## From the President Rachel Smith

"We choose hope over fear. We see the future not as something out of our control but as something we can shape for the better through concerted and collected effort". President Barack Obama, UN General Assembly 2014

For me, this year was filled with uncertainty, fear and dread. When the pandemic escalated, my professional world (working in healthcare) immediately sprang into action – activated by our training, our oaths and our willingness to put the needs of others first. I could distract myself by staying busy – focused on fully embracing the role as a team leader and a project planner, which shielded me from being fully aware of the growing threat of the pandemic and the increasingly polarized racial and political world in which we live.

I kept my head down and didn't allow myself the space to think too much about it. Work – family – sleep and start all over again. Every day for months.

At some point, I hit a wall – nothing was enjoyable anymore. I was numb. Then came the waking-up-in-the-middle-of-the-night crippling fear. Worries that everything in my life that I was responsible for would collapse, and I would fail – at everything. The anxiety became overwhelming and I started to second guess every decision I made. Did I make the right choice? Should I explain every detail to make sure I was understood? What would be the fallout if I made a mistake, even if it was minor?

I turned inward even more, even in the middle of the most isolating event of my lifetime and I realized that I needed to make a choice. Either continue to live in fear and anxiety OR I could embrace hope.

I could choose to see the light at the end of the tunnel and even if (or when) I had reservations, I needed to remember that a better day was coming. (Over) work was no longer the crutch I could use to tune out the scary world. Instead, I used that extra energy to plan how best to help people devastated by the pandemic.

Finding balance between work and family, finding creative ways to connect with friends (virtually) has helped restore and sustain me. I recognized that so many people are experiencing many of the same things and it's reminded me to show empathy and grace. Life's been hard – we're all doing the best we can.

As 2020 winds down, I am (thankfully and gratefully) making plans to usher out the old and bring in the new. I invite you all to consider making the same choice – to choose to hope over fear and to remember that we're all in this together.

Happy holidays to you and yours. Please be safe and be well.

# \*\*\*PCO December General Membership\*\*\* Virtual Meeting Access

FreeConferenceCall.com
Dial-in number (US): (701) 802-5236
Access code: 297632#
Online meeting ID: pcopres
Join the online meeting: https://join.freeconferencecall.com/pcopres

#### Christmas Eve Jingle 2020

On Christmas Eve, December 24 at 6pm (wherever you live) everyone should come outside onto their doorsteps and ring a bell for 2 minutes to spread Christmas spirit and to help Santa fly his sleigh.

It has been an awful year and it would be a fantastic memory for everyone. Let's end 2020 with a bit of Magic, hope and togetherness!

#### PCO Vision Committee: Community Action Makes a Difference

Bob Bushwaller and Beverly Ash-Larson, Co-Chairs

Whether it is cutting the grass, or installing a kind yard sign, or picking up litter, or saying "Hello" to someone you pass on the sidewalk; we all know that this type of action makes the world a little bit better. Well, let me tell you how the VISION Committee is making a difference. Our first step after conducting an inquiring community survey was to design, acquire, and sell yard signs. The "Be Kind" and "Together We Can" signs sold out within 72 hours of acquiring them. That's 100 messages of kindness that are continuously expressing goodwill in Pullman.

The survey responses we received several months ago are driving other actions. Let me share the next three things that your suggestions are influencing – opening PCO boundaries, bridging racial divides, and road management. We all know that the world will never be the same again. We launched our survey right in the heart of a crisis period and you responded with honesty, urgency, and the deepest level of concern. You will see programs addressing these three topics. As always, we will shape our work based on the consistent theme of "communication, sharing, and empathy".

Please read your powerful responses by going to the PCO website at www.pullmancivic.org, click on the Resources tab, and click on the Vision Committee Survey responses listing. Nearly 200 statements of your concern are presented. Please read it today!

# Solon Says: A Report of the PCO Beman Committee Megan Lydon and Wyatt Ollestad Co-Chairs pcobemancommittee@gmail.com

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Paint Library – the Library is now officially closed for the season, but we'll be back in the spring so be sure to watch this space and start planning those paint projects for when the weather breaks!

2020 has been a bit of a 'hiatus' year in many ways, including for restoration projects happening throughout the neighborhood. While we've been happy to see much progress still be made this past building season, we also understand the many challenges homeowners face when looking to undertake a façade restoration. As such, the PCO Beman Committee has agreed that the deadline to complete all currently in-progress Façade Reimbursement Program projects shall be extended to October 31, 2021. We hope this gives everyone who has been selected to receive a reimbursement, but who have not yet completed their project, enough time to see them through.

And while it may seem that virtually everything has been on hold this year, please note that it's business as usual where permitting and proper work is concerned – the Chicago Department of Buildings is still issuing permits, and Landmarks is still reviewing all proposed work to the facades of our homes. So be sure to follow protocol and pull a permit if you're looking to perform any façade work. And much like the City apparatus, the PCO Beman Committee itself remains hard at work through these months of social distancing, and be on the lookout for some important announcements we'll have to kick off the new year.

