

THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER



August 2015

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BELL PARK PAC: MAKING BELL PARK THE “BELLE OF MONTCLARE”

3020 North Oak Park Ave: The Bell Park PAC of the Montclare neighborhood in northwest Chicago has made huge strides since the need of a PAC was discovered by Sedonia Phillips in early 2014.

In the past year alone, they have successfully completed a ChicagoPlays! Campaign, earning themselves a new playground (pictured on right). To earn this, the PAC garnered enough votes, which gave them the choice of some new equipment! They chose the new ZipCrooz Zip Line. Since June, the opening of the new playground, the park has seen an increase in park attendance and the zip line is always accompanied by a line of eager children!



New playground at Bell Park

Bell PAC also hosted its first flea market in a very long time! It was hosted on a sunny Saturday in June. Over 80 vendors attended this event (with a waiting list of 20!). There were also volunteers from Steimetz High School’s JROTC, students from Locke Elementary, and musical

performers from Prosser HS. The event was a huge success!

Bell Park really is becoming “the Belle of Montclare!” There are current plans for an ornamental garden, corner planters and an herb garden. There is also talk of a new water feature and Halloween community event!

This PAC meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the field house and their president is Les Kniskern. BellParkPAC@gmail.com. [Facebook.com/BellParkPAC](https://www.facebook.com/BellParkPAC)

Want to be in the PAC Highlights section? Submit to machucan@fotp.org and include a picture!

Friends of the Parks

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We are on the web!

Fotp.org

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CPD STAFF SHOUT-OUT: COACH REGGIE ORR

Coach Reggie Orr is a coach who is being recognized from the Harrison Park Gymnastics Parent Booster Club. HPGPBC says that “As a gymnastics coach, Reggie Orr is a dedicated staff who goes above and beyond his job description to help his gymnasts excel. He challenges the kids at Harrison Park to do their best with an

inspiring and gentle attitude. If a child needs that extra boost of help, he will spend his time helping him/her. Since he exudes joy from his job, the environment from the park catches his example.”

Way to be a great leader, Coach Orr! We are so proud of what you are doing to help the children

and shape them into becoming the best they can, keep it up!

Is there a CPD staffer you’d like to give a shout-out to? Let us know and we’ll also send them a certificate and a copy of the newsletter. Send shout-outs to machucan@fotp.org.

Friends of the Parks would like to say thank you to our PACs for all the work that you do to enrich park programming, educate children, and keep Chicago's parks clean and enjoyable. Your communities and the parks would not be the same without the hard work and time you all put into your PACs and parks. Once again, a thank you from us to you.

-Friends of the Parks

Special thanks to our summer intern, Sara Stemen, for the work she has done on the PACT Newsletter.

Sara has come to us from the Chicago Center and is an undergraduate student at Alma College in Michigan. Out of four potential organizations in Chicago, she chose the Friends of the Parks internship. She has been an integral part of the summer FOTP team and she will be sorely missed.

Sara, thank you for turning an idea into a reality. Friends of the Parks will miss you!



FOTP ARCHIVES: A STEP BACK IN TIME



Summer baseball league in Dvorak Park, 1119 W. Cullerton, year unknown

Do you have any archive photos from your park? **Send to: machucan@fotp.org**

PAC Q&A

Dear fellow PACs,

“Our PAC banks with a smallish bank with poor customer service. When we sought out banks to open an account, there were a TON of hoops we had to jump through. Even now, we are constantly having to check to make sure they don't charge us for things. Any advice on how to negotiate with a small bank to open a bank account that does not accrue fees?”

-PAC in Need

PACs, Please write in your answers for ‘PAC in Need’ AND submit additional questions for the next newsletter.

THE
FOTP
TREE
SAYS...



For events, it is possible to obtain donations and sponsorship through your local chain grocery store. Every chain has their own policy for community event donations. For example, each Whole Foods location operates with an independent Marketing budget that they can use to make impactful donations to the communities they serve. They suggest 8 weeks notice for donation requests.

Don't be shy! Ask to speak to your local chain store manager to find out more or check out their website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 1: PAC Workshop (rescheduled)

August 25th: PAC Leadership Alliance Meeting—for PAC Executive Leaders only

Midsommer Flight's Presentation of Macbeth:

August 1 & 2 @ Schreiber Park

August 8, 9, 15, & 16 @ Gross Park

August 22, 23, & 30* @ Lincoln Park

PACs please submit your August Park events to be published in the next issue.