



THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER

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EUCLID PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL: PARTNERSHIPS AS A TOOL

Euclid Park, 9800 S. Parnell. Article submitted by the Euclid Park Advisory Council.



The Euclid Park Advisory Council (EPAC) is made up of a diverse group of residents who are engaged and invested in our community. Many council members have ties to the community that date back over 40 years, which drives their passion to ensure that Euclid Park remains the catalyst for sustaining a vibrant and safe place to live and play; this passion is mutually shared among all members. Over the years, EPAC has developed and supported programming that enriches the community and allows residents of all ages to participate. In order to accomplish these things, we have found "partnerships" to be vital to our success.



Pictures featured in this article are from the Euclid Park Advisory Council's 2017 Neighborhood Festival. Photos Credit: Daryl Rice

Euclid Park serves a diverse group of residents from the Washington Heights and Roseland communities. Due to limited field house space, EPAC partnered with Chicago Public Schools for access to their facilities so to enhance programming. That partnership has proven beneficial for maintaining expanded programming, year-round. Furthermore, we contribute to that partnership by creating opportunities for students, such as temporary employment or earning community service hours. A long-term goal of EPAC is to see the current fieldhouse (which is only one room with limited space and cannot service the needs of the community) be expanded or rebuilt. The land space at Euclid Park allows for this dream to become a reality. Lack of funding is the biggest obstacle.

We also partner with other community groups. Our partnership with organizations



like the Euclid Park Alumni group helps us to expand our reach and bring resources back into the community. That relationship has been especially helpful for events such as our Annual Neighborhood Festival. The focus of the festival is to promote unity among residents of all ages. The activities that occur encourage residents to socialize with each other, thereby allowing them to feel more comfortable and be more familiar with their neighbors as they see them throughout the year. We believe this has been vital to maintaining the safety and sanctity of the community.

Lastly, our partnership with Friends of the Parks has been **(continued on page 2)**



(continued from page 1) incredible. Not only do we share common goals for preserving, improving, and promoting the use of our park, but they also have been a great partner and advocate. Their fiscal sponsorship has enabled our council to tap into financial resources that wouldn't have been otherwise possible. Also, EPAC was the proud recipient of a 2017 Seed Grant given by Friends of the Parks this year, which helped to ensure the success of the Neighborhood Festival. Additionally their ongoing commitment and support has given us access to information that allows us to be innovative in developing

programming to support and enhance our park community.

Overall, the Euclid Park Advisory Council has various partnerships that we have leveraged over the years - some recurring and event specific and others are ongoing relationships. Partnering has been essential to enhancing our impact in the community.

To contact EPAC, email them at euclid.park@yahoo.com.

PARK NEWS: WORK ORDERS

Over a year ago, we reported that the Chicago Park District confirmed to us that Park Supervisors can give community members work order numbers and information when they request it. If a staff person or community member puts in a repair request, work orders are created and placed into one of three categories, and therefore it takes 7 days, 3 months or 6 months to complete a work order depending on the request. Some repair requests will not immediately become a work orders, since some repairs, like that of a cracked basketball court, instead become a capital infrastructure requests and will not be completed until capital funding is identified for the project, which can take years to identify. If you are having problems acquiring a work order number from your Park Supervisor or if you have questions, please contact Nicole Machuca at machucan@fotp.org or (312) 857-2757 ext. 7.

STATE PROCEDURES: BECOMING A NONPROFIT IS EASY & BENEFICIAL

Becoming a Not-for-Profit Corporation, or nonprofit, in Illinois is a state-level process that designates a group as a nonprofit, corporate entity by the filing of Articles of Incorporation with the Illinois Secretary of State's office. Nonprofits organize as corporations for a variety of reasons, including: to seek sales-tax exemption (which entails a separate application process and State procedure); to move towards becoming a federal 501(c)(3) organization (you have to be incorporated as a nonprofit first before you can attempt to become a 501c3); or to make the group liable instead of board members. According to the Illinois Legal Aid website, "The main reason to create a nonprofit organization is to address a concern or issue or to provide a service without the goal of making a profit." There are dozens of park advisory councils that are already incorporated by the State of Illinois and are therefore nonprofits — there are even PACs that are federal 501(c)(3)s, but that's a topic for another day. Once recognized as a Not-for-Profit Corporation, your organization must submit an Annual Report yearly and pay a relatively small fee.

- A. Create your Articles of Incorporation (different than by-laws; bylaws are like extensions of Articles). The Articles must include basic information about your corporation. See the "Guide for Organizing Not-for-Profit Organizations" document (y hay uno en Español tambien) for the Articles of Incorporation requirements: http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/business_services/nfp.html
- B. File your Articles of Incorporation. Download the Illinois Secretary of State fillable not-for-profit articles of incorporation form [NFP 102.10 (rev. Dec. 2003) Articles Of Incorporation].
- C. Send form and \$50 payment to Secretary of State Department of Business Services, 501 S. Second St., Rm. 350 Springfield, IL 62756 Remit payment in the form of a cashier's check, certified check, money order or Illinois attorney's or C.P.A.'s check payable to Secretary of State.

Note: This information was compiled from the Illinois Legal Aid website (http://www.illinoislegalaid.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.dsp_content&contentID=7796) and from the State of Illinois website (www.cyberdriveillinois.com). If you have questions about this process call the State of Illinois' Department of Business Services at (217) 782-9522.

THE
FOTP
TREE
SAYS...



...put everything in writing. This month's tidbit comes from the many long-time park allies who have mentioned over the past many months the importance of formalizing requests, concerns and thoughts to Chicago Park District staff in both hard-copy and digital form. At the spring 2016 PAC Quarterly Networking Meeting, many park partners echoed the point. Guest presenter, former FOTP executive director Erma Tranter, said, "Put it in writing. Make up your own logo if you have to and put it on letterhead." A park advocate pushed the importance of CC'ing department Directors and higher-ups. Juanita Irizarry, FOTP's executive director, mentioned the value of even CC'ing your alderperson. And don't forget, when presenting testimony at Park District Board of Commissioners meetings, distribute hard copies of your request to the commissioners. And, my final piece of advice, if you have a verbal conversation where someone commits something to you or to your group, follow-up with an email thanking them and list their specific commitment — put that verbal conversation in writing.