

## **Jackson Park Project Section 106 Consultation Webinar 1: Chat Pod Transcript**

Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 1:00 PM Central

**Margaret Schmid:** everyone

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Hello Margaret

**Jaime Loichinger, ACHP:** Good afternoon, everyone.

**Cassandra Guice:** Cassandra Guice

**Tanya Cohn:** Hello everyone

**CJ Wallace:** Good Afternoon

**Tonya Trice:** Hello Everyone

**Mary Anton:** Hi Folks

**Ruth Knack:** Ruth Knack

**Liz Pelloso - USEPA:** Are we going to get started soon?

**Louise McCurry:** Louise McCurry Hi everyone

**Ghian Foreman:** Good afternoon! Beautiful day.

**Carol L Adams:** Are they experiencing technical difficulty?

**Frederick N Bates:** Yes. Picture perfect day.

**Cassandra Guice:** Hi Carol; it's Cassandra Guice. I don't know.

**Donald McGruder:** So I take it that I'm not the only one hearing music?

**Donald McGruder:** And Yes. A beautiful day.

**CJ Wallace:** Elevator music loud & clear :)

**Cassandra Guice:** No, you aren't the only one. I have music on the call in line also.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Ward Miller and Mary Lu Seidel are here representing Preservation Chicago

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Would be nice to have some local blues or jazz playing.

**Cassandra Guice:** Hi Mary Lu

**Cassandra Guice:** Hi Ward

**Ghian Foreman:** Ghian Foreman- Emerald South Economic Development Collaborative- Consulting Party

**CJ Wallace:** CJ Wallace, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

**Margaret Schmid:** Margaret Schmid Jackson Park Watch (JPW) Is the captioning feature active?

**Brenda Nelms:** Brenda Nelms, Jackson Park Watch -- please repeat instructions for calling in

**Allison Caloggero:** Call in above in the NOTE pod, to queue up your questions please dial "10"

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Brenda, press 10

**Nichols Lodato:** Slide is not viewable

**Renate Gokl:** the sound is very choppy and keeps cutting out. is anyone else having that problem?

**Liz Pelloso - USEPA:** no

**Nichols Lodato:** Please email slideshow to consulting parties to allow viewing.

**Margaret Schmid:** Margaret Schjmid

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Not having that problem, Renate. Is your internet connection solid? Maybe call in on the conference line?

**Renate Gokl:** thanks, will do that.

**Allison Caloggero:** Nicholas, are you still experiencing the issue of not seeing the slides?

**Margaret Schmid:** is the captioning feature active?

**Allison Caloggero:** Yes, it should be up and running

**Kineret Jaffe:** I do not see any closed captioning

**Margaret Schmid:** How can I find it?

**Kineret Jaffe:** i see a "closed captioning pod" but it is blank

**Margaret Schmid:** On what authority can you dismiss proposed measures outside of the resolve adverse effects process?

**Nichols Lodato:** For Allison: I am not able to see the slides.

**Jaime Loichinger, ACHP:** A critical mitigation element of Lathrop Homes was the retention of a portion of the property, as well as design review for new construction.

**Michael McNamee:** Bronwyn, are you on Adobe Connect?

**Nichols Lodato:** Do you have examples in which parks or the boulevard system was the subject of an adverse effect? What steps were taken?

**Liz Pelloso - USEPA:** yes

**Tonya Trice:** yes

**Robin Boyd:** yes

**Margaret Schmid:** why is there no visible captioning?

**Mary Lu Seidel:** I can see the closed captioning pod in real time

**Angela Berthaume - USDOT:** The closed captioning should be running live with content

**Jaime Loichinger, ACHP:** To all the consulting parties: please note that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is also on the call, and able to answer questions.

**Mary Anton:** Why was there no Section 106 review for either the Skating Rink or Midway Lighting? Both were considered adverse effects on the Midway Plaisance assessment.

**Robin Boyd:** isn't there already a Frederick Douglass marker in Jackson Park?

**Robin Boyd:** near LSD

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Thank you for all your hard and thorough work on this process. Can a historic review of Jackson Park, all the way from Olmsted's design to the role of African American historical features, like Ida B Wells and Frederick Douglass as well as others, could be incorporated in the current design along the promenade or other walking paths? I like the idea of plaques, but perhaps this could be spread out throughout the site, so that it can be connected with particular parts of the park.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Can the callers also state clearly what consulting parties they are representing so there is appropriate sharing of time on this webinar?

