

## **Jackson Park Project Section 106 Consultation Webinar 2: Chat Pod Transcript**

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 9:30 AM Central

**Allison Caloggero:** Welcome everyone! We will begin momentarily. Thank you for waiting!

**Ghian Foreman – Emerald South:** Good morning to all. It is a great day to be alive! It looks like the sun will be with us for this great call today.

**Tanya Cohn:** Tanya Cohn - Metra

**Allison Caloggero:** Welcome everyone! We will begin momentarily. Thank you for waiting!

**Frederick N Bates:** As a mitigation/adverse impact require in the "Use" agreement that the OPC provide secured funding to remove the buildings and restore the park should the OPC cease to operate.

**Robin Boyd – Don Nash PAC VP:** Great day Beautiful people!

**Brenda Nelms:** The instructions just given for call-in contradict what was issued in yesterday's email – No mention of \*0 there.

**Ward Miller:** Good morning, everyone!

**Kineret Jaffe:** Hyde Park Art Center. Love the idea of research on wildlife and bird migration.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** please review how we can ask questions

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Sounds good. Thanks.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Could the consulting parties please follow the directions?

**Ghian Foreman – Emerald South:** I think we can disagree on what should, or should not be built in Jackson Park, but I find it offensive to call the Obama Presidential Center a "Theme Park". I believe we can be respectful of each other while we have discourse.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** I agree with Ghian.

**Donald McGruder – MPAC:** I also agree with Ghian.

**Alisa Starks:** Don Nash PAC....I agree with Ghian too

**Kineret Jaffe:** Agree with Ghian.

**Karen Freeman-Wilson:** This is Karen Freeman-Wilson from the Chicago Urban League

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Can the administrators of this call please enforce the guidelines that were presented? Neither of these consulting parties have been called upon to call in yet.

**Karen Freeman-Wilson:** I am prepared to comment.

**Todd Wyatt:** Allison, can you please add me back into the host room?

**Mary Anton:** This call is being high jacked by discussion not relevant to Jackson Park and Section 106. Please manage the valuable time for this session.

**Lisa DiChiera:** We have previously asked many times if the site placement of the OPC campus can be moved slightly to the south in order to preserve the south twin road of the Midway Plaisance. Can this be re-evaluated as part of "design review" mitigation? The twin roadways on the north and south sides of the Midway Plaisance that connect into Jackson Park are a key original design feature of Frederick Law Olmsted's park circulation system. The current OPC campus site plan calls for the elimination of the southern road along the Midway Plaisance east of Stony Island Avenue. We recommend the OPC campus be shifted south toward the Jackson Park track and field by the necessary measure to avoid elimination of this section of road that also flanks the Women's Garden and either retain the roadway as is, or hardscape using universal design principles to accommodate pedestrian and other individual active transportation modes (bicycle, scooter, skateboard, rollerblades, etc.).

**Carol Adams:** I believe our discussion centers around Jackson Park as the site and how to make the best use of this site for the surrounding communities. This is an opportunity to make this park shine and present our youth with inspirational, participatory activities. The site, as planned, is restorative since there have been numerous previous projects that have strayed from original intent. There is a bit of selective preservationism at work here.

**Lisa DiChiera:** I want to clarify when I said "we" I am representing Landmarks Illinois.

**Ward Miller:** So many of the ideas presented like plaques "are just tokens" to mitigation. Let's encourage big ideas and big plans, like a National Park Designation and protections for Jackson Park, Washington Park and the Chicago Lakefront.

**Kineret Jaffe:** Ward Miller spoke to relocating the OPC as a mitigation measure, but it was announced at the beginning of the webinar that relocation is not on the table for review.

**Dan Marriott National Assoc. Olmsted Parks:** Lisa DiChiera's comment on the alignment of the twin roads of the Midway P. to Jackson Park and OPC must be considered. The intersection of the Midway and Jackson Park is a historic landscape connection--the OPC needs to be shifted south of this intersection.

**David Clarke FHWA:** I would like to hear from the IL SHPO on their thoughts about what is appropriate compensatory mitigation.

**Kineret Jaffe:** Mr. Bates never identified his consulting party. Further, when he states that the Obama Fdtn should commit to restore the park to its original state if the OPC ceases to function, which "original" state does he mean?

**Mary Anton:** Rosalie Villas - Eleanor - your mic is cutting in and out.

**Eleanor Gorski:** Thanks Mary.

**Michael McNamee--Save The Midway:** Regarding Landmarks Illinois—Lisa DiChiera's comment on the design review item of retaining the alignment of the twin roads of the Midway P. to Jackson Park and OPC, this would mitigate any adverse effect to the Women's Perennial Garden as it would be preserved as is, which is as designed by Chicago Park District landscape architect May McAdams, with any minor adjustments necessary to bring it into ADA compliance.

