

Note re role of JPAC with regard to OPC: From Brenda Nelms

Support for and collaboration with the emerging OPC should be a part of the Committee's efforts, but the primary focus should be advocating for Jackson Park and its vital role as a public park, as an open space for recreation and re-creation available to all, with no restrictions, and as a public good with special features and facilities that serve the community and need and deserve continued maintenance, renewal, and attention distinct from the OPC.

We should recognize and remember that the space occupied by the OPC is now City property, no longer controlled by or the responsibility of the Chicago Park District, no longer a part of Jackson Park.

And the OPC/Obama Foundation is a separate private not-for-profit corporate entity, with special interests and an agenda that impinges on Jackson Park but that does not in any way give priority to park needs or issues.

The questions for JPAC now are how do Jackson Park and the OPC – with separate goals and separate organizations -- co-exist and how can JPAC continue to be effective in preserving and promoting Jackson Park.

The agreement between the City and the Obama Foundation establishes the OPC site as a separate entity, similar to the arrangement for Millennium Park. The lease (Use Agreement) gives ownership of the facility buildings to the City as well as recognizing that the land under the buildings belongs to the City, but it gives the Obama Foundation complete authority over what happens in that space and facility for 99 years for a single fee of \$10. The nature of the arrangement is illustrated by the Foundation's separate agreement with the Chicago Public Library, which defines the Obama Foundation (not the City) as the "landlord" for the library building and the CPL branch to be installed at the OPC as the "tenant" with the Obama Foundation having authority to shape and approve programming and holdings in the library branch.

There will be an Advisory Operations Committee for the OPC, appointed by the Obama Foundation and the City, "to address ongoing operational matters pertaining to the Presidential Center and Green Space, and/or operational concerns arising from nearby and adjacent areas of Jackson Park." This at least acknowledges that whatever happens at the OPC will inevitably impact Jackson Park. It is those impacts -- sometimes positive, sometimes negative; sometimes fleeting, sometimes enduring -- that should be a major focus of the JPAC OPC Committee. The Committee should push now to establish avenue(s) for regular communication about the ripple effects between the OPC and Jackson Park. The OPC Committee should raise this issue with the Park District as soon as possible, as well as with the Obama Foundation as suggested already.

Among the likely areas of concern:

- Security and Access
 - o The agreement between City and OF states that the OPC buildings should be open to the public in a manner consistent with the buildings of museums in other CPD parks and that the green space and concrete plaza of the OPC should be open to the public during regular CPD hours. But the agreement also allows the Foundation to set its own Rules to address its special public safety and welfare

considerations and protect the OPC green spaces and facilities. Such Rules are subject to review by the City's Department of Planning and Development (not CPD). The Foundation also has the authority to restrict access to areas in order to stage special events for up to 12 days per year and should alert the City and Park District in advance of such restrictions.

- o The agreement recognizes the City's police powers over the OPC site, but also notes that there may be special security requirements imposed by federal agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security or the National Archives and Record Administration.
- o There is a natural and unavoidable tension around the promise to have the OPC open to public access and usage, and there inevitably will be occasions when access is restricted and public outcry follows.
- o There is also the question of whether the special rules and restrictions implemented for the OPC site will be extended into adjacent areas of Jackson Park – e.g., the track or Wooded Isle.
- o JPAC should establish lines of communication with the Park District about these issues.
- Effects on park programs
 - o It is unclear how programs of the OPC will impact Park District programs. The Obama Foundation has indicated it intends to have its own programs serving the local community (separate from the museum and from such programs as the Obama Fellows that have a national and international clientele). JPAC should be attentive to the interactions/competition among offerings. Also relevant will be the impact of the OPC on the JP Fieldhouse, a structure long-overdue for renewal or replacement. How will it fare in the shadow of the OPC?