**Marriott:** For mitigation, could we consider an archaeology survey/investigation of the historic carriage drives--a study of the historic engineering below existing roads proposed to be changed or removed? This could provide valuable insights into the construction technology of the period - Dan Marriott, National Association for Olmsted Parks

**Kay Poyner Brown:** Who pays for and maintains the agreed upon Mitigation measures.

**Margaret Schmid:** where is the caption? I can locate find it

**Ted Haffner:** How does federal and state funding tie into the mitigation measures as a potential carrot and stick vehicle, especially foreseeing large deficits due to the current pandemic response?

**Allison Caloggero:** Hi Margaret, the closed captioning might not be showing due to you not having a plug in. I might recommend closing the room and reentering or try a different browser

**Ghian Foreman:** Ghian Foreman- Emerald South, Consulting Party- I would like to propose we move forward to continue with the presentation. We have not even gotten to the main subject. We can come back to these kind of general objections later.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** I would like to second Ghian's suggestion.

**Kineret Jaffe:** Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center.

**Ghian Foreman:** Ghian Foreman- Emerald South- Does the Federal Govt. have the authority to alter the decisions made in City Council regarding the OPC location and design?

**Kineret Jaffe:** I also second Ghian's suggestion. I have many suggestions for mitigation, but i thought we were to hold those suggestions for the discussion following the Q and A?

**Eleanor Gorski:** 5 more minutes left of questions this round. Thanks for your patience

**Ruth Knack:** Chat: Is no one considering the adverse effects of increased traffic on LSD and Stony Island.

**Liz Pelloso - USEPA:** please mute yourself if you're not Margaret

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Margaret, can you type your question here?

**Kineret Jaffe:** I dialed in for a question

**Michael McNamee:** of Save The Midway--The UPARR protection and new play area should be placed in a different location to avoid any adverse effect to the east section of the Midway and leave the east section as primarily an open flexible meadow as designed by Olmsted. The City has studied seven other excellent possible locations for UPARR replacement sites.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** All of these suggestions are again only for the narrowest definition of mitigation, not the broad definition that Matt Fuller indicated he is using

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** My apologies for posting this earlier: Thank you for all your hard and thorough work on this process. Can a historic review of Jackson Park,

all the way from Olmsted's design to the role of African American historical features, like Ida B Wells and Frederick Douglass as well as others, could be incorporated in the current design along the promenade or other walking paths? I like the idea of plaques, but perhaps this could be spread out throughout the site, so that it can be connected with particular parts of the park.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Can you explain how this narrowly defined mitigation measures aligns with Matt Fuller's broader definition of what mitigation actually is?

**Ghian Foreman:** Ghian Foreman- I like the plaques idea. Perhaps we can expand the idea of the plaques throughout the surrounding communities.

**Tonya Trice:** There should be nothing about a US presidential center

**Mary Lu Seidel:** When is erecting a plaque the best practice when there is an option to preserve the historic integrity of a place?

**Tonya Trice:** *Edit:* There should be nothing modest about a US Presidential Center

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Please can the organizers ensure that all consulting parties have an opportunity to participate, there are only a few that are dominating this discussion.

**Kineret Jaffe:** Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center. I want to thank the presenters and the federal, state and city officials for this webinar and for the 2 1/2 years you've devoted to this process. It has been very comprehensive and thorough. We are now looking forward to this wonderful improvement to JP. When we think about mitigation, we are thinking about ways we can actually make JP an even more inviting park.

**Marriott:** Cornell Drive should maintain its historic original cross section (width)--this can allow for a pleasant pedestrian/bike corridor...diminishing its width and overly decorating with plant material denies the integrity of the Olmsted design. Dan Marriott-National Association for Olmsted Parks.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Preservation is preferred to plaques by all means necessary

**Nichols Lodato:** What is the process for submitting recommendations for avoidance measures, which falls under the NEPA

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Visit Memphis and look at the plaques commemorating Ida B. Wells. It would have been much more impactful to retain the buildings of significance

**Nichols Lodato:** Guidelines articulated by Matt Fuller?

**Brenda Nelms:** Could Matt Fuller explain how still-actives reviews by NPS and USACE fit into the Section 106 conclusion?

