



THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PAC Highlight: 1
Ogden PAC

Park District 2
Procedures: *Sharing Budget Requests*

FOTP Archives: 2008 2
and Onward

The FOTP Tree Says: 2
Philanthropy is Emotional

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

OGDEN PAC: HOPE & PASSION FOR CHANGE



Ogden Park, 6500 S. Racine.

The Ogden Park Advisory Council (OPAC) is in its 8th year under the leadership of Kenyatta “Nicole” Vaughn. OPAC’s mission is to promote the heavy involvement of Englewood residents in the planning stages of activities and programs that should be offered at the park; OPAC holds hope for change and the passion to pursue it.

In 2015, the first “Initiate Art” (IA) fundraiser event took place and consisted of 15 participating youth (the first official IA Artists) who signed up to create their own art painting piece. ERA Galleries, whose founder is Tayler Moore, was the co-sponsor of this event. Attendees bid on the pieces of art and the money received went back to the IA Artists. All paintings received a bid; the highest bid received was \$60 and the lowest received was \$25.

Currently OPAC partners with We “R” Englewood and The Englewood Back to School Parade with their yearly events to offer much needed

resources to residents. Yearly events are free of charge and they include the Health and Resource Fair, Summer Kick-Off Skating & Bowling Event, Thanksgiving Turkey

Giveaway, The Englewood Back to School Parade and Christmas in Englewood events.

This year will be the third year OPAC will host the Midnight Circus in the Parks (MCITP). The MCITP funds raised were instrumental in OPAC purchasing the art supplies needed for the “Initiate Art” Project, sponsoring the Ogden Park Viking Football team cheerleader’s uniforms, along with sponsoring trophies, food and decorations for the Viking’s yearly banquet. For the newly formed Senior Club of Ogden Park, they are able to sponsor the food and drinks for the meetings. Different



OPAC’s Initiate Arts Team, including Friends of the Parks’ Associate Board members.

activities have been planned for the seniors to utilize Ogden Park such as yoga, exercising/walking, cooking classes, arts & crafts, and planning is underway to develop a garden at the entrance of Ogden Park.

In March of 2015, OPAC embarked on the task of obtaining a new fieldhouse. To date they have received some necessary repairs in order to be able to continue to offer programs at Ogden Park, however a continued pursuit is necessary.

If you would like to be a part of the Englewood Back to School Parade, they are in need of sponsors, parade procession participants, volunteers and vendors. For more information contact Ogden Park Advisory Council by sending an email to ogdenparkadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.

Article and pictures submitted by Ogden 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: SHARING BUDGET REQUESTS

Park users, advocates and neighbors can share their operating and capital improvement budget requests with the Chicago Park District. If your park is lacking an attendant, the roof is leaking or there is a need for arts programming, there are various platforms in which residents can rally on behalf of their local parks' budget. Here are two of the main methods:

- Attend and testify at the city-wide, annual public forum for the FY17 operating budget. The date is not confirmed, but is tentatively scheduled for September. Note: *This meeting is dedicated to the operating budget, but CPD will take comments on capital improvement needs as well.*
- Complete the webform, which is open year-round and will submit your request to the appropriate park district staff: www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/departments/finance/budget-and-management/. Note: *The form is found at the bottom of the webpage.*

Just for clarification, here are the **Capital Improvements** and **Operating Budget** definitions: According to the Chicago Park District, *capital improvements* are expenditures related to the acquisition, expansion, or renovation of some segment of a governments infrastructure. The *Operating Budget* is a plan for current revenues, expenditures, and means of financing. *Operating Expenses* are the cost for personnel, materials and equipment required for a department function. Operating expenses do not include capital expenses.

Multiple park advocates can share their thoughts on the budget needs of their park — park staff, advisory councils, other community groups, elected officials, and the everyday community member who does not fit into one of the former categories. In fact, why not have individuals from all of these groups rally together if there is a common budget need? Why not, indeed.

FOTP ARCHIVES: CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS FROM 2008



As all of our years have been throughout Friends' 40 year history, 2008 was a busy one. We brought in over 800 students to participate in our Nature Along the Lake (NAL) program at Montrose Harbor and the South Shore Cultural Center, held summer Earth Team apprenticeship programs at seven of Chicago's parks, began the PAC

Network (a series of quarterly networking and information meetings), and attempted to prevent the loss of acreage of Rosenblum Park (above) to the Board of Education and of Norwood Park for a senior center (the two latter projects moved forward). Now eight years later, many aspects of our Neighborhood Parks, Education and Policy programming look the same. Nature Along the Lake, Earth Team, our PAC Network and efforts to preserve and add additional parkland continue onward, while we seek to improve and add to our own programming as well.

THE
FOTP
TREE
SAYS...



...on some level, the core of fundraising, grant writing and asking for park improvements is the same. In all these cases, you're attempting to convince another human being to believe in your work, your "ask" and/or your plea...and then do something about it. Just a few, quick points to consider as you plan your budget testimony, grant application or approach to sponsors:

- Be sure the **need** for your ask is clear; explain why it is essential for the park;
- Explain what the **impact** is if your ask is granted. Again, demonstrate why your park community needs the program, improvement or supplies;
- In the case of grants and fundraising, demonstrating that your group is capable of enacting the **change** needed with the donor's support.

Try to tap your persuasive writing skills from high school; you want people to buy what you're selling, metaphorically of course! And as you try to raise \$ remember these words from Rueben Mayes, "Philanthropy is not rational, it is *emotional*."

NOTEWORTHY DATES

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

June 4th: National Trails Day

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 16th: Friends' Netsch Lecture, Topic: DuSable Park

June 18th: Chicago Parks Foundation's It's Your Park Day

June 19th: Human Trafficking Walk-a-thon

June 28th: Summer PAC Quarterly Networking Meeting, FOTP office @ 5:30

July 2nd: Chicago Park District and CARA's *Go Run Chicago* event at region parks

August 13th-14th: Friends of the Parks' L.A.T.E. Ride fundraiser

September 24th: National Public Lands Day

September 27th: Fall PAC Quarterly Networking Meeting, FOTP office @ 5:30