

# Minutes

## Meeting of the Advisory Council

### Jefferson Memorial Park

01 April 2019, 19:03

A meeting of the Jefferson Memorial Park Advisory Council was held in person on 01 April 2019, at approximately 19:03 at Jefferson Memorial Park Fieldhouse. All three members of the council (president Lionel Rabb, vice president Frank Suerth, secretary Juan Aramburu) were present. Also present were Park supervisor Andrea Woppel, and Roberts Square Playlot Park Advisory Council member Eva Skowronski, Chicago Park District community relations manager Maria Stone, Midnight Circus ringmaster and founder Jeff Jenkins, newspaper magnate Brian Nadig, Brian Wardman from the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association, and several community members.

Juan Aramburu, Secretary, took minutes during the meeting. Review of topics discussed:

**VOTE:** Approve last month's minutes as written

FS: Motion | JA: Second

**UNANIMOUS:** Yes

**VOTE PASSES**

- Circus in the Park (Midnight Circus) is scheduled for the (11<sup>th</sup>), 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of October (2 P.M. and 5 P.M.). The performances will be 1.5 hours long with an intermission in the middle. Executive director Jeff Jenkins spoke about the organization. He said that the hosting park receives 100% of the concessions profit and program book advertisement sales profit. Dates not to be made public until late April or May.
- Thanks to a partnership with the Ed Paschke Art Center, Paschke in the Park will happen again in the summer, potentially on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June or the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, one of these possibly being Ed Paschke's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. It will be an arts-focused family day.
- Roberts Square Egg Hunt will happen on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April from 10-11 A.M. Eva will be passing out flyers. She suggested that "Poor Brian" Nadig can put it in the newspaper "if he wants."
- Roberts Square's Halloween Howl (dog Halloween) is still on schedule for the 20<sup>th</sup> of October.
- Roberts Square is doing OK, per Eva. They might do an Earth Day cleanup
- Park Activities: Frank Suerth has been hosting a songwriters' event every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday
- Movies in the Park:
  - JMPAC has their own movie equipment
  - Roberts Square is getting a movie in the park event from CPD
  - JMPAC will do a couple of movies and send dates to Andrea W. for approval
- There was discussion about creating a walking path from the tennis courts where people walk to reach the CTA terminal. People walk on the grass and create a muddy dirt path. JMPAC has been approached by people with potential solutions, including gravel and permeable pavers.
- The circle in front of the field house needs repair and several solutions were suggested, including new benches, a new flagpole, and taking out all the concrete. Some concepts will be drawn out this year and shown to the community.

- Air conditioning for the orchestra (and potentially the rest of the building) was mentioned again. Some prices from vendors were mentioned, from an optimistic \$20-30,000 to upwards of \$100k. Suggestions were made, such as asking for TIF money.
- Jeff Fest: Brian Nadig wants to do a partnership agreement with JMPAC and suggested that events that may have been held within the Field House be held outdoors on the community stage. Because it gets hot in the Field House. AW had no specific complaints about Jeff Fest that were voiced at the time of the meeting.
- Eva: grass and soil at Roberts Square takes an abnormally long time to dry. A community member suggested that there may be an excess of clay in the soil. LR suggested that the removal of large trees may have had an effect. AW said she would let Landscape know.
- Eva: the Roberts Square water fountain is broken. AW: maintenance may need to put in work to fix it. LR will follow up with a contractor.
- Frank: Park Clean-up partnership with Friends of the Parks and the Chicago Parks Foundation: April 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 9 A.M. to noon.
- A community member had a question about the previously-mentioned walkway. LR stated that the method and materials for installation will ultimately be based on cost. Another community member asked if there would be a budget for maintenance and LR said that there would be.
- Community member Magda S. brought up the idea of replacing the building's two old and unfixable pianos with free ones from Craigslist. LR stated that JMPAC would be happy to help with funds for movers if the Park District will allow it. A community member stated that a foundation exists to donate usable pianos to children. Another community member asked if these free pianos will be fixed and tuned, and AW stated that the Park District has access to fixers and tuners. She also stated that one of the old pianos will be moved to the outdoor porch of the Esdohr houses, where kids will be able to play on them all day long where they may be heard by everyone including offices across the street. Eva suggested a small organ.
- Eva asked about ping-pong tables, and AW said they were donated to other parks. LR suggested that JMPAC could donate yet another table to Jefferson Memorial Park and AW shook her head slowly.
- Eva suggested an event wherein seniors could get together and play chess and cards. LR stated that JMPAC would be open to trying it and agreed with FS that "Dell" would be willing and able to run the event.
- LR: the Farmers' Market? Eva: The second week of June
- LR: The Esdohr House? AW: after Christmas, nothing. FS: But there will be a piano on the porch.
- LR: a potential chalk-drawing event with the community may happen.

Meeting adjourned at 19:41 (FS motion JA second/unan.).

Submitted by Juan Aramburu, Secretary