

## **Jackson Park Project Section 106 Consultation Webinar 3: Chat Pod Transcript**

Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 9:00 AM Central

**Allison Caloggero:** Good morning, everyone! We will begin momentarily. Thank you for your patience.

**Liz Peloso (USEPA):** We don't need to call in for audio, correct? We can use computer as well, right?

**Allison Caloggero:** Please use the call line above for audio. Audio is not provided through the computer.

**Allison Caloggero:** Good morning, everyone! We will begin momentarily. Thank you for your patience.

**Ghian Foreman- Emerald South:** Ghian Foreman- Emerald South Economic Development Collaborative- Good morning all. I am looking forward to a productive call.

**Brenda Nelms:** Where is the promised list/record of all suggestions/responses submitted to the June on-line survey? A FOIA request to DPD has still be unfulfilled after 3 weeks.

**Nathan Roseberry:** Ms. Nelms - The city is in the process of gathering the information requested under FOIA and will provide as soon as all information is compiled.

**Astrida:** On behalf of Vista Homes Building Corporation, I have two comments:

1. Given the lack of public park space in the South Side, would like to reiterate our objection to not creating new park space to replace park lost by OPC and calling the existing park of the Midway as replacement as part of UPARR. This was promised in the ordinance first submitted by the City to grant the land to the Library now OPC.
2. Appreciate that there is now recognition of the historic importance of the Woman's garden, but it is still being destroyed by the current plans. Why not treat the garden like many historic planners have done with historic facades: keep it as it is but build the OPC to incorporate it as it is. Surely, there are other areas that could be used for the staging.

**Nathan Roseberry:** Thank you, Astrida for your comments.

**Sarah Stokely, ACHP:** Have the attachments for the draft MOA been provided to the consulting parties, yet?

**Nathan Roseberry:** Ms. Stokely – The draft MOA distributed by Matt Fuller to consulting parties on 7/9/20 did include all three attachments.

**Dan Marriott - National Association for Olmsted Parks:** Astrida's comments are an important consideration. In a part of the city with a deficiency of park land using the Midway, rather than developing new park spaces is not an adequate response.

**Nathan Roseberry:** Mr. Marriott - Thank you for your comment.

**Lynn Sweet:** What is Dan Marriott's affiliation...National Association of....??

**Matt Fuller:** @Lynn: Dan Marriot is with National Association for Olmsted Parks.

**Dan Marriott - National Association for Olmsted Parks:** Marriott: National Ass'n of Olmsted Parks.

**Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center:** Thank you, Louise for your articulate and positive comments.

**Naomi Davis:** UPARR replacement should include new parklands, including parcels in Historic West Woodlawn honoring the journey of Great Migration strivers who settled Chicago's first black middle-income neighborhood - including icons of the American story such as Lorraine Hansberry, Emmett Till, Gwendolyn Brooks, and renowned sculptor Richard Hunt. Replacement parkland should not be limited to the Midway, and BIG: Blacks in Green has been advancing international heritage tourism here since 2013 by beginning the cultivation of The 16 Great Migration Gardens of West Woodlawn [in homage to the 2016 Centennial]. City-owned land and other supports could be wisely invested in the establishment of such green spaces, which would be privately stewarded as community land trust public spaces.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** To address the concerns about the Women's Garden raised earlier, I suggest the commenter review the plans for the OPC where the Women's Garden (which was not in the original Olmsted design), will be not only restored but enhanced, and most importantly, will be ADA accessible. It currently is not.

**Nathan Roseberry:** Thank you for your comment, Ms. Davis.

**Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center:** Mr. Miller: Landscaping that will result in 1:1 tree replacement, planting trees that will be able to survive in our changing climate can hardly be seen as just tokens.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** I strongly encourage Mr. Miller, as well as the other commenters, to review the Environmental plans for the OPC which were made public for the Environmental Review. If they would evaluate it without distorted lens they might be pleasantly surprised how much it will improve the park.

**Astrida:** One can make the Woman's garden ADA accessible without destroying it. It is also historically important because of the World's Fair and Women's history not because of Olmsted.

**Michael McNamee Save The Midway:** We support the suggestion by Naomi Davis that some UPARR replacement be new park and playground in West Woodlawn, and we would join in working to help develop this.

**Nathan Roseberry:** Thank you for your comment, Mr. McNamee.

**Carol L Adams:** That is a lot more than 2 sentences!

**Mary Anton:** Mary Anton, Rosalie Villas - Improving the east end of the Midway does not preclude creating new parks in Woodlawn. Recent planning discussion about renewal and development in Woodlawn recognizes the need for parks in its planning.

