

Jackson Park Project Section 106 Consultation Webinar 4: Chat Pod Transcript

Friday, October 30, 2020 at 9:00 AM Central

Allison Caloggero, USDOT-Volpe Center: Welcome everyone! We will begin momentarily.

Ward Miller, Preservation Chicago: Good morning, everyone! From your friends at Preservation Chicago!

Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center: We at the HPAC are so pleased to see the final MOA and are looking forward to signing it. Many thanks to all who have participated in this process.

Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope: Mr. Fuller, after signing, can we just send the page relevant to our consulting party or do we need to send the entire MOA?

Matt Fuller, USDOT-FHWA: Good point, Ms. Adams - you only need to return the signature sheet, not the entire MOA.

Cassandra Guice, 1 Woodlawn: Cassandra Guice will not comment at this time.

Robert Mawson, Heritage Consulting: Rob Mawson and Heritage Consulting have no questions or comments.

Eleanor Gorski, City of Chicago: Ms. Guice, which consulting party do you represent?

Paul Coffey, SAIC: Paul Coffey from SAIC has no comment at this time.

Mary Anton: Mary Anton will not comment at this time, but reserve option for second round.

Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center: HPAC will not comment at this time, but reserve the option to comment later.

Cecilia Butler, Washington Park Advisory Council: Cecilia Butler, Washington Park Advisory Council.

Mary Lu Seidel, Preservation Chicago: Wow, Al. A new low.

Mary Krinock, Museum of Science and Industry: Museum of Science and Industry has no comment at this time.

Lisa DiChiera, Landmarks Illinois: No comment at this time for Landmarks Illinois but may in the second round.

Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center: Ward: We have heard your objections many times. It's now time to move forward and help make the OPC in Jackson Park the wonderful addition to the park and neighborhood it certainly can be.

Mary Anton: Amen, Kineret.

Mary Lu Seidel, Preservation Chicago: Kineret, we have heard the comments in support of the project before, as well. The attacks here today are getting personal. This is not personal. This is about PUBLIC parks. For the public. Parceling off pieces for private development fundamentally violates that public agreement. That's all this is about. As well as the devastating impact to historic landscapes.

Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center: Brenda: As with my response to Ward, I appreciate how much time and energy you've put into this process, but I do hope that you're ready to move forward and help build the OPC.

Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope: Yes, the time is more than sufficient.

Nord Wennerstrom, The Cultural Landscape Foundation: At no point in this protracted discussion about the OPC have we ever been told why public parkland MUST be used for this facility. Could we please get an answer to that question? Why MUST public parkland be used for the OPC?

Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center: Mary Lu: I agree the attacks should not be personal. I hope neither Brenda nor Ward saw my attacks as personal. I do believe their comments have been helpful and that they'll put their energy to helping enhance JP.

Russell C. Pike, Jackson Park Highlands Association: Russell Pike, Jackson Park Highlands Association.

Mary Anton: Yes, the time is sufficient. I am looking forward to the completion of the very thorough and well conducted process. Thank you to all the people and agencies involved!

Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope: To be clear, South Sides Neighbors for Hope believes the timeline to sign the MOA is sufficient.

Mary Lu Seidel, Preservation Chicago: With so much vacant land in the area ripe for development and with greater accessibility to public transportation, I echo Nord's question. Why must this happen in public parkland? That has never been answered.

Ward Miller, Preservation Chicago: Hello, Everyone!

Al DeBonnett, Jackson Park Golf & Community Leadership Council: To answer Brenda's comment: We're in the midst of a pandemic. Time deadlines assigned or required would take into account unforeseen circumstances, under current terms of the MOA. Compelling specific timelines for roadway construction, restoration projects, and adverse effect mitigation during these uncertain times would not be prudent and unnecessarily restrictive.

Ward Miller, Preservation Chicago: It would be great to see a plan to rebuild and restore the many other aspects and buildings of Jackson Park, many which are falling into extreme disrepair. Could the Obama Foundation help the City ASAP to address and restore these important historic structures? Several of them are collapsing!

