

JUNE 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 Rummeler

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 – Wealth Strategist Partners; CPGA Finance Director
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 – Executive Director 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

YOU’RE INVITED: JUNE PUBLIC MEETINGS TO INCLUDE PRESENTATION OF GOLF COURSE DESIGNS

The City of Chicago and Chicago Park District announced three public meetings on the new South Lakefront Framework Plan, featuring updates on the Obama Presidential Center and South Shore and Jackson Park Golf Course Restoration. The meetings are set for: Wednesday, June 21, from 6:00-8:00pm at South Shore Cultural Center and Saturday, June 24, from 10:00am-noon at Hyde Park Academy, as well as Tuesday, June 27, at Alderman Leslie Hairston’s Ward Night at 6:00pm at LaRabida Children’s Hospital.

“The upcoming addition of the Obama Presidential Center and plans to enhance the golf courses at South Shore and Jackson Park provide a unique opportunity for community and city residents to help shape the future of the South Lakefront and surrounding communities,” said Michael Kelly, General Superintendent and CEO of the Chicago Park District. “Residents will be a critical part of this process, and we look forward to receiving valuable input.”

Mark Roling, Founder and President of the Chicago Parks Golf Alliance, added, “As we approach this design milestone, we are excited to participate with the Obama Foundation, City of Chicago, and Park District on the South Lakefront Framework Plan. We look forward to continued collaboration with golfers and community members to set the benchmark for sustainable urban public golf on Chicago’s South Side.”

GOLFERS SHARE INSIGHTS AND GET PROJECT UPDATES AT TOWN HALL FORUM

Ongoing conversations with golfers is an integral part of our planning process. As such, the CPGA will plan another Town Hall with the Jackson Park Golf Association to be held in September as we continue to share updates and gain insights. Just this past April, more than 150 local golfers gathered for a special forum at the South Shore Cultural Center to share their ideas and concerns about the South Shore / Jackson Park golf course restoration project.

During the town hall, the golfers’ questions centered on such critical topics as: access and affordability, course design, economic impact to the community, programming for youth, and parking. A 5-minute recap video is available to view online: <https://chicagoparksgolfalliance.org/updates/2017/04/video-recap-town-hall-jackson-park-golf-association/>



One of the most venerable women’s golf leagues in Chicago, the Ladies of Jackson Park pose with Mark and Debi Roling. Left to right: Dorothy Davis, Dorothy Che-Menju, Linda Thomas, the Rolings, Patricia Harper, Cathy Tuitt, Charlotte Mayes and Sonya Harris.

CPGA Founder and President Mark Roling reassured golfers that free play would continue for junior golfers.



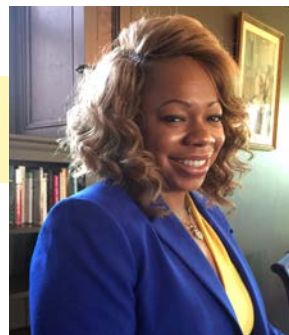
Golf instructor Dion Madkins of First Tee of Greater Chicago (left) talks with CPGA Founder and President Mark Roling about how caddying and golf changed his life.

A priority is ensuring that rates for local golfers would be at the lowest fee possible. Moreover, design proposals will incorporate suggestions from the golf leagues for improved practice facilities, as well as extended practice hours and consideration of indoor practice spaces. The First Tee is also providing design recommendations based upon their top practice facilities nationwide.

Other speakers included Al DeBonnett (5th Ward Golf Advisory Committee), Dion Madkins (First Tee of Greater Chicago), Brian Hogan (CPGA) and Ron Norris (Jackson Park Golf Association). Roling and those on the program emphasized that the restoration project belongs to the golfers and that’s why ongoing input and feedback from golfers is so crucial. Please visit to share your thoughts: <https://chicagoparksgolfalliance.org/get-involved/>.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE CHICAGO WOMEN’S GOLF CLUB

The Chicago Women’s Golf Club is the second longest running African American women’s golf club. Third term president Ciji Henderson shares insights on what got her hooked, playing the game, and youth golfers.