**Ghian Foreman- Emerald South:** The Midway has a severe flooding issue. Significant investment needs to be made to address the drainage.

**Nathan Roseberry:** Thank you for your comment, Ms. Anton.

**Nathan Roseberry:** Thank you for your comment, Ghian Foreman.

**Mary Anton:** Mary Anton, Rosalie Villas - Thank you Ghian for pointing out that problem with the east end of the Midway.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** I agree with Mr. Foreman, it is a terrible cesspool when the weather is hot. Geese reside there and the combination of their excrement with the water, humidity and mud make walking past it very difficult.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Thanks for your thoughtful comments, Brenda

**Al DeBonnett:** The opposition and obstructionist have caused the delay and costs increase because of their short-sighted denial of overwhelming support of OPC development and park restoration/mitigation processes. How disingenuous!!!

**Ghian Foreman- Emerald South:** The City, and the Park District are very capable of continued investment in South Side Parks, without taking away from the public. The goal is to improve the lives of the residents throughout the entire City, and specifically those on the South Side.

**Lynn Sweet:** Can someone please get some ballpark estimate of the costs for the projects?

**MPAC - Donald McGruder:** I agree Ghian! Something needs to be done.

**Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center:** Thank you, Ghian.

**Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center:** Thank you, Perri, for providing this much needed perspective. Speaking truth to power!

**Paul Coffey:** Since we've met last, the context in our culture has changed. With deep respect for those who are petitioning to reconsider the OPC, I fear that if these suggestions persist, they may be interpreted as tone-deaf to the central nature of the equity and inclusion conversations that the country is finally struggling with.

**Al DeBonnett:** Hi Lynn, imagine if the projects were started 2 years ago? We would be ahead of the game and in a position to prevent shoreline flooding, economic impact accretion and

preparation for much-needed economic restoration after pandemic adverse effects. Because of the obstructionists delay and denial actions, costs will be higher and will increase let us learn from our mistakes and the mistakes of others.

**Brenda Nelms:** It seems appropriate and necessary for the City to provide an estimate of the costs that it would bear for the proposed mitigation measures. Of particular issue is the wetland area of the Midway, which Mr. Foreman notes is a major challenge that will be very expensive to remove. This wetland sits on top of a former underground creek.

**Al DeBonnett:** Thank you Louise and Perri! Your presence(s) are so essential and timely for such a time as this!

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** In regards to rehabilitation of the Comfort Station, it is included in the MOA, not sure if previous commenters missed that.

**Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center:** Dan: The OPC will actually result in a net gain of 3.7 acres of parkland not take away parkland.

**Sonya Malunda:** Thank you Louise and Perri for your comments. We have to look at these plans through an equity lens, and I welcome the voice of residents who reside on the south side, and I hope they are heard. I am a 25-year resident of Jackson Park Highlands and I look forward to the park restoration as described, the economic benefits to local residents, and the educational opportunities for young people. We will have to do significant rebuilding of our community once we work through the pandemic. This will take hope, aspiration, and focus. Thank you!

**Sarah Sheehan:** On behalf of UChicago, we believe the process has been fair as is the draft MOA. Thank you for your work. We have no other comments at this time.

**Lynn Sweet:** What is the name of the NPS woman speaking?

**Eleanor Gorski:** Emily Ferguson is now speaking.

**Al DeBonnett:** Lynn, please feel free to quantify the economic impact to Chicago for OPC and Jackson Park restoration based upon other similar projects like Clinton Library (\$14B+) and Lucas Museum economic impact estimate (\$10B) and other numerous park district restorations throughout the U.S.

**Matt Fuller:** I just confirmed that all attachments were sent out with the MOA. See Attachment C, page 11, for the target schedule of the implementation of the mitigation measures.

**Al DeBonnett:** Lynn, can Chicago afford to lose another economic engine and much needed ADA compliance for addressing the many Chicagoans with disabilities now and in the future?

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Erin, because your one colleague is uninformed, it is unreasonable to project that many people who are concerned with its placement in Jackson Park are equally uninformed.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Ms. Seidel, I firmly believe that many people are misinformed, due to the dissemination of misinformation from a few of the consulting parties that are represented here, yours included.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** I would welcome off-line getting a full spectrum of the misinformation you are accusing us of spreading.

**Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center:** I tried to get on the phone queue.

**Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center:** I keep typing in 10 and am told I'm in the queue, but you don't seem to have me in the queue.

**Nathan Roseberry:** Ms. Sweet and Ms. Nelms - Cost estimates are not typically provided at this point to ensure no interference with the contracting process for implementation of the stipulations within the MOA. Costs would be available at time of award.

**Mary Anton:** Mary Anton, Rosalie Villas -Sonya. Al, Louise, Perri, Erin - thank you for your comments! Two points that need to be made over and over: the need to look forward and not backward; parks need to continue to evolve to support the people who use them. The OPC design and the South Lakefront Development Framework take these changes into account while being respectful of the Olmsted legacy. I also find the argument that we cannot afford these projects is specious - the South Side has historically seen under investment, and this is a one in a lifetime opportunity to make the investments needed and kick start economic investment.

**Al DeBonnett:** Lynn and all media, please review the award-winning South Lakefront Framework Plan that was first constructed in 1999 and now more relevant with immediate economic impact capabilities, along with OPC development. Shovel-ready plans are now in place that will result in billions of dollars for Chicago economy and surrounding communities. Bravo to all involved!

**Al DeBonnett:** Thank you, Mary!!!

**Ghian Foreman- Emerald South:** So do you think it is better to "destroy" the privately owned land?

**Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center:** Mary Lu: who would pay for improvements to Jackson Park if the Obama Foundation doesn't build the OPC???

**Al DeBonnett:** Erin was correct in her assessment and I believe may have just been defamed by the last public comments.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** We have several voices of color on this call, perhaps it would be worth listening to them, Ms. Seidel.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Ghian, the privately owned land presumably is not a nationally designated Historic place.

**Tony Greep FTA:** FTA has no comments.

**Ted Haffner, Openlands:** Ted Haffner declines to comment: ours have already been raised.

**Mary Anton:** Mary Anton, Rosalie Villas - I should be in the phone que now.

**Mary Krinock:** Museum of Science and Industry has no comments at this time.

**Ghian Foreman- Emerald South:** A great book to check out with regards to the value of land in Black Communities- Know Your Price- Valuing Black Lives and Property in America's Black Cities- Andre M. Perry Author.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Thanks for that recommendation, Ghian. I own that book and have read it.

**Astrida:** Vista homes building submitted comments on chat.

**Alisa Starks:** I already commented for Don Nash.

**Paul Coffey:** SAIC has already commented and supports the MOA fully.

**Robert Mawson:** Heritage declines to comment.

**Michal Safar:** Hyde Park Historical Society - No comment.

**Sarah Sheehan:** University of Chicago believes the process has been fair as is the draft MOA. No further comment at this time.

**Frederick N Bates:** Friends of the Parks -no comment.

**Ghian Foreman- Emerald South 2:** No comments from Emerald South. We support moving forward.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** South Side Neighbors for Hope is in support of the MOA and thanks the agencies for a fair, transparent and thorough process. We look forward to moving on.

**Lauren Moltz:** Lauren Moltz, Friends of the Parks.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** To reiterate, the Women's Garden will be restored and enhanced, including becoming fully ADA compliant.

**Lynn Sweet:** Who is speaking now?

**Al DeBonnett:** Dr. Carol Adams is now speaking.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Thank you Dr. Adams. Beautifully spoken.

**Nord Wennerstrom:** The Cultural Landscape Foundation will provide written comments.

**Lauren Moltz:** FOTP. It is a false narrative to say that if an organization raises questions or any objections to this process that that organization doesn't care about people of color or south side communities. This is an historic project celebrating the first Black president of the US and respecting the vital role that parks and open space play in our city.

**Lynn Sweet:** What is Dr. Adams organization, if any?

**Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center:** Thank you, Carol. Yes, let's start moving forward.

**Lynn Sweet:** And who speaking now about the 19 acres...sorry, my internet cuts in and out.

**Al DeBonnett:** Dr. Carol Adams is former Exec Director for DuSable Museum of African American History, former Loyola University professor and former Director of Illinois HHS

**Carol L Adams:** Dr. Adams' organization is South Shore Works.

**Mary Anton:** Mary Anton, Rosalie Villas - I withdraw my question. Others have expressed the points I wanted to make. However, I do want to thank all the City and Federal representatives who have worked diligently and patiently on this project. I concur and fully support the recommendations of the MOA.

