JPAC September 14, 2026, 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 was present. President Scott greeted members and guests, asked if there were any additions to the agenda or modifications. There were no changes and the members approved of the agenda. August 3. 2026 meeting minutes were unanimously approved. No park district personnel were present to report.

Treasurer report Eric Rogers, treasurer, reported an account balance of $4184.08 with no change since the previous report.

Roger Deschner, Chairperson of the Historical Bridge Committee and Jack Spicer stated that representatives from CDOT have not provided any updates in 5 1/2 months pertaining to the plans for restoring the Darrow Bridge. Both Jack and Roger are requesting that a representative from CDOT present an update during our November or December meeting.

Mary Ann Cronin informed the members that all trees within Jackson Park have been surveyed in accordance with the terms of the contract. The trees installed at the Obama Presidential Center were not included in the survey as the Park District does not manage the OPC trees (Millennium Park is similarly excluded from Park District forestry). She also informed us that Earth Day is rapidly approaching and will provide more information regarding this at our next meeting.

Eric Rogers presented detailed information regarding Section 106, which is part of a 60-year-old National Historic Preservation Act. This section governs the process that occurs when considering a proposed change to a place or structure that has been listed as a National Landmark or on the National Register of Historic Places (which includes Jackson Park). Since Section 106 is classified as a federal regulation and not a federal law an internal review is currently underway to consider proposed new rules that would lead to Section 106 reviews becoming optional or being eliminated. If this occurs, then the public would not have an opportunity to review and comment on any proposed changes that might be made to registered historic places. Contact Congress members and request that they support the existing Section 106 framework: learn more at savingplaces.org/section106. It is essential that public opinions and comments are considered whenever a historic property is subject to any alterations. Additional information regarding Section 106 will be posted on the JPAC Website. Since the White House was never listed in the Historical Preservation Register, it was not subject to Section 106. Currently, Section 106 rules are still in place for Jackson Park.

Proposal A motion was moved and second to have JPAC sign on to an existing letter in support of retaining Section 106. The motion was approved with eighteen members voting yes and one member abstaining.

Olmsted Network Michael Scott presented information pertaining to establishing a Partner Membership with the Olmsted Network. Several questions and comments were raised. After a brief discussion, a request for a motion on the matter was made.

Proposal A motion was moved and second for JPAC to become an Olmsted Network Partner Member. The motion was approved with twelve members voting yes three members voting no, and three members abstaining.

Obama Presidential Center Peter Vega, OPC representative was present to answer any questions. A formal presentation is being prepared for a future meeting. Peter addressed the comments involving issues and misinformation pertaining to security. The OPC site, except for the buildings, is accessible during Jackson Park's hours. The buildings on the OPC campus will be closed at 6:00 p.m. most days. Comments and / or issues pertaining to OPC should be directed to JPAC. This will allow JPAC the ability to ensure that the various suggestions, comments, and/or issues are addressed with OPC.

Griffin Museum of Science & Industry Amy Pniewski was present to answer questions. A formal presentation will be given at a future JPAC meeting.

During public comment, **Louise McCury** provided information and pluggers referencing the donation and the sale of used books. Books for donation can be dropped off at the Hyde Park Bank until October 3rd, and the sale will be from October 10th through the 12th in the Kimbark Plaza.

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

Attendees of the meeting included XX individuals of which XX JPAC members were eligible to vote. XX non-voting attendees including Amy Pniewski of the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, and Peter Vega, Obama Foundation.

Respectfully Submitted.
Russell Pike, JPAC Secretary