Finally, a hearty congratulations goes out to our two – count 'em, two – local recipients of this year's Commission on Chicago Landmarks' Preservation Excellence Awards. Of a mere nine total projects city-wide, two are located right here in Pullman: the Pullman Artspace Lofts buildings, and the shared mansard roof restoration at 11305-09 St. Lawrence. Congratulations to the principals involved with both projects, including local neighbors PullmanArts, Nydia and Dagoberto Cahue, and some other guy whose name we've forgotten. A full list of the winners and descriptions of their projects can be found here: https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dcd/provdrs/hist/news/2020/november/landmarks-commission-honors-chicago-s-best-preservation-projects.html



## The Pullman Flyer

## News from National Parks Conservation Association Mark Mesle

There has been so much happening in and around Pullman over the last several months! As ever, NPCA is grateful to share a few thoughts and good news that benefits Pullman and all our national parks.

As we count down to the grand opening of the new national park visitor center on Labor Day 2021, we are grateful to everyone involved in making the Pullman Administration Building and grounds into a world-class destination! This great project has served as a catalyst for lots of other investment in Pullman. Thanks to the City of Chicago, the 111th Street redesign will establish a people-friendly roadway; Metra is working on station redesigns at 103rd and 111th Streets; and the Chicago Park District has made great improvements to Pullman Park.

This summer, the Great American Outdoors Act passed in Congress, representing a historic victory for parks. We now have \$1.3 billion per year for five years dedicated to fixing our national parks! These funds will undoubtedly benefit deferred maintenance projects in Pullman – thanks to all Pullman residents who urged Congress to support this critical funding!

Another great opportunity for Pullman has yet to pass Congress. The Pullman National Historical Park Act was introduced by Senators Durbin and Duckworth and Congresswoman Robin Kelly, but as you know, 2020 was a difficult year to pass legislation that would benefit parks and people! We hope to work with you and with our members of Congress to reintroduce and pass this important policy.

The legislation renames the monument to Pullman National Historical Park, an apt name for the large area encompassed within its boundaries. The bill provides the National Park Service new opportunities – to acquire land or buildings if someone wants to donate or sell to them, and to assist with historic preservation on buildings they don't own. These cannot be accomplished through a monument designation alone.

Many national monuments created by Presidential Proclamation have had name changes and provisions added through subsequent legislation. Grand Canyon National Park was once a national monument, as was Acadia, Carlsbad Caverns, Joshua Tree, and Arches. At least 10 national monuments are now historical parks or sites.

President Obama designated two national monuments that are now national historical parks. Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad and First State were both designated by the President in March 2013 and he signed the renaming legislation, passed by Congress, the following year.

In other words, renaming a national monument like Pullman in no way diminishes its stature. Nor does it reduce the legacy of President Obama as this place will continue to be protected in perpetuity as our former President proclaimed.

The legislation doesn't reduce the level of protection for Pullman's unique historic resources. This place will continue to be protected at the highest level possible through the many laws that govern the National Park System.

What the legislation will do is provide what the park service needs to work deeply with the community, support partners, and preserve history for many years to come. We all look forward to a bright future for Pullman.

#### Coloring and Conversation Group in Pullman Carol Lagadinos

If you've been inside for days on end amid the COVID-19 pandemic, you might be getting a little stir-crazy — or at the very least, feeling bored. With the current state of daily life with COVID-19, and so many uncertainties looming in the distance, coloring might just be the ticket to help you unwind. There is reason adult coloring books have flooded shelves everywhere in the last few years, from grocery stores to your favorite online retailer. Coloring can be much like a meditative exercise by taking attention away from ourselves and the everyday things that stress us, thus relaxing the brain. A Color and Conversation group has been meeting in Pullman for the past several years to socialize and color. The group had been getting together weekly, that is, until spring 2020 when COVID restrictions changed things. Realizing that during these socially isolated times, stress levels can be high, so what better way to make your mental health a priority during quarantine than with coloring. So it was decided to begin meeting again. The group will be meeting virtually via Zoom on the 2nd and 4th Monday evening of each month. To find out more information and how to join the group contact carollagadinos@att.net

#### Pullman National Monument Preservation Society Mark Cassello

If you're like us, you're very proud that President Obama declared the "Pullman National Historic Landmark District" (District) to be the "Pullman National Monument." It is poetic that this place—so instrumental in the struggle for labor and civil rights—be forever remembered as an integral part of the legacy of the nation's first African American president, President Barack Obama.

However, today, plans are in motion to erase this important chapter of President Obama's legacy. Senator Durbin and Congresswoman Kelly have introduced legislation that would, as far as we have determined, strip away the very protections for our community's historic resources that President Obama put in place.

