



THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PAC Highlight: 1
Stanton PAC

Park Procedures: The 2
Park Enhancement Committee

FOTP Archives: The 2
Independence of PACs

Noteworthy Dates 2

Friends of the Parks Contact Information



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

STANTON PAC: ENGAGING FAMILIES & YOUTH

Stanton Park, 618 W. Scott. Located in the Near North Community, Stanton Park is the hidden gem of the near north-side. Totalling over 6-acres, the park features a newly renovated indoor pool—one of the best in the city—and many other amenities including a gymnasium, baseball fields, basketball courts and an athletic field.

The Stanton Park Advisory Council (PAC) provides substantial support to the park. In addition to programs offered by the Park District, Stanton PAC hosts fun special events throughout the year for the whole family, such as community picnics and Jazz in the Park concerts. Over the past six months, Stanton PAC has been involved with the Park District’s walkathon race to end human trafficking, where they had over 25 young adults volunteer to participate (photo below).

Stanton PAC held their annual Halloween party, where over 250 children were served; they had magicians, face painting, popcorn, games and a contest for best costume. Thanks to Target, five \$5-giftcards were handed out.



More recently in March, they held their annual Easter egg hunt, where they served over 125 children by offering face painting, free popcorn, free Easter baskets (photo above), which were handed out to all children 13

and under, contests and cash prizes to the top five winners in various age groups.

Near North is attracting new residents and businesses,

and with the renovation of existing buildings and new replacement housing on the rise there is a continued need for their green space and the Park District to provide the much needed programs for this mixed-income community.

With the support of Stanton PAC volunteers, community members and donors, Stanton PAC continues with plans to cultivate their gem of a park. There are still hills the PAC is seeking to overcome, due to the lack of volunteers participating in activities and serving on the PAC board. They are reaching out to the community, businesses, and more for help.

Upcoming events to which Stanton Park will be involved in are: Movies in the park, Jazz in the Park, clean-up events, Halloween party and a Family fun-filled Dance night. *Submitted by: Stanton PAC*



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? Was there a great project you’d like to share? Please include 1-2 pictures and no more than 300 words please. Submit to machucan@fotp.org.

PARK PROCEDURES: THE PARK ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

In order for non-Chicago Park District entities to make alterations to the park, approval from the Chicago Park District's Park Enhancement Committee (PEC) is needed – with the possible exception of gardening projects, which either only need approval from the park supervisor, the community gardens team or PEC, depending on the garden scope. Project proposals and the PEC cover sheet must be submitted to the PEC. Once submitted, the committee reviews projects and communicates back to those who submitted project proposals with follow up questions or final decisions. The process can take several months, so it is best to submit thoughtful proposals well in advance of any project timelines.

Consider discussing or placing the following points in your proposal:

- **The purpose of the project and who it will serve;**
- **Any partners on the project;**
- **Where the project will be placed in the park;**
- **The project timeline;**
- **Any ADA compliance issues to consider;**
- **How long will the project remain and how will you guarantee project longevity;**
- **Does the final product need maintenance and who will provide the maintenance;**
- **Any relevant pictures.**

To request the cover sheet, send in proposals or connect to the PEC, contact the new committee chair, Claudine Malik, at claudine.malik@chicagoparkdistrict.com. *Note: The PEC was contacted requesting updated information regarding this section of the PACT Newsletter and we have yet to hear back. Please reach out to the PEC for updated information.*

FOTP ARCHIVES: THE INDEPENDENCE OF PACs

This month's FOTP archive comes from the Fall edition of the Friends of the Parks 1991 newsletter. We find its content to be quite rich, so here is the complete article, as originally written in 1991:

The Chicago Park District's Kellogg Institute of Volunteers' Consortium has proposed to impose a set of mandatory bylaws on the park advisory councils. The Kellogg Consortium was to initially be comprised mostly of park council members to gain "perspective" into the needs of the councils. The Consortium, however, is made up primarily of park staff who have crafted the bylaws. If the bylaws are adopted by the councils, the Chicago Park District will control the internal operations and dissolve the independence of all advisory councils.



Friends of the Parks joined New York's parks groups in 1990 with a weekend celebration of YOU GOTTA HAVE PARK. Grant Park was home-base of the exhilarating weekend, which included family entertainment, sports activities, public arts exhibitions & more!

A series of public hearings was held to hear testimony from the park councils on the proposed bylaws. The majority of the councils have overwhelmingly stated they would not sign on to the proposed bylaws. One such vocal council and consortium member has been Cecelia Butler, president of the Washington Park Advisory Council. In her statement to the *Reader* newspaper, she said, "The Consortium is a joke. Most of the advisory council members who are on the Consortium don't even show up for the meetings. They are volunteers. If there's something nasty, they stop going. No one docks them, no one reprimands them. We end up with the Consortium dominated by the paid Park District employees. So much for independence."

Friends of the Parks' statement to the Chicago Park District on the proposed bylaws stated, "Park advisory councils recognize the need to remain independent, and, therefore, objective of the Chicago Park District. The proposed bylaws, if approved, would be a vehicle for 'controlling and limiting' the individual and independent needs of the councils. No government agency has the right to control the internal operations of any volunteer group."

NOTEWORTHY DATES

April 2nd: Park District workshop, Douglas Park @ 9:30am—Topic Reality Mapping

April 12th: Park Advisory Council Leadership Alliance (PACLA) meeting, FOTP Office @ 5:30

April 13th: Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting, 541 N. Fairbanks 8th Floor @ 3:30pm (requests to speak due the day before by 4pm)

April 16th: City of Chicago's Clean & Green

April 23rd: FOTP's Earth Day Parks & Preserves Cleanup

April 26th: FOTP's Quarterly PAC Networking Meeting, FOTP offices @ 5:30pm—Topic Consent Decree & Where are PACs Now

May 10th: On the Table

May 11th: Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting, Peggy Notebaert Museum @ 3:30pm (requests to speak due the day before by 4pm)

May 14th: Friends of the Chicago River's Chicago River Day Chicagoland event

June 1st-4th: Historic Landscape Preservation 38th Annual Meeting, www.ahlp.org

June 8th: Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting, 541 N. Fairbanks 8th Floor @ 3:30pm (requests to speak due the day before by 4pm)

June 25th: The Chicago Park Foundation's It's Your Park Day

August 13th-14th: Friends of the Parks' Late Ride fundraiser