

JPAC May 5, 2025, Monthly Meeting Minutes

Michael Scott, JPAC President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum of at least seven voting members were present. President Scott greeted the attendees and inquired if there were any additions to the agenda. With no suggestions, the agenda was approved. The minutes from April 7, 2025, meeting were approved. October 7, 2024, minutes were not approved due to missing vote totals on parking restoration for Hayes and Richards streets.

Treasurer, Eric Rogers reported that there were no additions or subtractions from our account, and the current bank balance remains at \$4,617.88.

Bobbie Beckam, Jackson Park Supervisor – Bobbie reiterated that there will be 140 kids participating in this year upcoming Summer Camp, and he is appreciative of JPAC willing to donate funds for the July “Candy Race”. He also informed us that a considerable number of individuals participated in viewing the Cherry Blossoms, including a substantial number of visitors attending the event within the Japanese Garden. Bobbie will make a request to Chicago Park District officials to install lights for the Pickle Ball courts.

Mary Ann Cronin, Earth Day Captain – Reported on the success of our Earth Day cleanup event. Thirty individuals plus multiple girl scouts and their mothers participated in the Jackson Harbor Shores and 63rd Street Beach cleanup. Two hundred pounds of trash were gathered. A meeting with officials of The Griffin Museum of Science & Industry will review the property line between the museum and Jackson Park. Mary Ann submitted a draft letter regarding the Darrow Bridge to Roger Deschner, Historical Bridge Committee Chair, and Michael Scott. Mary Ann also stated that the Federal Grant had been issued to add Tree Surgeons to assist in inventorying and maintaining 250,000 trees throughout the Chicago parks.

Committee Updates

Michael Scott, JPAC President, asked for members to chair various committees. Barbara Koenen volunteered to chair the Dog Park committee. The golf course interest is moving forward, and the Golf Committee will be discussing the pros and cons of this with the JPAC membership within the next month. Michael stated that the Communication and Obama Presidential Center committees will assume different responsibilities going forward.

Guest Irene Hsiao presented information about sponsoring Guardians of the Earth and Sky on July 19, 2025. This event will combine art, music, and storytelling. A request to cover this event under our insurance policy was presented. A motion was introduced and seconded for approval. The JPAC membership unanimously approved it.

A motion to provide \$200.00 to purchase candy for the Candy Race was moved and second. The JPAC members voted to approve it with one individual abstaining.

There were concerns raised from members about the lack of accessibility for individuals with disabilities to access various locations within Jackson Park. Also, an announcement pertaining to the Chicago Park District seeking members to join the Governance Committee was made.

President Scott requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved at 7:59 p.m.

The meeting was attended by 27 individuals, consisting of 26 members and one non-voting guest. Of the 26 members in attendance, 24 were currently eligible to vote; and 2 were not yet eligible to vote. Guests included Irene Hsiao, creator of Guardians of the Earth and Sky.

Respectfully submitted,
Russell Pike, JPAC Secretary