



Friends of Marquette Park of the MCC Shoreline Committee with Legacy Foundation

September 19, 2016

Dear Charter Members,

Thank you for becoming a Charter Member of Friends of Marquette Park Fund. We are thrilled with the response to our new fund to support and implement special projects for Marquette Park. We signed the papers with the Legacy Foundation on June 22, 2016 and opened the Field of Interest account with a mere \$700 from seven leaders. In three month's time the account has grown to \$7,500, thanks to your generous support. Our goal is to have 100 Charter Memberships by May 15, 2017. We are well on our way to meeting and exceeding our goal. More importantly, we have many more volunteers pitching in to get things done.

Here's what we are doing.

Liners in beach cans: We enlisted 30 volunteers who live near the beach to help monitor the beach cans and make sure there is always room in the cans for more trash. They place black plastic liners in the beach cans with extras on the side. When the bags are about half full, they pull the bag liner out of the can, tie them up, and replace the liner. We have never seen the beach stay so clean! This is happening along the residential section of the beach. We would like to see it expand to next summer. The city and the Friends leaders have provided bags for this project. It is so nice to see a clean beach! Thank you, volunteers!

Kid Alert Green Men: We purchased three Green Men to place at crosswalks alert drivers of walkers and bikers. A few Green Men disappeared, but we will try again next year.

Landscaping and hardscaping at Father Marquette Statue Garden: We are in the process of replacing juniper shrubs, pruning all shrubs, repairing damaged cement, and controlling erosion on slopes with new plantings. The maintenance of the irrigation system will be provided. We are working with reputable suppliers and contractors to accomplish what is too much to ask of volunteers.

Removal of particleboard in large parking lot from the park renovation project: With persistence and patience, we encouraged the Parks Department to remove this debris. Mission accomplished!

Special Celebration, Thursday, May 18, 2017: We are planning a get-together in the park at the Father Marquette Statue Garden to celebrate our Charter Members and the accomplishments of Friends in Marquette Park. Mark your calendar!

Improved litter pick-up in park: Keeping our park free of litter was a priority of the park staff this summer, and they continue to keep it clean during the off-season. Volunteers will do their part but appreciate the park staff devoting time to this task.

List of Special Projects:

- Develop more efficient removal of trash on beach using ATV and trailer
- Plan clean-up projects, educating our youth with a "Litter-free" mascot, costumed character
- Remove sand from Lake Street Beach parking lot

- Replenish sand in playground area
- Plan special events: music concerts, poster signings, etc.
- Control erosion north of concession stand (Carmella's Café)
- Repair the wall and steps to the beach north of Shelter 3
- Replace historic streetlight posts and globe light fixtures at Area 5
- Replace bulbs in historic streetlights when needed.
- Increase our fundraising efforts to seek donors and write grants

Long-term projects:

- Promote most southern point of Lake Michigan as a destination
- Renovate concession stand at Lake Street Beach

Ideas from our Charter members:

What would you like to see at Marquette Park? We invite your ideas and suggestions for special projects. Are you interested in helping us accomplish our goals? Contact any of the leaders listed below or write to us. If you like meetings, we discuss ideas for Friends of Marquette Park at Shoreline meetings on the third Thursday of each month from February through October. Our last meeting of 2016 is Oct. 20th at 7:00 PM at the Marshall J Gardner Center for the Arts on Lake Street. Come join us.

Working together to improve Marquette Park

The Friends of Marquette Park leaders are working with the Parks Department to accomplish many maintenance issues. The Legacy Foundation supports our efforts to seek funding by offering professional assistance. We will partner with community organizations in Miller and beyond to develop Marquette Park as an increasingly popular destination. Your support as Charter Members has moved us from an idea to a reality. The sky's the limit!

Sincerely,

Friends of Marquette Park leaders

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