**Ward Miller:** Let's also encourage mitigation measures to green the brownfields of the Lakefront at the former U.S. Steel South Works, and turn that to Lakefront parkland and consider Friends of the Parks proposal for "The Last Four Miles" and have the City, State, Feds and the Obama Foundation help with the financial lift and costs associated to make this happen! It's in the spirit of the Plan of Chicago--by Burnham--"Make no little plans". This would also protect the city from the rising Lake Michigan and the recent flooding of Lower Wacker, Lake Shore Drive, the Sears Tower and many other sites over the past few days. We need more Lakefront parklands and the current shutdown of the Lakefront with the COVID crises, due to too many people further is an example of needing more Lakefront parklands for the citizens of Chicago.

**Juanita Irizarry:** Mr. Fred Bates said that he is affiliated with Friends of the Parks.

**Kineret Jaffe:** Thank you, Louise!

**Kineret Jaffe:** Sorry, I didn't hear Mr. Bates' affiliation. Thank you for clarifying.

**Mary Anton:** Karen's mic is cutting out.

**Juanita Irizarry:** Kineret, Mr. Bates' suggestion falls in line with such typical use agreements that would call for the building being taken down and that space that was taken up by building being returned to parkland. That is the point of restoring it to its "original state."

**John Tess – Heritage Consulting Group:** This is John Tess from Heritage Consulting Group and do not wish to comment at this time.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** I was in the queue. I didn't get put through.

**Paul Coffey:** We at the school of the art institute are engaging youth in the public design process in North Lawndale by having them envision possibilities via gaming. Minecraft allows youth to envision a world. Let's meet them using their language – gaming.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Please ensure that consulting parties only speak once. I believe Mr. Ward has already spoken for Preservation Chicago, Miss. Seidel.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Thanks, Erin. We can have two members from each consulting party in the call.

**Kineret Jaffe:** Thank you, Mary Lu, for deferring your question.

**Paul Coffey:** We at the School of the Art Institute teach Historic presentation, we value what has come before us. We also remember we are making history.

**Brenda Nelms:** I would like to be able to speak to address the concern about the use of "theme Park" to describe the OPC design.

**Matt Fuller:** @Brenda Nelms - We will have a second round of comments after each consulting party has an opportunity to provide their comments.

**Liz Moyer:** Liz Moyer from SSN4H - Thank you to Perri for making explicit some of the under text that is painfully apparent to many of us.

**Jaime Loichinger, ACHP:** I'm not sure if I was added to the queue to speak for the ACHP, but if I'm not already included, please add me. Thank you!

**Allison Caloggero:** Jaime, ACHP is on the list!

**Kineret Jaffe:** Robin: No one speeding through JP on Cornell Drive currently is looking at the park, and pedestrians (whether seniors or families) take their lives in their hands trying to enjoy the park with a dangerous highway (no longer a carriage path) running through it.

**B. Nichols Lodato, MPAC:** Please note the current speaker does not represent Midway Plaisance Advisory Council and is not a designated representative for this review.

**Kineret Jaffe:** Mary Anton: Thank you for your comments. You said what I was trying to say much more articulately.

**Jaime Loichinger, ACHP:** Thank you, Allison, I appreciate it.

**Liz Moyer:** I would like to remind everyone here that members of the Midway Plaisance Advisory Council voted that MPAC representatives would assert no unified position on the OPC.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Ted Haffner, I would like to see your comments typed here. Thanks.

**Liz Moyer:** This vote was taken because of deep divisions within MPAC and the sense that the parks advisory process was becoming politicized around the issue.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** It clearly states: "Dial 10 to queue your ideas/questions!"

**Paul Coffey:** SAIC defers question, I'll use chat box.

**Matt Fuller:** @Paul Coffey - thank you.

**Ted Haffner, Openlands:** Openlands suggestions (which will also be emailed).

**Carol Adams:** I am in the queue.

**Matt Fuller:** @Ted Haffner - thank you.

**Alice McLean, University of Chicago:** The University of Chicago will type our comments. We appreciate being a part of this thorough and transparent process – which is part of a larger public process about Jackson Park and the Obama Presidential Center that we've been involved in for over 5 years. We believe that many of the ideas presented for mitigation will enhance community members' ability to enjoy Jackson Park while celebrating the history of the park and providing additional opportunities for learning and culture. We look forward to working with the federal agencies, City, and other consulting parties toward the conclusion of this process.

**Matt Fuller:** @Alice McLean - thank you.

**Kineret Jaffe:** Carol Adams: Thank you! Thank you!

**Ghian Foreman- Emerald South:** Dr. Carol Adams- "and can the church say Amen?"

**Mary Anton:** BRAVO CAROL!!!!

**Kineret Jaffe:** Amen!

**Paul Coffey:** Dr. Adams Beautiful said!!

**Alisa Starks:** Alisa Starks DNPAC "Amen"

**Liz Moyer:** Carol Adams this is a beautiful statement and I wholeheartedly support. If it is possible to get a transcription I would appreciate having one to remember those words.

