

THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) MEETING
Kennedy Park Fieldhouse, 11320 S. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60643
Park Supervisor, Rebecca Medrano (312-747-6198)
Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 6:30 PM
ZOOM MEETING ONLY

M I N U T E S

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 11

PAC BOARD:

Charles Williams	President	Lorraine Linnerud	Vice President
Ivette Williams	Secretary	Milton Chandler	Treasurer

PARK SUPERVISOR:

Rebecca Medrano

PAC Members:

Dorothy Chandler	Mary Dunneback	Danielle Jones
Rod Myles	Jil Ross	Charmaine Sevier

I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Charles Williams.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1-9-24)

Dorothy Chandler made a motion to accept Minutes, seconded by Mary Dunneback.
All in Favor, AYE. No one opposed.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Statement: Bank Statement and Treasurer's Report attached with detailed information. Milton Chandler also gave verbal summary of Treasurer's report and PAC's bank monthly activities from January 1-31, 2024. January's beginning balance was \$1,923.27 & ending balance was \$2,039.39; Debit transactions totaled: \$100.96; Deposits: \$217.08.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Garden Committee: D. Chandler – Committee verbal report given. Danielle, Ivette and I worked on the summary for last year. We were amazed of all that the Garden Committee accomplished. Blessed to have such great mentors: David Wilkerson-Lindsey, who spearheaded the garden renovation project with our group (currently pursuing his graduate degree in Agroecology and Agroforestry at University of Michigan); Master Naturalist (Danielle); and Master Urban Farmer (Lisa). Goals for 2024 include looking to identify tasks to work on. Danielle Jones, Ivette Williams, Lisa Adams and I signed up to participate in the Illinois Extension Cook County Virtual School and Community Garden Training Series (2 hours each day: 2/15, 2/22, 2/29). Congratulations to Lisa who recently received her certification as a Master Urban Farmer. The Garden Committee and Park Events Planning Committees have teamed up to host Earth Day/Arbor Day on Saturday, 4/20/24 for a park clean-up and tree trimming by Openlands TreeKeepers (Jim Battistoni).

Park Events Planning Committee: M. Dunneback – Committee Report is attached. We met on Zoom on 1/30/24 and outlined activities for the year. First event may be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new park name as soon as a date and time are scheduled by the Chicago Park District. Other events include a kite fly on 4/6; working with

Garden Committee on the Earth Day/Arbor Day Park clean-up and tree trimming event; 6/1 It's Your Park Day; 7/5 post holiday park clean-up; and back by popular demand, the "Prairie Park Purge" community garage sale on 8/10 (alternate date: 8/17), moving this event earlier so hopefully it is before classes start, sports activities kick off in full gear, and there are no conflicts in competing for park space. A fall event in October, such as a mixer or movie night, may be planned as well.

Park Investment Committee: L. Linnerud – Committee Report is attached. The Build Illinois Bond Grant request for The Prairie Park was initiated in October 2022 and has been finally approved (\$500,000). Grant approval step #26 was the last step to complete this long process. Next step is for the Chicago Park District to assign a project manager for our park. The award covers the top 3 priority improvements and is specific to creating a walking path with lighting, and a water source. This is not a matching grant.

Park Naming Committee: M. Drake – Next Chicago Park District Hearing for the approval of our park name from Park No. 581 to "THE PRAIRIE PARK" is on Wednesday, 2/15/24, at headquarters in Brighton Park at 11:20 AM. All are welcome to attend.

Public Safety Committee: M. Chandler – CAPS Meeting Report is attached. First meeting of the year was on 2/1/24 facilitated by Officer Beamon. Crime has significantly gone down. There were zero robberies, shootings, homicides and burglaries last month. CAPS is encouraging people to get video doorbells to record any crimes or illegal activities. Cybersecurity: be cautious opening emails. Call 311 for quicker response for issues with trees on parkway or download 311 app. Be vigilant: park in well lit areas and pay close attention to surroundings. Chicago Police Academy starts on 3/19/24. CAPS meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm.

V. NEW BUSINESS

The Chicago Park District Annual Report has been submitted; Charles Williams emailed it to Maria Stone on 1/30/24 (before deadline on 2/22/24), and copied the Board.

VI. UPCOMING EVENTS

2/22/24: CPF PAC Roundtable "PAC Highs & Lows". Link to RSVP: 1:00 pm on Zoom

3/9/24: Chicago Park District's PAC Conference at Malcolm X College. 9 am-2:30 pm

Registration: <https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/2024-PAC>

VII. PARK SUPERVISOR

As to status of bike rack for 118th/Oakley (on Oakley side north of pet waste station), Rebecca will call area manager to ask if work order was submitted.

Reminder about upcoming March 9th PAC Conference at Malcolm X College. Conference and parking are free. Fingerprinting services will be provided from 8am-noon. Fill out Volunteer Application and email to Maria Stone to register in advance. They will follow up with you to let you know when to get fingerprinted at the conference. There is no charge for this. Ivette Williams to forward by email to PAC the form and link to register.

So far, the sports activities taking place at the park in April include: one group is scheduled for spring soccer, and Mike Martin's flag football team will start playing on Saturdays starting 4/13/24. Schedule is not completed yet, but will provide it once all teams sign up and exact dates are set.

Will contact coaches for a date/time to meet with Board or invite to attend PAC meeting to discuss residential zone parking and illegal blocking of driveways during sports games so they can convey message in advance to all sports parents/visitors to avoid receiving tickets by Dept. of Revenue.

VIII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

None at this time.

IX. NEXT PAC MEETING

The next monthly PAC Meeting is on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 6:30 PM in person at the Kennedy Park Fieldhouse.

The PAC Board meets each month the Saturday before the monthly meeting to set the Agenda for the upcoming meeting. If you would like to add an item to the monthly Agenda, please contact one of the PAC Board Officers below prior to that Saturday.

President	Charles Williams	[REDACTED]@aol.com
Vice-President	Lorraine Linnerud	[REDACTED]@gmail.com
Secretary	Ivette Williams	[REDACTED]@aol.com
Treasurer	Milton Chandler	[REDACTED]@gmail.com

X. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM. Motion to adjourn was entered by Charmaine Sevier, and seconded by Dorothy Chandler.

Respectfully submitted: Ivette Williams, The Prairie Park PAC Board Secretary

Please visit the following pages:

- **THE PRAIRIE PARK WEBSITE:**
ThePrairiePark.org

- **FACEBOOK PAGE**
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1071695500392984>

- **PAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdTDUkAOCbB2HzVphMBTuSWsYeSrq-PO8JhUegNywBUyCv4Eg/viewform?usp=pp_url

- **SWIPE SIMPLE ONLINE DONATION**
https://swipesimple.com/links/lnk_7ebae5d3