Russell C. Pike, Jackson Park Highlands Association: On behalf of JPHA, we are in agreement with the Final MOA. We are excited about the OPC coming to Jackson Park and delighted with the attention and upcoming improvements that will also be done. Thank you for your tireless support and time in this matter.

Ted Haffner, Openlands: Openlands has no comments at this time.

Alice McLean, The University of Chicago: The University of Chicago does not have a comment.

B. Nichols Lodato: No comment at this time.

Kineret Jaffe, Hyde Park Art Center: The HPAC believes that it has sufficient time to sign the MOA, and looks forward to doing so. Thank you again to all those in the city, state and federal agencies who have worked so tirelessly on this process.

Danny Urbina-McCarthy, Hyde Park Art Center: Danny Urbina-McCarthy, Hyde Park Art Center: we have no comment at this time.

Eleanor Gorski, City of Chicago: Ms. Lodato, which consulting party do you represent?

Abigail Johnston, Friends of the Parks: Friends of the Parks has no comments at this time.

Raymond Lodato: Raymond Lodato

CJ Wallace, IL SHPO: State Historic Preservation Office has no comment.

Raymond Lodato: Rosalie Villas was supposed to be removed as a consulting party for this process.

Nord Wennerstrom, The Cultural Landscape Foundation: Let me repost my earlier Q: At no point in this protracted discussion about the OPC have we ever been told why public parkland MUST be used for this facility. Could we please get an answer to that question? Why MUST public parkland be used for the OPC?

Alice McLean, The University of Chicago: The University of Chicago has enough time to consider signing the MOA.

Mary Lu Seidel, Preservation Chicago: Jobs would come to the community if the Center was built OUTSIDE of Jackson Park but still in the neighborhood. Public parks are for EVERYONE. We have standing.

Matt Fuller, USDOT-FHWA: @Nord Wennerstrom - Please refer to the City of Chicago letter to FHWA, dated 6/25/2020, which explains the process that the City went through to select the site. It's available on the project's website.

Mary Anton: No one is using Rosalie Villas, Ray. You and I have been included as Independent Consultants.

Raymond Lodato: Rosalie Villas was announced just a few minutes ago as a consulting party, Mary.

Al DeBonnett, Jackson Park Golf & Community Leadership Council: Congrats to the entire Section 106/MOA team! Special thanks to Eleanor Gorski, Todd Wyatt, Matt Fuller, Joe Lynch, Emily Ferguson, Jaime Loichinger and all other team members. We sincerely appreciate your time and efforts in making sure the community has a voice in the restoration of a community park for all Chicago residents!

Ward Miller, Preservation Chicago: Could additional historic buildings in Jackson Park in disrepair be considered in the MOA, specifically about five buildings in total disrepair and collapsing in Jackson Park? This would be the time to address such issues that have plagued issues of maintenance for decades, if not almost a half a century.

Al DeBonnett, Jackson Park Golf & Community Leadership Council: Parkland is not taken, it's now being restored (ADA compliant) and developed for the active use of the citizens of the community and city at-large.

Nord Wennerstrom, The Cultural Landscape Foundation: Matt and Eleanor - The process the City went through to select the site never addresses why parkland MUST be taken only that it will be taken.

Mary Anton: Exactly, Eleanor: many who oppose the OPC in Jackson Park seem to have little memory or unwillingness to understand the history of the project. The City of Chicago has a history of placing major cultural institutions in its parks. This is no different.

Matt Fuller, USDOT-FHWA: @Nord Wennerstrom - The site selection process was explained, in addition, FHWA's position related to site selection was outlined in FHWA's letter to the City dated 6/9/2020. There is not a Federal requirement for the City to demonstrate that parkland must be taken for the OPC.

Erin Adams, South Side Neighbors for Hope: Thank you for all your hard work!

Mary Anton: Thanks all for the great work!

Robin, South Shore Historic Society: Thank you for your diligence and hard work.

Stephanie Franklin, Nicholas Park Advisory Council: 10