**Ruth Knack:** Who is considering effects of new traffic lanes on LSD and Stony Island....especially in light of storm effects?

**Candice Washington:** Will/Can children should be a part of the historical plaque idea. Making them accessible so that they are educated through history and art activities/lessons.

**Candice Washington:** South aside Neighbors for Hope and Brown Books and Paintbrushes NFP

**Mary Anton:** Mary Anton - Rosaie Villas Homerowners Association - Identification for phone question.

**Ghian Foreman:** 陰陽 / 阴阳 = Yin Yang- we can preserve a beautiful park, while making incredible improvements, which will help preserve the rich nature, which will have an incredible impact on the surrounding communities. We will create new history! I look forward to working with Jackson Park Watch, Preservation Chicago, Save the Midway, and all of the preservation groups.

**Kineret Jaffe:** Hyde Park Art Center: Both the landscape and cultural history of Jackson Park is rich and varied--there have been many changes to this park and to the Midway over the years that have not been deemed to threaten its ability to qualify for protected status under NHPA. The OPC, while it will alter the park, can be seen as a positive addition to the park, and not as an adverse effect.

**Al DeBonnett:** In light of COVID-19, sanitation processes, ADA compliance remediation is long overdue and consistently discounted by those who oppose development and restoration efforts. After attending more than 100 meetings over the last 4 1/2 years, I believe that any further opposition or obstruction is counterproductive to preparation for a post-pandemic Chicago and Jackson Park community. Be well everyone! Al DeBonnett Jackson Park Golf & Community Leadership/JPAC, representing more than 4,000+ residents in support of the OPC plans

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Mitigation suggestion: Prioritize preservation over plaque installation. Preservation Chicago

**Mary Anton:** Mary Anton - Rosalie Villas Home Owners Association - Per Ward Miller's comment, the reduction of Cornell Drive to a path/bike trail places it more in the range of the carriage road that Olmsted designed for that area.

**Ghian Foreman:** Ghian Foreman- Emerald South- re- saving Cornell Drive- Olmstead could not have contemplated cars driving through such a beautiful park. Crossing the street is impossible. Let's make sure that this park is accessible to all!

**Paul Coffey:** from the school of the art institute of Chicago

**Mary Anton:** Mary Anton - Rosalie Villas Owners Association (also JP Advisory Council, Midway Advisory Council)

**Cassandra Guice:** I have heard several times that Cornell Drive was not part of the original Olmsted concept. Can someone find out if it was or was not? If it was not and was added later, would this not change the conversation somewhat?

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Thank you everyone for your hard work, we are very enthusiastic about the OPC design and what it will bring to the South Side. It is long overdue, please can we move on to productively see this benefit us all while honoring our first African American president, President Obama.

**Brenda Nelms:** Brenda Nelms, Jackson Park Watch -- saving Cornell does not preclude improving safe crossing options for pedestrians and bikers. It is not an either/or but improve what is there while welcoming the OPC to the site originally awarded to it in the 2015 ordinance.

**Mary Anton:** Mary Anton - Rosalie Villas Some other mitigation ideas: Connect Lakefront, Jackson Park, Midway, Washington Park via bike pathways - there are old pathways along the Midway that could be rejuvenated

**Michael McNamee:** Save The Midway—Resolution suggestion: The City should not drain the ephemeral wetland but should rather replace it with a small, narrow, designed water feature. It should be respected as an ecological resource that promotes the richness of flora and fauna of the entire area.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Cassandra, a narrow Cornell Drive was in Olmsted's original designs. It should be narrowed and quieted. No need to erase it because the designer could not have foreseen cars when it was designed. Do we tear down buildings that didn't foresee air conditioning once air conditioning is available?

**Margaret Schmid:** Cornell Drive was designed by Olmsted in 1895 following the end of the Columbia Exposition. It was 40 feet wide. Its current location is virtually the same as the original one, especially north of 63rd St.