Pullman's designation as a national monument was personal for him. Barack Obama had worked in Pullman and Roseland as a community organizer when he graduated law school. His wife Michelle's great-grandfather was a Pullman porter, and his mother-in-law worked at the Pullman Trust and Savings Bank. Moreover, President Obama explained that A. Philip Randolph was one of his personal heroes. He reminded us that it was Randolph who had founded the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. It was Randolph who had organized and spoke at the 1963 March on Washington, a march for "jobs and justice." In short, President Obama knew exactly what he was doing when he established the Pullman National Monument in 2015.

On Labor Day 2020, Congresswoman Robin Kelly stood in front of the Factory "Clock Tower" Administration Building and touted legislation (S. 2896) that would convert the "Pullman National Monument" into the "Pullman National Historical Park." According to Kelly, this would be an even "higher distinction." This is simply not true.

Congress expressly granted presidents the power to establish national monuments because it was believed that, unlike Congress, presidents were less beholden to special interests and political whims. Presidents could exercise their discretion unilaterally to ensure that sites of natural, scientific, or historic importance would be protected in perpetuity.

President Obama duly exercised his discretion and established the Pullman National Monument. Five years later, Senator Durbin and Congresswoman Kelly want to second guess President Obama's judgment.

First, their legislation would erase the 203 acre "National Monument Boundary" defined by President Obama. It would instead, give the Secretary of the Interior the power to create a boundary of their choosing. Of course, it is impossible to know to whom we are granting such sweeping authority since it will be whoever is in power when or if this legislation is ultimately passed.

Second, President Obama made it abundantly clear that he intended to protect the historic resources of the entire District. He proclaimed that "it is in the public interest to preserve and protect the historic objects in the Pullman Historic District, Chicago, Illinois."

By contrast, the proposed legislation states that only "significant architectural structures" are to be protected. The effect would be to leave countless historic structures and archaeological sites within the District with no legal protections whatever should they be threatened.

Some will argue that this legislation is simply a "name change" or routine. Don't believe them. Read the legislation yourself. For more information contact: info@pnmps.org or visit us online at facebook.com/pullmanpreservation.

#### Pullman Welcoming Committee Lisa Burback

The Welcome Committee has suspended distributing welcome bags until the shelter in place/social distancing orders have been lifted. If you know of a new neighbor or have a new tenant, please obtain their name, address and email address and send it to welcometopullman@gmail.com. Stay safe and healthy, everyone!

#### Condolences

Condolences are extended to the family and friends of Gloria Hernandez.



#### The Pullman Flyer

#### From the Dining Car: 2020: FUGEDABOUDIT! Patty Lawson

Merry and Happy Hanukkah, Solstice, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Boxing Day, yada, yada, yada, and everything in between. Sorry folks, but I'm kicking 2020 to the curb and moving straight on to 2021! I'm looking forward to a time of vaccines, a better economy, neighborhood fests and a new administration. So you're on your own for December. Hohoho...Kinda. In the meantime, I've spent this holiday season searching for life-improving ways to face 2021. Some may call them resolutions; I prefer to see them as Jedi mind tricks.

- Keep the bird feeder filled.
- Live my best life and only buy pants with no buttons or zippers.
- Eat more stuff that makes me feel good.
- Learn to pronounce Worcestershire, anathema, boatswain, quinoa, mauve, and chipotle.
- Go vegan for six months and inevitably give up.
- Sign up for a marathon that I will not actually run.
- Buy all leftover 2020 calendars and burn them.
- Stop saying fixin' to, dungarees, groovy, pocketbook, and bosom.
- Run outside and yell more.
- Relearn social cues after a year at home.
- Don't consider apple martinis part of my daily fruit intake.
- Stop lying to myself about following New Year's resolutions.
- Be nice to nice people.
- Turn all my high heel shoes into flats.
- Worry less about things I can't eat or play with.
- Stop buttering my donuts.
- Refuse to acknowledge the entirety of 2020 during social gatherings.
- Become the GOAT at sarcasm.
- Forget what I was supposed to do and take a nap.

#### TIP OF THE MONTH

An old expression tells us to eat black-eyed peas for pennies, greens for dollars, and cornbread for gold. Eat "poor" on New Year's Day and eat fat the rest of the year.

Do you have a favorite recipe for the stove, oven, or microwave you would like to pass along? Got a useful kitchen or household tip? How about a quick fix for a cooking catastrophe? Simply email me at fromthediningcar@yahoo. com or place it in my mailbox at 11122 South Champlain. Please include your name, phone number, and/or email address. I may have questions.

