

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, DECEMBER 10, 2024, 6:30-7:30 PM

M I N U T E S

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 14

PAC BOARD: (4)

Charles Williams	President
Lorraine Linnerud	Vice President
Ivette Williams	Secretary
Dan Niersbach	Treasurer

PARK SUPERVISOR: (1)

Rebecca Medrano

PAC Members: (9)

Lisa Adams	Danielle Jones
JoAnn Altenbach	Birgit LaVoie
Dorothy Chandler	Jil Ross
Milton Chandler	Becky Stevens
Katrina Dillard	

I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Charles Williams called the PAC Meeting to order at 6:40 PM. Robert's Rules of Order were in effect.

II. NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS

There were no new members or guests present. The PAC membership has a total of 46 members to date.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charles Williams asked for a Motion to accept Minutes from 11/12/2024.

Motion accepted by Jil Ross; seconded by Becky Stevens. All in Favor, AYE. No one opposed.

IV. MOTION(S)

There were no Motions entered for voting this month.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Statement and Treasurer's Report attached with detailed information. Our newly elected Treasurer, Dan Niersbach, gave a brief verbal summary of Treasurer's report and PAC's bank monthly activities from November 1-30, 2024.

Beginning Bal. \$3,402.94; Total Deposits: \$87.00; Total Expenses: \$206.71 (check #1009 \$14.86 for Prairie "Fall Social" expenses cleared; there are no outstanding checks); Ending Bal. \$3,283.23).

VI. PARK SUPERVISOR

- Grant Project Updates: The Prairie Park project manager, Kat Katsma, has communicated that there are no further updates yet, but will get back to us when she has more information to share. Kat wanted me to assure the PAC that the Chicago Park District is diligently working on the project so that everything is being done on time. The deadline for the Build Illinois grant is October 31, 2025.

- Calendar & Park Requests: There are no park events currently scheduled on the calendar, or any permits in process or approved remaining for the rest of the year.
- Signage: I requested signage to be posted on north, south, east, and west ends of The Prairie Park with information: (1) when park closes; (2) permit is required; and (3) no barbecuing allowed. We do not know whether these will be 3 individual signs, or all the information will be posted on one sign. It is at the discretion of the Chicago Park District. PAC Vice President, Lorraine Linnerud, expressed concern about adding another 12 more signs in The Prairie Park and hopes that the three items (when park closes; permit is required; no barbecuing allowed) can be placed on one sign (or existing sign) in one or each of the four (N,S,E,W) locations in the park.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Park Events Planning Committee: J. Altenbach – JoAnn Altenbach shared news with the PAC that Mary Dunneback has decided to step down as chair of this committee. JoAnn will be the new chair, and Ivette Williams has agreed to be the co-chair, unless someone else would like to volunteer. The entire PAC thanks Mary Dunneback for her hard work and dedication alongside JoAnn for the past year. We had a successful year thanks to their leadership. The entire PAC concluded with a round of applause.
Committee members: JoAnn Altenbach, Maryann Drake, Mary Dunneback, Candace Evans, Andrienne Horton-Smith, John Smith, Ivette Williams. Committee Chairs: JoAnn Altenbach; Ivette Williams.
- Park Investment Committee: L. Linnerud – Full Committee Report was provided by Lorraine Linnerud in advance of meeting, and verbal summary given at meeting of project milestones completed and updates, as well as list of questions for discussion with project manager at a future meeting in 2025. As discussed at last meeting, Lorraine reported that she contacted the Chicago Park District Office of Budget (who she worked with on the Build Illinois grant) to discuss the width of the path (5-feet vs. 6-feet) so that the walking path can be plowed by the Chicago Park District during the winter. The Chicago Park District communicated to Lorraine that they will update the asphalt walking path design to a width of 6 feet, which is the width of a standard sidewalk in the City of Chicago. As this change will impact the cost of the park development, the Chicago Park District will absorb this extra cost in their budget if necessary (approximately \$30,000). The Build Illinois Grant allows for \$150,000 for a 5-foot path Lorraine will verify that Project Manager, Kat Katsma, is in the loop. PAC President, Charles Williams, asked if Lorraine had received this commitment in writing to which she responded “yes, I’ll tell you later.” Lorraine also reported that although the Build Illinois Grant information includes that all grant funds must be expended by 7/1/2025, Park Supervisor Rebecca Medrano, provided information that our \$500,000 DCEO Award expires on 10/31/2025. Park Supervisor Medrano stated that she assumes there will be no issue if our construction is not completed by 7/1/2025. In addition, Ken Bergeron has stepped down as committee co-chair and away from the PAC. Current committee members include JoAnn Altenbach, Milton Chandler, Lorraine Linnerud, Charmaine Sevier, and Ivette Williams. Committee Chair: Lorraine Linnerud.
- Garden Committee: D. Jones – Full Committee Report was provided by Danielle Jones in advance of meeting, and verbal summary given at meeting. We are still waiting for the chip drop we requested from the City to winterize the community garden at SE triangle. Recap of activities: the Garden Committee had a wonderful year and would like to thank all its members for their time, labor and plants donated: Lisa Adams, Dorothy Chandler, Milton Chandler, Danielle Jones, Madeleine Walsh, David Wilkerson-Lindsey. They were ready to work all the time. Special thanks to: David W., who donated so many plants; Lorraine L. for assessing damaged tree in the park; Mary D. for hauling truck with rain barrel to water plants. Participation of tree trimming event at park; learning activities with lots of seeds collected and processed; soil testing done and clean bill of health received; outings to Lake Katherine; Field Museum; Dan Ryan Woods; etc. Ongoing Cash Balance: \$38.27. Committee Chairs: Danielle Jones and Dorothy Chandler.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

