



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

Spring, 2017

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for supporting Friends of Marquette Park Fund as a Charter Member. Spring is here, and we are beginning our work in Marquette Park. The Friends of Marquette Park Fund is a topic of discussion at the monthly MCC Shoreline Committee Meetings. You are always welcome to join us on the third Thursday of each month, March through September, at 7 PM at the Marshall J Gardner Center for the Arts. One exception is Thursday, May 18th at 6 PM, is the Friends of Marquette Park Annual Meeting and Celebration. We are so close to reaching our goal of 100 Charter members by May 15, 2017. We currently have 99 Charter members! We have surpassed the \$10,000 mark due to some generous donations.

Mark Your Calendar! You are invited to:
Friends of Marquette Park Annual Meeting and Celebration
Thursday, May 18, 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Father Marquette Memorial Garden in Marquette Park
(Inclement weather location, Pavilion Lounge and Patio)
Hors d'oeuvres & Refreshments served with Cash Bar
\$10 per person

Charter Member funds will not be used for this event. We welcome sponsors to underwrite some of the costs of the event.

Getting things done:

Liners in beach cans and beach clean-ups: We will continue our volunteer program with 30 residents who help monitor the beach cans and make sure there is always room in the cans for more trash. We have never seen the beach stay so clean during the summer! Thank you, volunteers! The Parks Department is stepping up their commitment to keep beaches clean with organized beach clean-ups and new equipment to collect trash. When we all work together, we can be proud of our shoreline.

Kid Alert Green Men: We are purchasing more “little green men” to protect walkers and cyclists at crosswalks around Marquette Park. Soon you will see them as you drive by.

Landscaping and hardscaping at Father Marquette Memorial Garden: We replaced six junipers last fall and will be planting more shrubs and bushes this spring. Pruning of all shrubs, repairing damaged cement, controlling erosion on slopes with new plantings, and maintaining the irrigation system are in the works. Volunteers have already started working in the garden area. Fr. Marquette Garden Work Days are the second Tuesday and second Saturday of each month from 9:00 AM - noon. Come join us!

Landscaping of lagoon area: Soon you will have an unobstructed view of the beautiful Lagoon, Patterson Island and the historic bridges as you walk or drive by on Grand Avenue. We scheduled a Lagoon Work Day, Tuesday, April 25, to clear out the non-native plants from this area with help from the city.

Preventing erosion along the beach by Marquette Park: We are hoping the erosion issues will be solved before the opening of our beaches in May. The area north of the concession stand has dangerous erosion problems.

Parks Department is working on solutions:

Our Parks Department Superintendent, McKenya Dilworth, and Marquette Park Executive Director, Tiffany Merrills, have been on board with Friends of Marquette Park from the start. They welcome our input, take our concerns seriously, and are passionate about finding solutions to improve and maintain Marquette Park. They are addressing:

- more efficient removal of trash on beach using ATV and trailer
- removal of sand from Lake Street Beach parking lot and replenish sand in playground area
- plans for beach clean-ups using United Way volunteers, city staff, and local volunteer groups
- new events in the park including Taco Tuesdays on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at the Pavilion, 6 – 9 PM and Movies in the Park returning this summer.
- control of erosion north of concession stand near Montgomery Street
- repair the wall and steps to the beach north of Shelter 3
- replacement of historic streetlight posts and globe light fixtures at Area 5 and replace bulbs in historic streetlights when needed.
- improvement of grounds south of Shelter 3 to the sidewalk by making it a turf grass area.

Long-Term Projects:

- Promoting most southern point of Lake Michigan as a destination
- Renovating concession stand at Lake Street Beach

Working together to improve Marquette Park:

As a Charter Member of Friends of Marquette Park, we encourage you to continue supporting us with your gifts and membership. We also value your thoughts and ideas for Marquette Park. Please complete the attached survey to help us make decisions about the most important projects to pursue.

Sincerely,

Friends of Marquette Park leaders

Tom Cera	tjcera@gmail.com	Joe Petras	bigjoepsm@aol.com
Susan Cohen	suridgeco@aol.com	George Rogge	georgerogge88@gmail.com
William G. Godwin	billggodwin@gmail.com	Carol Smith	pandcsmith@comcast.net
Linda Halas	dune5851@aol.com		

Friends of Marquette Park Levels of Giving

	Level	What It Will Provide the Park
_____	\$25+	Flower Garden & Trails
_____	\$50+	Shoreline
_____	\$100+	Charter Membership (ends May 15, 2017)
_____	\$100+	Pavilion Area (after 5/15/17)
_____	\$200+	Fr. Marquette Garden
_____	\$300+	Mighty Oaks
_____	Major	Marquette Park Preservation
_____	Other	Wildflowers

Please write checks to: **Friends of Marquette Park/Legacy Foundation**

Mail to: Friends of Marquette Park, PO Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403

Or Donate online to Legacy Foundation:

www.legacyfdn.org, click on DONATE NOW and search for Friends of Marquette Park.

Donations are tax deductible.

Charter Members of Friends of Marquette Park Fund Survey Spring 2017

One of the benefits of being a Charter Member of Friends of Marquette Park Fund is to provide input on special projects to pursue. We value your opinion and your investment in Marquette Park. Please complete this survey and return to us by April 28 (Arbor Day). The easiest way is to take a photo of your completed survey and email it to Carol at pandcsmith@comcast.net or text it to 219 765-0298. You can mail it to Friends of Marquette Park P.O. Box 2645, Gary IN 46403.

1. What special projects are you most interested in? (Please prioritize your interests. #1 being your highest priority)

- Safety issues
- Park maintenance
- Beach and Grounds Clean-Up
- Events in the park
- Social events
- Educational programs (youth, adult)
- Volunteer opportunities
- Fund raising/promotional ideas/grant writing
- Other (Please explain)

2. Please add ideas and comments about your interests:

3. In what ways would you like to help with these special projects?

The goal of Friends of Marquette Park Fund (FMP Fund) is to raise funds to support and implement special projects for Marquette Park.

Name _____ Email _____ Phone # _____

Don't forget.

Please return your survey by Friday, April 28. Thank you!

Results will be shared at our Annual Meeting/Celebration on May 18, 2017.