

# THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER



January 2016, Issue 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*PAC Highlight: Jackson* 1

*PAC Resources: Staples* 2

*The FOTP Tree Says...Develop Mission and Vision Statements* 2

*FOTP Archives: The Neighborhood Parks Institute* 2

*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

## THE JACKSON PAC: A LEADER OF THE PACK



Photo source: www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org

**Jackson Park, 6401 S. Stony Island Ave.** JPAC pioneers led the way on key park concerns prior to its founding in 1983, when the newly founded JPAC with support from Friends of the Parks, worked with the Park District – which was under a court ordered consent decree to provide funding and services equally to all parks throughout the city – to improve conditions in Jackson Park. In 1965, parkland and trees were being sacrificed to roads. Park activists resisted with civil disobedience. Since the 1970s park activists and volunteers worked to improve this Chicago park gem. These past decades have marked many trials and successes for the PAC: the removal of the NIKE Missile Base; establishing the nature preserve at Wooded Island; planning and informing changes to park and lakefront enhancements; and much more.

But 2015 had not been devoid of JPAC accomplishments. This past year, JPAC helped to start and

support SIX new PACs in the smaller, but just as mighty, parks surrounding Jackson Park. JPAC is active and busy working on a 7th.

These Park Advisory Councils aim to give residents local autonomy over their parks. "Great parks make great neighborhoods," says Louise McCurry, JPAC President. JPAC is visionary in the sense that they believe that the community should be empowered and take ownership of what happens in their parks.

Want to know more about what JPAC had done in 2015? Here's an impressive and inspirational laundry list: Live Shakespeare in the Olmsted designed Music Court (once an overgrown, garbage filled, illegal parking site); engaging more than 2000 volunteers in service days; providing free reading programs for park kids; free weekly 1893 "White City" Worlds Fair tours, Nature tours, children's nature walks; contributing to 3 new park playgrounds; tree

plantings; the creation of the new sledding hill; free Bike Clinic (JPAC teams with 61st Street Bike Shop, who trains kids in bike repairs and allows them to earn a bike of their own); sponsoring JPAC Park Photo Contests encouraging visitors to take pictures of park nature. Their park advocacy and community organizing with park neighbors continues to make JPAC a leader in the PAC community.

For more information on JPAC, visit their website at [www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org](http://www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org) or find them on Facebook.

#### 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? Is there a great project you'd like to share? Please include 1-2 pictures and no more than 300 words. Send submissions to Nicole at [machucan@fotp.org](mailto:machucan@fotp.org).

## NOTEWORTHY DATES

**January 12th:** PAC Leadership Alliance meeting, 5:30 @ FOTP

**January 26th:** FOTP's PAC Quarterly Networking Meeting, 5:30pm @ FOTP Office

**February 4th:** FOTP's Annual Luncheon

**February 5th:** FOTP's Seed Grant deadline for applications

**March 5th:** Park Advocacy Conference

**March 10th:** FOTP's Netsch Lecture Series: "Shifting Sands" & the Indiana Dunes

### January's PAC Quarterly Networking Meeting

Come to the next PAC Networking Meeting on the 26th to meet FOTP's new Executive Director, Juanita Irizarry. This meeting will serve to KICK OFF FOTP's 2016 Listening Tour, and we want you to be among the first to hear from Juanita as well express your concerns and vision for Chicago's parks.

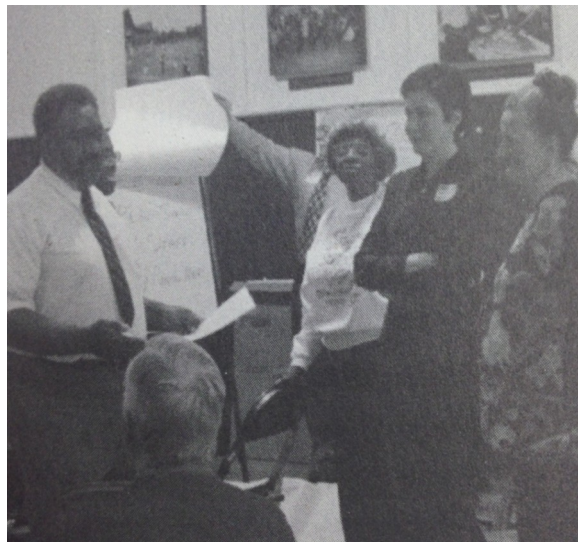
## PAC RESOURCES: STAPLES

In the August issue, we noted that it is possible to obtain donations and sponsorship from your local chain grocery store. Every chain has their own policy for community and event donations. This is true of other chain, big-box stores as well.

*Each individual Staples store manager is able to give \$25 gift cards to groups in their community. According to their website, stores are able to, "support non-profit organizations making a positive difference in the local community through We Care gift cards. These gift cards enable non-profit organizations to obtain from Staples supplies needed to make a community event or program a success!" Visit your local Staples and ask to speak to the store manager. They will provide you with information on how to submit a request to their specific store. Think of all the park event and outreach flyers you can print with 25 buckaroos!*

Don't be shy! Next time you're visiting your local chain or big-box store, ask to speak to the store manager to find if they have their own discretionary, community donation policies. **The answer is always NO unless you ask!**

## FOTP ARCHIVES: NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS INSTITUTE



Reverend Johnnie Barnes (left), President of Grand Crossing Advisory Council in 2000, leads a discussion.

March 4, 2000 marked the second annual Neighborhood Parks Institute held by Friends of the Parks. Twenty-four Park Advisory Councils came together for 3 morning sessions including the nuts-and-bolts of park advocacy, CPD presentations on employee roles and resources, and a PAC discussion of success stories in their parks.

**The 6th annual Park Advocacy Conference** will be this year on March 5th at Kennedy King College. Originally done in collaboration with the Chicago Park District and Friends of the Parks, the Park District and the Chicago Parks Foundation are now taking charge. We hope it's another great year and that members from each of the nearly 200 PACs across our city are able to join in the fun!

## THE FOTP TREE SAYS...



Sometimes revisiting the basic elements of your group can be quite useful. In the September issue I, the FOTP Tree, talked about goal setting as your organization moves forward. Here's what I said: "Goal Setting: Choose the right goals for your PAC that are meaningful. Constantly revisit the questions: Are these goals impacting the people of the community? Do the goals need to be changed or new goals added? Are the goals clear?"

However, let's step back a moment. What guides your goals and your goal setting process? Having both vision and mission statements can lay the foundation for your PAC's work and be the framework that guides your PAC's actions. Missions are short, concise, clear and can even be emotional statements that declare who you are and why you exist. Vision statements are practical, concise, sort of wish lists that demonstrate what you hope to accomplish.

**If is oftentimes best practice to pause, step-back, reflect and review. If your PAC or park partner organization does not have a vision or mission statement, it will be valuable to pause and work with your team to put these together. The internet holds tons of resources on how to create a mission and vision. Topnonprofits.com is one of these resources and they have a worksheet to help guide the process: [www.topnonprofits.com/vision-mission](http://www.topnonprofits.com/vision-mission).**