#### Green Spaces and Places: Oh, Christmas Tree! Lynn Smith

While the practice of using evergreen branches to decorate homes during the winter season has origins going back thousands of years, to Greece and Rome at least, with associations to ongoing life, victory over darkness, and the Winter Saturnalia, in more modern times it has been associated with Christmas. Whatever one's religious beliefs however, there is no question that the use of lights, ornaments, and in particular live trees and branches adds to the festiveness of the holiday. At this time, as we await the arrival of vaccines and some return of normalcy, the use of greenery inside and outside the house can help one's spirits.

In general, the true Fir trees, that is the Noble, Fraser (the latter being native to North Carolina and named for the plant explorer), Nordmann and Turkish Firs last the longest indoors, sometimes as long as five weeks . Fraser Firs appear to be more commonly known here though they tend to be more expensive per foot. Douglas Fir, Scotch Pine and Balsam Fir last almost as long as the Fraser Fir- for three to four weeks.

If not cutting the tree yourself it is recommended that the tree's trunk be cut again and put in water as soon as possible, not longer than four hours afterward. Arrange the tree away from heat vents and be sure to water it daily. Fresh Christmas trees can take between a quart to a gallon of water a day. So, with thoughts of Christmas past, and in the spirit of the holidays, I wish you a very Merry Christmas a Holiday, with the hope that there will be more light and cheer in the coming year.

Pullman Calendar for December 2020-January 2021	
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#### **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am-4pm \*subject to change with holidays

Free Covid Testing Pre-Register ChicagoCovidTesting.com

Gately Park 744 E 103rd (east of Cottage Grove)

Pullman National Monument Visitor Information Center -Closed for the season

#### MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Event (\$ if charge) Day

Place/Contact

Wed 12/9 7:30 pm PCO Executive Board Meeting (2nd Wed)

\*\*Virtual only

Mon 12/14 7pm Coloring and Conversation (2nd Mon)

carollagadinos@att.net

Wed 12/16 7:30pm

#### PCO ANNUAL HOLIDAY MEETING

\*\*Virtual only (see pullmancivic.org for link)

Fri 12/18 10am-12pm Free Fresh Produce Distribution (3rd Fri) 10355 S Woodlawn

Wed 12/23 Noon Virtual Holiday Ladies Luncheon carollagadinos@att.net

Ned 12/23 7:30pm PCO Beman Committee Virtual Meeting pcobemancommittee@gmail.com

Thu 12/24 6-6:05pm *RTNG BELLS* with neighbors ~ Get your jingle on, from your porch!

Mon 12/28 7pm Coloring and Conversation (4th Mon) carollagadinos@att.net

#### Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year - Welcome 2021

Mon 1/11 7pm Coloring and Conversation (2nd Mon)

carollagadinos@att.net

Wed 1/13 7:30 pm

PCO Executive Board Meeting (2nd Wed)

\*\*Virtual Only

Wed 1/20 7:30pm

PCO General Membership Meeting (3rd Wed) \*\*Virtual only (see pullmancivic.org for link)

Mon 1/25 7pm Coloring and Conversation (4th Mon)

carollagadinos@att.net

Wed 1/27 7:30pm PCO Beman Committee Virtual Meeting pcobemancommittee@gmail.com

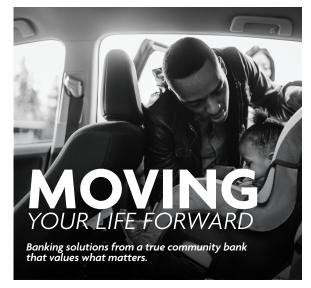
Submit your Pullman / local community event details to pullmancalendar@gmail.com

The Pullman Flyer is produced monthly by the Pullman Civic Organization, 614 E. 113th Avenue, Chicago, IL 60628. The viewpoints expressed in The Pullman Flyer are not necessarily the convictions of the Pullman Civic Organization. The deadline for the upcoming *Flyer* is the last day of the previous month. Committee reports, announcements, letters to the editor, dedication suggestions, and articles should be emailed to sandyczajko@sbcglobal.net. All submissions become the property of *The Pullman Flyer*.

> Sandy Melnyczenko Czajkowskyj......Editor Debbie Newman......Copy Editor Beverly Ash-Larson......Distribution Coordinator Ralph Larson......Distributor

Real Estate Ads (sales and rentals) are \$15 per month. Service ads for businesses, personals, and other sales ads are \$10 up to 3 lines per month. Checks should be made payable to the Pullman Civic Organization. All inquires about ads in the Pullman Flyer can be sent to: PullmanFlyerAdvertising@gmail.com.

For a one-year subscription to the Pullman Flyer, please send a \$10.00 check made out to the Pullman Civic Organization to: Pullman Flyer, (Attn: Beverly Ash-Larson, Distribution Coordinator), 614 E. 113th Street, Chicago, IL







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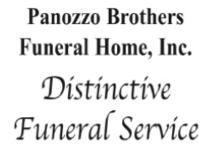
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