**Brenda Nelms:** Yet the golf course project was deemed not sufficiently far along to be included as a cumulative effect in the AOE -- Brenda Nelms

**Kay Poyner Brown:** Following up on Louise's idea, how about a demonstration water garden as part of a ground water explanation.

**Russell C. Pike:** Russell Pike, President of the Jackson Park Highlands Association.

**Mary Anton:** Mary Anton - Rosalie Villas - Can we pass along the survey tool to others?

**Paul Coffey:** The Dongdaemun Design Plaza in Korea constructed the building around and exposed prior foundations from this historic site. Could the OPC do something similar with this historic site?

**Liz Moyer:** In re Cornell Drive, in the 1960s Hyde Park residents chained themselves to trees to protest the widening of Cornell and increase in traffic as destroying the historical integrity of the park.

**Mary Anton:** Mary Anton - Roslie Villas Another mitigation idea: OPC project folks have done some amazing and deep research on site ecology and park design - that in itself provides valuable education opportunity

**Liz Moyer:** Another idea is to increase the areas of natural plantings to provide more habitat for birds. The Chicago lakefront is one of America's great locations for birding because migrating birds flying north or south hug the shore of Lake Michigan and descend in our green areas. Right now they congregate in those few areas with more natural vegetation, e.g. Wooded Isle or the south end of Washington Park. Expanding restoration of parkland to a more natural state would provide expanded habitat for migrants.

**Donald McGruder:** Midway Plaisance PAC. In order to come up with a mitigation suggestion, I'd like to get a bit of how are the ideas evaluated? Want to be sure the mitigation is an appropriate remedy for the adverse effect?

**Russell C. Pike:** The current design of the OPC is completely acceptable and does not need to be redesigned. Also with respect to the height of the building in questions this will not impact the park. It will provide individual with a fantastic view of the lake and surrounding areas. Keep in mind, just across the street from the museum there is building that was recently built that is over 20 stories tall. The Cornell roadway if left open to traffic that is adjacent to the OPC will create a dangerous obstacle to its various visitors.

**Alisa Starks:** Alisa Starks Don Nash Park Advisory Council President. I want to commend the federal and local agencies for this process. It's been very transparent. The mitigation efforts already submitted in the final AOE report are on point. If questions presented do not address mitigation issues, let's nicely move on.

**Liz Moyer:** As a birdwatcher and parks user I should say that I would also highly support bike lanes that can connect existing nature areas in Washington and Jackson Parks, which would be in line with Olmsted's original conception of the Midway as a link between these gems. If Midway is to link them, it should be possible and safe and pleasant to walk or bike between them.

**Kineret Jaffe:** Thank you, Alisa.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Yes, thank you Alisa, we agree.

**Daniel Urbina-McCarthy (Hyde Park Art Center):** thank you, agreed.

**Ghian Foreman:** I agree with Alisa!

**Liz Moyer:** Question (from a member of South Side Neighbors for Hope) - how can we ensure that any mitigation measures will benefit the entire community, given the public comment



process which naturally tends to favor voices of those who are not working full-time in the middle of the day? How can we ensure that all interests and voices are represented, and not tilt decisions in the interests of the well-off?

**Michael McNamee:** I personally like Liz Moyer's suggestion of increasing plantings to provide more bird habitat, hopefully that could be done while maintaining the parks' historic integrity.

**Cassandra Guice:** Cassandra Guice represents NACWC National Association of Colored Women's Clubs and also 1Woodlawn

**Liz Moyer:** Thank you, Cassandra! And thank you to our speakers for clarifying the process.

**Kineret Jaffe:** Hyde Park Art Center. As a cultural historian, I love the idea of celebrating Jackson Park and its surrounding neighborhood through the building of the OPC. We will be celebrating Olmsted and his vision of parks as places for people, while celebrating Pres. Obama and those from the south side who have used and cherished this park for the last 100+ years.

**Michael McNamee:** Save The Midway—Resolution suggestion: We support the preservation of the Women's Perennial Garden as is, which is as designed by Chicago Park District landscape architect May McAdams.

**Liz Moyer:** To Michael McNamee - one benefit of closing Cornell will be that the Women's Garden will be connected to Jackson Park and will receive more appreciation and visitors.

