

APRIL 2017

# CPGA NEWS



Chicago Parks Golf Alliance Jackson Park/South Shore Restoration News

## CHICAGO PARKS GOLF ALLIANCE

### Founding Directors

Mark & Debi Roling

Brian Hogan

Michael Ruemmler

### Board Members

Al DeBonnett – Chair of Alderman Hairston's 5th Ward Advisory Committee on Golf

Derek R.B. Douglas – University of Chicago, Vice President of Civic Engagement

Don Edwards – Flexpoint Ford, CEO & Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners

Harry Gilliam – Jackson Park Golf Association

Rodney Goldstein – Finance Director for Chicago Parks Golf Alliance

George Jackson – South Shore Advisory Council

John Kaczowski – Western Golf Association Evans Scholars Foundation, President

Betty Kaufmann – DePaul University Golf Coach

Mike Keiser – Bandon Dunes Golf Resort

Mike Kelly – Chicago Park District General Superintendent & CEO

Pam Kinsey Lungmus – Development Director for Chicago Parks Golf Alliance

Jerry Levy – Jackson Park Advisory Council

Patrick Mannelly – Chicago Bears Long Snapper 1998-2013

Robert Markionni – President of Chicago District Golf Association

Lisa Quinn – Executive Director of First Tee of Greater Chicago

Tracy Raoul – Jackson Park Golf Association

Jonathan Swain – Kimbark Beverage Shoppe; Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce President

Charlie Waddell – Forest Capital Management, Managing Partner

Dennis White – Woodlawn YMCA Board Chair

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Chicago Parks Golf Alliance (CPGA) is excited to support Chicago's golfing community with the proposed Jackson Park/South Shore project which will enhance two historic Chicago Park District golf courses through a newly-restored, combined facility designed by Tiger Woods' TGR Design for an incredible, championship-caliber course on the lakefront. Our mission is to promote sustainable municipal golf, encourage youth golf, and bring additional youth programs. The site could establish a benchmark for the future of sustainable, urban, public golf.



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

CPGA is working hard to raise private money and begin the planning process to transform these two public golf courses into a top-flight course worthy of a PGA Tour Event, while making sure it remains accessible and affordable to the community it surrounds. The single most important ingredient in this planning process is community input.

That's why we have been working very closely with a range of community stakeholders such as the Jackson Park Advisory Council, the South Shore Advisory Council, Alderman Leslie Hairston as well as numerous associations throughout the community that play at Jackson Park and South Shore. We already have heard from thousands of community members in the last few months. The overwhelming majority of folks are supportive of this project. This public outreach will continue as we move forward. Complete transparency and responsiveness is our top priority. Please share your thoughts and ideas through the Chicago Park District's online comment page:

<http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/about-us/proposed-jackson-park-south-shore-cultural-center-golf-connection-project>

## COURSE DESIGN / CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

We have shared feedback from community meetings and conversations with the golfers who call these two courses home with the Tiger Woods' Design team and the civil engineers from Smith Group JJR. First among that feedback is constructing a world-class facility for The First Tee, with short holes and a dedicated practice tee for the kids. Second is playability for the renovated course. The six fairways at South Shore average about 20 yards wide. Combined with Jackson Park's fairways, they average 23.9 yards. South Shore's greens average 2,420 square feet, while Jackson Park's is 3,938 square feet. Together, it averages 3,432 square feet.



How does that compare? Last year's U.S. Open was played at Oakmont, one of the hardest golf courses in the world. The fairway widths there are 26 yards. Pebble Beach is famous for its small greens, which average about 3,600 square. In summary, our courses are 23.9 yards wide, narrower than the U.S. Open, and 3,432 square feet, smaller than Pebble Beach. The Tiger Woods Design philosophy is to build golf courses with wider fairways and bigger greens that are more fun for players of all skill levels to enjoy. We are confident that is what we will see.





## ENHANCING GOLF PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

The CPGA is proud to announce a Caddie Program designed to introduce more youth to the world of golf while creating jobs. Sponsored by the Western Golf Association for 20 high school students at Jackson Park, the goal is to create a new pipeline for the Evans Scholarship in the South Side communities surrounding the Jackson Park and South Shore Golf Courses. The four-year college tuition and housing scholarships are awarded based on the following criteria: work record as a caddie, scholastic achievement, financial need, and character. More information on the Evans Scholarship program is available at: <http://www.wgaesf.org> For further information, please visit: <https://chicagoparksgolfalliance.org/2017-jackson-park-caddie-program/>. Interested students are encouraged to respond by **Friday April 24th**. Under Illinois Labor Laws, students must be 14 years of age by May 1, 2017 in order to be eligible. Priority will be given to current 8 - 10th graders to allow 2 summers of caddying before they might consider applying for the Evans Scholarship during their senior year of high school. Training will be provided by the Western Golf Association and First Tee of Greater Chicago During May for summer jobs to begin in June.



We're collaborating with principals and guidance counselors at nearby high schools to create new golf teams and currently enlisting PGA-certified instructors to volunteer as coaches and adult mentors to partner with new student-athlete golfers. This month, several student participants from our first high school team at Excel Academy of South Shore got their clubs and started lessons!

One of our goals also is to expand participation in the First Tee of Greater Chicago – which has been active on-site for more than 15 years – including collaboration on plans to improve learning facilities integral to the golf course improvements.



**WOMEN  
WHO  
GOLF  
GATHERING**

**T**op local women golfers, many who represented a number of local leagues, attended a special luncheon at the South Shore Cultural Center in March where CPGA representatives Brian Hogan and Mike Ruemmler shared the project vision and answered questions about the historic initiative. Special guest was former caddie Diamond Greer who shared how caddying changed her life by opening her world to new possibilities, including attending Northwestern University on an Evans Scholarship. Alderman Leslie Hairston was among the gathering of golfers ranging from the novice to those with more than 40 years experience.



For updates and more information on CPGA programs, visit [www.ChicagoParksGolfAlliance.org](http://www.ChicagoParksGolfAlliance.org)



**CHICAGO PARKS  
GOLF ALLIANCE**