BUSINESS SPONSOR: Special thanks to our second business sponsor this year, County Fair (Tom). Thanks to County Fair's generosity, we had a free drawing for a first prize of a \$50 County Fair gift card won by Lisa Adams. Second prize of a Christmas tin filled with cookies was won by Milton Chandler. We had a mini holiday celebration after the PAC meeting and took group photos.

IX. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

APPEAL: Giving Tuesday & End-of-Year Tax Deductible Donations Appeal. Please consider donating in any of 3 ways: (1) CASH donations at our PAC meetings; (2) CHECK made payable to "THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL"; or (3) ONLINE donations on SwipeSimple (there are no processing fees & no credit card info. is ever stored) at https://swipesimple.com/links/lnk_7ebae5d3. Thank you for your support!

THANK YOU: Rebecca Medrano thanked The Prairie Park Advisory Council for the generous monetary gift. Kennedy Park is beautifully decorated for the holidays with the purchase of Christmas trees; donations received of reindeers; decorations made; books donated; and cheerful environment for the children and families coming to attend activities at the park.

X. PAST EVENTS

BUDGET HEARING: The Chicago Park District Budget Hearing was held on Wed., 11/20/24, at 9:30 am. The General Superintendent & CEO presented the 2025 Budget to the Board of Commissioners @ Chicago Park District Administration Building, 4830 S. Western Ave. The public was invited to attend. PAC President, Charles Williams, attended, but did not sign up to speak. There is a newly elected Board of Commissioners for the Chicago Park District for 2025.

XI. NEXT PAC MEETING

ZOOM: The next PAC Meeting will be held on ZOOM on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 6:30 PM. ZOOM call-in information will be circulated by email in advance of meeting.

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

President	Charles Williams	[REDACTED]@aol.com
Vice-President	Lorraine Linnerud	[REDACTED]@gmail.com
Secretary	Ivette Williams	[REDACTED]@icloud.com
Treasurer	Dan Niersbach	[REDACTED]@sbcglobal.net

XII. ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned by Charles Williams at 7:03 pm.

Submitted by: Ivette Williams, The Prairie PAC Board Secretary