**Kineret Jaffe:** To Michael: as currently designed, the Women's garden is not accessible to many folks. The redesign will preserve its best features while making it open to all. Another example of how mitigation is actually an improvement

**Ghian Foreman:** City is not "giving away"

**Mary Lu Seidel:** To clarify, the women's garden plans are to destroy the current design and replace it with something new. Let's call it what it is

**Mary Anton:** Mary Anton Rosalie Villas - I want to add my thanks to others about the expertise, thoroughness, and above all patience that the City-Federal team have brought to the last three years of assessment. The documents you have prepared are historic in themselves! Thank you.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Can we please stay on point with this discussion.

**Robin Boyd:** Don Nash PAC VP & South Shore Historical Society NFP VP. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to this level of community engagement and participation.

**Michael McNamee:** Save The Midway--Yes, for sure the Women

**Michael McNamee:** s Perennial Garden should be ADA accessible.

**Liz Moyer:** To all in re the Women's Garden, I live around the corner and have done so for 9 years now and have seen someone in that garden I believe twice in that entire time. The garden is beautiful but given heavy traffic on both sides (with NO traffic light options for pedestrian crossing) it is not visited.

**Alisa Starks:** Adding more parks or improving other nearby parks and facilities should be considered as a mitigation strategy.

**Ghian Foreman:** I agree with Robin Boyd

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Perhaps the organizers can provide the consulting parties (again) with a clear document stating who has what authority over what, so that we can move on from these types of question in the next webinar.

**Liz Moyer:** I agree with Michael McNamee that accessibility is a key consideration and that traffic lights allowing pedestrian crossing to our parks (including ADA provisions for those with vision or hearing impairments) is an important part of any plan. It is also imperative to complete the repair of the Darrow Bridge, without which people in wheelchairs cannot readily access Wooded Island.

**Mary Lu Seidel:** Agree that accessibility is essential. That can be accomplished without total destruction of a key design element. Every greenspace and hill in the park cannot be fully accessible. Views and access can be created that improve the design without destroying it.

**Al DeBonnett:** If lakefront is designated as a national park system, what happens if further lakefront erosion happens beyond the point of greater destruction than currently exists, including lakefront "private" property and public lands, not to mention future climatory changes and unforeseen human evolutionary needs in future?

**Al DeBonnett:** correction: beyond the point

**Liz Moyer:** In re accessibility: many of us in the neighborhood are deeply appreciative of the proposed transportation changes and the efforts that the Obama Foundation have made to encourage better access to parks. These are long-standing needs that have strongly limited the ability of our parks to serve the purpose that Olmsted envisioned for them.

**Kineret Jaffe:** is anyone else having trouble hearing Matt and the others? Appears there's now poor connectivity--but not at my end?

**Nichols Lodato:** But the UPARR determination is to be decided through a "public, transparent" process, correct?

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Thank you so much to the organizers, we look forward to the next webinar and working together to resolve these issues.

**Mary Anton:** Mary Anton Rosalie Villas - Puzzled by the resistance to passive park presence on the East end of the Midway Plaisance. The Midway Plaisance Framework plan designated that site for a children's playground. At one point there was a proposal to have it funded by International Harvester, designed with a theme that included little tractors. A quiet use park with better drainage would be welcomed by many.

**Kineret Jaffe:** Agree with Mary Anton concerning east end of the Midway. It would be wonderful to have a children's playground there, as opposed to the current swamp enjoyed mainly by the geese.

**Liz Moyer:** From a birdwatcher: it could be possible to redesign the E end of Midway Plaisance as a natural wetland, but as is it does not support biodiversity. On a spring morning on Wooded Island you can see 50 species of birds; on the E. end of Midway you see three at most (Canada geese, ring-billed gulls, and the occasional mallard).

**Donald McGruder:** Thanks for your work!

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** Yes, currently the east end of the midway, when filled with water, is quite a nuisance for those that need to walk along it; the smell is stifling.

**Donald McGruder:** Agree with Erin.

**Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope:** thank you everyone!

**Ghian Foreman:** Peace everyone! I look forward to seeing you on the 20th!

**Kineret Jaffe:** thank you

**Liz Moyer:** Thank you so much!

**Robin Boyd:** great day everyone!

**Mary Anton:** Thanks - great presentation and discussion!

**Donald McGruder:** Have a great day!