**Al DeBonnett:**Dr Adams, we are honored by your presence!

**Michael McNamee Save The Midway:** Lynn, I think that was Kay Poyner Brown, Vista Garage Board President.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** And to clarify about the UPARR replacement, it is only the land that the buildings will be on (~2 acres) that need to be UPARR replaced. The rest of the site is open public parkland, accessible to anyone. This is another point that those few that oppose this process do not want to emphasize.

**Mary Anton:** Mary Anton, Rosalie Villas - Like Kineret, I will follow up with written comments before the August deadline. For now, I decline making a phone comment.

**Lauren Moltz:** Friends of the Parks will submit additional comments in writing.

**Astrida:** Vista Homes Building Corp will also submit formal response in writing.

**Carol L Adams:** Well said, Ghian.

**Bronwyn Nichols Lodato, President, MPAC:** Point of information: does the MOA draw comments/recommendations from the survey administered by the city and FHWA? If so, where do these appear?

**Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center:** Franklin has already spoken.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** I strongly disagree that we need more time on this process.

**Nathan Roseberry:** Bronwyn - The stipulations provided in the MOA draw from input from the survey, consulting party meetings and written comments provided by public agencies and consulting parties.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** We have been delayed much too long on this process, I ask other consulting parties to comment as well.

**Carol L Adams:** I agree, Erin. The 106 process is not supposed to be endless!

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** We have repeatedly stated that this has been a thorough process. Most of the consulting parties are ready to sign off.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Are underpasses a wise idea with rising lake levels and Lake Michigan so close?

**Carol L Adams:** Justice delayed is justice denied.

**Ghian Foreman- Emerald South 2:** I think another meeting to discuss the MOA is duplicative at best, and a complete waste of time at worst. As a consulting party, I think the time has come to make a decision to move forward.

**Mary Anton:** Mary Anton, Rosalie Villas - totally agree. I think the process has been thorough and the MOA is an excellent distillation of ideas. Time to move forward. I don't see any "rushing" toward signature going on.

**Bronwyn Nichols Lodato, President, MPAC:** Another point of clarification: how does FHWA ensure that the consulting party signatories are authorized by their bodies to be signatories to the MOA? MPAC has experienced in the past persons who have illegitimately represented themselves as endowed with the authority to represent MPAC positions and the body has had to notify FHWA of this type of fraud. We hope this can be avoided moving forward. Thank you very much for clarifying.

**Nathan Roseberry:** Ms. Seidel - The pedestrian underpasses have been designed to take into account current and project lake levels.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** These meetings typically devolve into critiques about the process or arguments that the OPC should be moved. Can we instead do a review via email with comments submitted? Those of us who are volunteering to represent our community while at the same time working full time and also taking care of children full time, putting an additional meeting on the agenda adds a significant burden. Please can we resolve these issues in a time sensitive way.



**Lynn Sweet:** Is this proper spelling...Louise McCurry...is there an organization affiliation?

**Carol L Adams:**She is President of the Jackson Park Advisory Council.

**Matt Fuller:** Ms. Lodato - The MOA will be sent to the representative of the consulting party.

**Naomi Davis:** Blacks in Green does not agree that "the bus has left the station" on the matter of cultivating public green spaces in neighborhoods to replace [as agreed years ago] the 19 acres of Jackson Park land dedicated to the OPC. I agree with Ghian Foreman that we must consider the many vacant lots in surrounding neighborhoods, and again underscore that complementary heritage tourism development has been underway since 2013 in nearby West Woodlawn in the form of an emerging horticultural economy - gardens of all kinds...food production...stormwater management systems...and what will be this country's first certified African American community Arboretum. And by "economy" please understand we mean the network of green jobs and the horticultural supply chain which employs them. Blacks in Green is as an ally to all parties authentically committed to wealth-building in the black community. We are willing partners of the Obama Foundation and welcome your partnership as well.  
[naomidavis@blacksingreen.org](mailto:naomidavis@blacksingreen.org) Naomi Davis: 773-678-9541

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** This is a great example of what I referenced earlier.

**Bronwyn Nichols Lodato, President, MPAC:** Thank you for the reply, Matt!

**Carol L Adams:** We honor President Obama when we honor his selection of Jackson Park as the venue for the OPC.

**Lauren Moltz:** FOTP has been at the table for over 7 years on the North Lake Shore Drive Revive the Drive planning process which both IDOT and CDOT have been involved and it hasn't even gotten to the 106 review process yet.