exciting for us was that after many months of advocacy we learned that the new playground design will include additional equipment that is accessible to persons with a mobility or physical disability. This was extremely important to the PAC and greater Wildwood community because our playground is shared with Wildwood World Magnet IB (continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1) School and is the primary play area for all of its students. Lastly, in order to promote physical fitness, we were sure to include some classic equipment in our design as well ~ parallel bars, pull-up bars, etc.

Our other successes in the first year aligned with our goal of increased community events in the park, including a winter tree lighting ceremony, a huge turnout for a combined Earth Day 5K and Spring Cleaning, and a great working relationship with our park supervisor. We have enjoyed every minute of our time out in the park

getting to know our neighbors and creating strong bonds between the community and Wildwood Park.

We have a lot more planned for 2018-2019! We continue to plan arts and culture events for the summer/fall, we hope to receive a Nature Oasis grant from the Chicago Park District, the new playground equipment will be ready for play later this summer, and we keep working alongside our park supervisor to promote the great programming he's spearheaded.

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/WildwoodParkPAC/

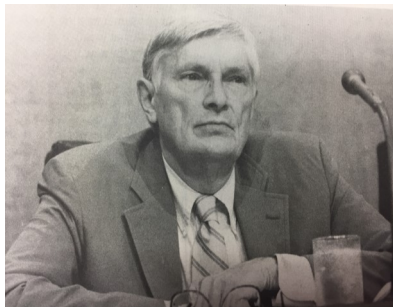
PAC AND PPO RESOURCES: ROLLER SKATES

Some of the Chicago Park District regions have a of rollerskates that are available for parks and park advisory councils. To find out more about the procedures for acquiring the skates for events or parties, contact your park supervisor or area manager.



Photo credit: Chicago Park District

FOTP ARCHIVES: NEW PARK BOARD COMMISSIONERS & THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK COUNCIL NETWORK



In June of 1986, Friends of the Parks hosted our second Neighborhood Park Council Network meeting of the year. The meeting brought together representatives of over 35 neighborhood park advisory councils throughout the city. The guest speakers included the new commissioners to the Park District, President Walter Netsch (left) and Vice President Margaret Burroughs (right). Both were appointed to the Board by Mayor Harold Washington in 1984 and were not approved by city council until



years later. Representatives of advisory councils presented their recommendations and concerns to the Commissioners. The historic meeting served to establish a dialogue between park constituents and policy makers.

...build your member and supporter network for a call to action. Park advisory councils and other park partner groups vary in their missions and purpose. From advocacy to events, a good network of people behind your organization is advantageous to moving your group's efforts forward.

Here are the various ways your might need to call upon a network of people to an action:

- Providing comment to government officials on a park proposal
- A fundraising campaign
- An event that needs attendees and/or volunteers

Here are a couple ways you can build your network of members and supporters:

- Have sign-in sheets at every event that includes phone numbers and email addresses
 - ⇒ Build an email list and send updates on your group's efforts or call an action
- At every event, invite attendees to like your Facebook page
 - ⇒ Regularly post in your Facebook page and connect to other pages to invite them to share your Facebook posts, like to Alderman pages or neighborhood organization pages

THE
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TREE
SAYS...