HOW WERE YOU INTRODUCED TO GOLF?

I was invited to join the club by my current Vice President Rosie Ross. Rosie is a dynamic golfer and the mother of LPGA pro Robin Aiken. Robin, too, was a member of our Bob-O-Links Junior Program. Rosie was sure that I could not only learn and play golf, but had the character to help extend the legacy of the Chicago Women's Golf Club. She encouraged me to become the president. With the support and guidance from both her and the ladies of the Chicago Women's Golf Club, we have advanced the organization and attracted so many to the sport.

WHAT WAS SO INTRIGUING ABOUT GOLF THAT GOT YOU HOOKED?

Golf is a sport in which your core values are exemplified. Golf tests your poise under pressure and your response both to positive and negative situations. What is most thrilling to me about golf is the opportunity to build and grow relationships right on the golf course! When playing golf for 4 plus hours with one or more people, you learn a lot about each other and in many cases form lasting connections. I began playing golf in 2012, which was the result of a simple invite by a club member. I had no immediate interest in golf, but being a person that likes to explore new things, I gave it a shot. I made a great decision.

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT BOB-O-LINKS JUNIOR PROGRAM.

The Bob-O-Links, our junior program, is unique because of the premise in which it was started. Founder Agnes Williams knew that in order to impact the future we must impact the youth! Since 1954, our members have dedicated their time and resources to ensure we provide quality instruction and mentorship to our children both male and female. Our children have went on to become golf pros, receive scholarships, and have come back to support the Chicago Women in many ways. Our model allows for our children to learn, grow, and give back.



WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE PARENTS WHO HAVE NEVER CONSIDERED THIS SPORT AN OPTION FOR THEIR CHILDREN?

As a longtime educator, I have encouraged parents to explore the option of golf for their children as a way to not only have an additional option for sport, but also to learn many of the values necessary to be a contributing citizen to society. The game of golf also provides access and opportunity in ways that other sports do not.

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

Some confuse the Chicago Women's Golf Club to be a golf league. We are not a league, we are a club with our own clubhouse that meets yearly with the exception of the month of January. Our members work hard throughout the year to support the advancement of the game as well as promote diversity and inclusion in the sport. We are proud to celebrate 80 years and look forward to our centennial celebration! More information can be found at www.thecwgc.weebly.com.

ENHANCING GOLF PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

FIRST TEE OF GREATER CHICAGO

Since the announcement of the plans for the restoration of South Shore and Jackson Park, The First Tee of Greater Chicago has experienced an increased interest not only at Jackson Park, but throughout the Chicago Park District program locations and in the CPD Junior League.



Spring program registrations are up more than 10%. And despite inconsistent spring weather, Junior Golfers are showing up every single day - truly demonstrating one of The First Tee Core Values - Perseverance! "It's an exciting time of growth for our organization and we look forward to working with the Chicago Parks Golf Alliance to provide even more opportunities for junior golfers in the future," says The First Tee of Greater Chicago Executive Director Lisa Quinn.

CADDIE PROGRAM

The Western Golf Association has hired Luke Arrington, a recent Evans Scholar graduate from Northern Illinois University's Class of 2017, as Caddie Master for the program. Luke is excited to train and lead Chicago's newest caddies, and looks forward to serving league players and all the golfers at Jackson Park. Please be sure to introduce yourself at the Jackson Park Golf Course this summer.



HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS

Student golfers at Excel Academy of South Shore are participating in our pilot program for high school teams. They already are hitting the greens twice each week, gaining valuable lessons from PGA-certified instructors from GolfTee who volunteer as coaches and adult mentors partnering with new student-athlete golfers. Maudlyne Ihejirika of the Chicago Sun Times featured new Junior Golfer Felipe Talavera in her "Chicago Chronicles" column on Monday, May 22, 2017. <http://chicago.suntimes.com/news/alternative-schools-golf-team-ready-for-south-side-pga-caliber-course/>