Meeting Minutes of JPAC - March 7, 2026

Michael Scott, JPAC President, called the meeting to order at 9:15 am. A quorum of at least 7 voting members was present. President Scott thanked Dr. Chevy Humphrey, President of the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, for hosting this meeting. He also welcomed all the attendees and asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved. It was noted that the JPAC business portion of the meeting would be shortened to allow as much time as possible for Dr. Humphrey to present the current status of the Museum's physical and programmatic planning initiatives.

JPAC Business

Treasurer's Report - None.

Historical Bridge Committee Report - JPAC has been accepted to participate in the Section 106 process review for the Clarence Darrow Bridge

Earth Day: Discussion of planning for Earth Day including the date (April 22, the official earth day, and April 26 as an alternative). Committee recommendations focus on the lakefront, including hours scheduled along the harbor area and at 63rd Street Beach. Both Friends of the Park and the Chicago Parks Foundation have expressed interest in working with Jackson Park.

Griffin Museum of Science and Industry Presentation

President Dr. Chevy Humphrey grew up in Chicago in a family that frequently visited MSI. In particular, she remembers the years prior to 1991 when entry was free and the museum attracted on average 3 million visitors per year. Currently, the Museum attracts an average of 1.5 million visitors annually. Since her arrival, Dr. Humphrey has been actively leading a full facility assessment of its 1.4 million square feet. This assessment will serve as the basis to undertake a multi-year, multi-million-dollar program of renewal and reorganization of its space, to strengthen relationships with Jackson Park and surrounding South Side communities and broaden City and tourist users. Another aspect of this planning vison is to make entry to the Museum lower cost and free to many users.

Dr. Humphrey spoke to the planning and renewal process underway to date and what part of the plan will be executed first. She noted that over the past four years she held about 1,000 meetings in preparation for defining the scope of work and the first stages of the plan. The first phase will focus on the South Portico to recreate the "Front door" that faced the 1893 World's Fair grounds. It will provide an entrance welcoming to the park and adjacent communities, and free use of outdoor programming to visitors. Options under review include improved ADA accessibility and bathrooms, a cafe and the extension of some indoor programming outdoos, particularly for families with children.

Following Dr. Humphrey 's presentation, the audience present were encourage to make comments and ask questions. Wide range of questions included:

-Timeline for the first phase
-Museum history; Tributes to founders
-Responsibilities for maintenance among Museum, Park District, and City
-Bike and walking path access
-Effects on Darrow Bridge
-Implications on local parking, Metra and Bus transportation
-Collaboration among institutions/organization with vested interest in Jackson Park

President Scott requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was moved and seconded.

The meeting was attended by 46 JPAC members including 4 not yet eligible to vote. Additional representation included museum staff, members from Jackson Park Harbor Masters and Golf Course, and local non-PAC community members. There was no representative from Jackson Park staff. Attendees signed in for this meeting only if they were already a JPAC member.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Anton, Membership Committee