**Ghian Foreman- Emerald South:** I too would like the transcript.

**Carol Adams:** It is not a written piece, I just spoke it. I will try to reprise it in a statement.

**Allison Caloggero:** Transcript and video recording will be posted on the city's website after the meeting today.

**Liz Moyer:** Thank you, Alison! I suggest that any reporters listening in consider printing Carol's amazing statement as an op-ed.

**Kineret Jaffe:** Good idea, Erin.

**Mary Anton:** Great idea Erin - brings forward the idea that history keeps happening and folks on the South Side continue to make it.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Robin, we cannot hear you anymore. Please call back in.

**Racquel Peacher:** great point.... stay on track.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Yes, please stay on track.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** I thought we were in the general round now.

**Paul Coffey:** As Burnham said- Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir people's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. OPC stirs my soul.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Okay.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Thank you Mr. Coffey. It stirs ours as well!

**Carol Adams:** Burnham - "long after we are gone it will be a living thing".

**Paul Coffey:** OPC might consider carbon offsets as a way to address mitigation.

**Dan Marriott National Assoc. Olmsted Parks:** Cornell Drive should not be unilaterally removed from consideration during the mitigation process. The historic cross section of the drive (not the modern road) should remain as a pattern/form in the landscape. This could or could not be open to automobiles (as a park drive, not a commuter drive). It should be open to bicycles and pedestrians. The 'area' of Cornell drive should not be redesigned as a meandering footpath-as currently proposed. The original drive, its surface, edges and plantings should be restored--and this could afford an excellent pedestrian corridor.

**Liz Moyer:** Paul Coffey: Good thought, but I am a climate science professor and carbon offsets are a very dicey thing as currently implemented. I would not support as a mitigation measure, unless they are offsets overseen by the city of Chicago as permanent increases in tree stock within city limit.

**Robin Boyd – Don Nash PAC VP:** This project must now consider the issues around "social distancing". I'm sure project engineers are busy examining COVID-19 impact to OPC.

**Linda Young:** Our Southeast side environment has historically been treated inequitably - Chicago Park District neglects/neglected routine care & maintenance, business like General Iron (yeah the one in news with explosion up in Lincoln Park) moves nearby/operates DANGEROUS

operations polluting our air and ground water. Parks and open lands with trees/plants/nature MAY BE the Southeast side LAST DEFENSE - the OPC should NOT be in our already exploited SE communities UNLESS there is BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY.

**Liz Moyer:** @Brenda Nelms, the claim is that the OPC will destroy an 'open landscape' is factually incorrect, the site of the center is an athletic field and the OPC landscaping do not involve major changes to the remainder of the park. It is irresponsible to make factually incorrect assertions in a public hearing.

**Mary Anton:** I find your analogy offensive and demeaning, Mary Lou. Very much an overview and not particularly sympathetic or understanding of the people who see the changes to Jackson Park a revelatory to their daily lives.

**Robin Boyd – Don Nash PAC VP:** Thank you for your clarification regarding the "theme Park" statement.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Thank you to those of you who contributed positively to this process. I hope we can filter out some of the unnecessary repetition in the next round. Many of us have full time jobs not related to this and are also taking care of young children. Please don't make this a waste of our time.

**Paul Coffey:** Agreed carbon offsets can be dicey. Could OPC as a greening entity throughout our city- bring back our trees after the devastation of the emerald ash borer beetle?

**Liz Moyer:** Now that we are in open session I would like to point out that most of the voices being heard appear to be well-off, retired folks from Hyde Park who have been prominent in meetings and discussions because they have time and resources to make their voices hear. A public hearing will not necessarily draw on voices representative of the community. The extensive hearing process for the OPC has been admirably transparent and thorough but these very qualities also bias it towards people with the time and resources to participate.

**Linda Young:** Correct Liz, I'm not from Hyde Park but from South Shore. Volunteer in my community and work closely with my neighbors in South Chicago, Deering and Hegewisch.

**Elizabeth Roman:** All of the documents and supporting information can be found at [https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dcd/supp\\_info/jackson-park-improvements.html](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dcd/supp_info/jackson-park-improvements.html)

**Kineret Jaffe:** The person speaking has been on the line for more than 3 minutes.

**Mary Anton:** Hey folks, could Stephanie's questions be responded to offline? Thanks for the reference Elizabeth.

**Kineret Jaffe:** Good idea, Louise.

**Liz Moyer:** Louise others talking about disabled access, the current sidewalk along Cornell drive and Jackson Park between 57th and 63rd is so broken up and rutted that it is not wheelchair accessible, or even navigable by bike.

**Robin Boyd – Don Nash PAC VP:** Thank you.