

# Minutes

## Meeting of the Advisory Council

### Jefferson Memorial Park

10 October 2018, 18:31

A meeting of the Jefferson Memorial Park Advisory Council was held in person on 10 October 2018, at approximately 18:31 at Jefferson Memorial Park Fieldhouse. Two members of the council were present: Vice President Frank Suerth and Secretary Juan Aramburu. Also present were Park supervisor Andrea Woppel, and Roberts Square Playlot Park Advisory Council Members Tom Lang and Eva Skowronski, newspaper magnate Brian Nadig, Doug Grom from the group Jefferson Park Forward, Brian Wardman from the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association, and community members Trisha Kannon and Eileen Ryan (arrived later in the meeting).

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

- The Halloween Howl (Roberts Sq) is on track for 20 Oct 1-3 P.M. 55 kids and 45 dogs are expected, depending on weather. The Fire Department may show up if they're available. Volunteers are welcome.
- Thanks to the Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce for giving the Chicago Park District a \$2,000 check to be used for Jefferson Memorial Park.
- Thanks to the Park District and Jefferson Memorial Park for approving Jeff Fest
- Thanks to Friends of the Parks, the JP Chamber, and neighbors for assisting with and contributing to the Park cleanup event. Eva S. was allegedly there, although current photographic evidence can neither confirm nor deny these claims.
- Andrea W. stated that the Christmas event was still on track for the second of December.
- Community suggestions (complaints) were mentioned:
  - The exercise bikes in the basement are broken: Andrea W. stated that the activity center downstairs is a *Youth* activity center, and any equipment down there is for use during specific classes or for neighborhood youths.
  - We should flood the field during the winter and make an ice-skating rink: Andrea W. stated that it would be difficult to obtain approval from the Park District for such, although it has been done unofficially in the past. Riis Park and Warren Park both have official ice-skating rinks.
- Questions:
  - Eva S. asked if JMPAC is collaborating with the Copernicus Center for Christmas. FS: No.
  - Trisha K. asked about the model trains that had been on display in the past. FS: We will reach out to the appropriate gentleman for the Christmas event.
  - Brian N. asked about reindeer. FS: They are expensive and may not be available in time.
  - Doug G. asked if there were specific things with which JMPAC needed help, and if people were able to join JMPAC's board. FS: We always need volunteers. Andrea W. & Tom L: People need to be involved with JMPAC first, before they can be considered to join the board. FS: We just had elections, and I believe the term is two years. JA: we must refer to the bylaws.
  - Other Brian: Plans for the Esdohr House? Andrea W.: Using it for storage. It's too expensive to fix, and there is a conflict between modernizing it for use and maintaining its historic status.

- Eileen R.: Can we get Circus in the Park? Andrea W.: It's very difficult to get on the list, and one needs many more volunteers than we are able to recruit at this time.
- There was discussion about the upcoming Christmas event, and the idea of taking donations or charging a fee, taking donations from nonresidents, giving discounts for Facebook Likes; giving people alcohol; reindeer and the cost therein; the previous expansion of JMPAC and difficulty in recruiting volunteers or people who want to be involved; Facebook activity leading to corporate sponsorship; creating Instagram-friendly photo opportunities; difficulties in finding out about JMPAC events; how big and expensive we can make the Christmas event; luring people in to volunteer or be involved; contractors volunteering to do repairs, and the cost of installing air conditioning for the field house or parts of the field house; getting TIF money; lack of seating, parking, and shade in the park; bringing in childless adults (not for fitness classes); fundraising prior to events; putting Santa inside the Esdohr House (this was Andrea W's idea) and decorating it within and without; having people pay for hard-copies of Santa photos and perhaps using them to make ornaments; involving vendors and neighborhood businesses in the Christmas event and perhaps future events as well; having a raffle; and the creation of a Christmas event committee.
- A committee for the Christmas event was apparently created and will apparently meet on Monday 22 October at 18:30.

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

JA: Motion | FS: Second

**UNANIMOUS:** Yes

**VOTE PASSES**

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Juan Aramburu, Secretary