Horner Park Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Wednesday February 5, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Fieldhouse

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Peter Schlossman, HPAC President Amy Jahnke, HPAC VP (Communications) Diane Sutliff, HPAC Treasurer Daniel Honigman, HPAC Co-Secretary Cynthia Fox, HPAC Co-Secretary Erica Beutler, HPAC DFA Committee Chair Jay Lyon, HPAC Concerts Committee Chair Alan G. Mueller, Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association John O'Connell, HPAC Concerts Committee Chair (Emeritus) Deb Groh, Horner Park District Supervisor (CPD) Jamie Teichmann, CPD Kevin Anderson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Approval of the Minutes: November 2019 and 2019 Annual Report

The December 2019 minutes approval was tabled until all feedback has been provided.

Peter opened up the meeting at 7:10 pm. Diane moved Introductions

Reports

Treasurer's Report:

- Diane reported numbers as of January 31, 2019 under separate cover.
- As 2020 planning is underway, Diane recommended HPAC members prepare project proposals for the March 2020 meeting. Team to revisit proposed 2019 projects and consider new projects.

Concert Committee Report:

- John O. introduced Jay (new committee chair) to the group.
- Committee met last week; Jay is revisiting 2019 sponsors and currently working on the mailing
 - Chris is also pursuing any digital and automated efforts.
- Five contracts are already out for next season
- Will compile estimated costs for the next meeting; the estimate will include any new equipment needs, as Jay will be inventorying what's at Chris' house.
- The committee is figuring out what will go on the HPAC website a solution similar to HornerFest was discussed, but details will be taken up in committee.

Dog Friendly Area Committee Report:

- Fundraising:
 - No word yet on if the DFA will receive the money from the 33rd Ward Participatory Budgeting process
 - Raised \$319 from the Lou Malnati's event
 - Raised \$1,220 from holiday blanket and calendar fundraiser at Stay
 - Received \$538 from Michael Thomas, owner of the 7-Eleven on 3800 Kedzie
 - Individual donations continue to come in and DFAC is awaiting matching funds as well
 - The Office of Budget and Management has refused to send the \$29,739 ported by Ald. Deb Mell from her 2017-18 menu funds to the Park District. No prior notice was given of OBM's intention not to fulfil this directive;
 - Erica will be talking to Ald. Rodriguez's office to figure out if they'll take it up, and where to go from there. DFAC has relied on these funds and needs them to move forward with final construction.
 - If the \$29K is not lost and the \$25K comes in from PB, the DFA would be about \$30K short of the \$240K estimate for the final build. It hopes to offer honorary benches to raise the remaining needed funds.
 - If not enough money is raised for the full buildout, the DFA will split the remaining work into two phases: one for infrastructure and below-ground improvements, the paved entryway, water fountain, and small dog area fencing; and the other for the remaining above-ground improvements such as turf, landscaping and bench installations.
- Future Improvements: Final drawings and cost estimate were submitted to CPD for review
- **Doggie Egg Hunt:** Will be April 11th, 1-3.

Park Briefs

- Horner Park:
 - Softball Tournament (Jamie)
 - Horner Park is one of three locations chosen for a 16" softball tournament, that will be held Saturday, July 18 from 9am-3pm. (With setup and takedown the total estimated time will be from 8am-4pm.)
 - Potential conflict with any possible Horner Family Fest; however Jamie doesn't anticipate any use of the fieldhouse or hill (generally used for Movies in the Park).
 - Some details are still being worked out, so HPAC will not be promoting the event yet.
 - There was general support expressed for the idea
 - NW Portage Walking Museum / Santiago X Earth Mound project
 - Several quotes for the mound have come in; the group will be asking for more because the price seemed a bit high

- The group would like to start programming; if it receives the \$25K from 33rd Ward Participatory Budgeting, it would be able to do so
 - The group is also asking for more funding from CPAG and others
- CPAG would like a letter of endorsement for the grant application
 - Peter will retransmit the letter previously sent; that HPAC support is contingent on the Army Corps of Engineers' approval.
- Still waiting on restitution from the Army Corps of Engineers
- Irving Park Bridge Progress
 - Estimated bridge completion (with underbridge connection) is February 2020
 - Peter has followed up on the knock-down of the Nature Walk trail sign
- Nature Play Space
 - The committee met with the contractor, who will be providing an estimate for the small kids' space adjacent to the playground. (Peter believes the estimate will be more than \$10K, which will lead to a scaling-down of the concept.)
 - Helen Slade is planning programming and other logistics planning for the big kids' space
 - The committee is considering recruiting area high-school kids to be a part of "intergenerational events" in late March and present in mid-May. Date TBD.
 - Diane mentioned a June grant deadline is coming up again
- Composting Initiative
 - Deb contacted the landscaping vendor for any information they might have
 - Daniel to connect with Gretchen about interest in finding a vendor to provide composting services at the Farmer's Market
- Walk Replacement
 - No update
- Lighting for Basketball Courts
 - Ald. Rodriguez potentially interested in funding
 - Deb asked Stacey for quote; first wants a letter from the Alderman's office expressing interest and requesting quotes
 - Peter brought up potential issues with lights and noise; when this develops further, explore getting community feedback (e.g. meeting)
 - Amy mentioned the basketball court lighting is helpful, but a walk replacement should likely be HPAC's priority
- Ravenswood Manor Park:
 - Exploring a proper fence for nature space; the committee will put together an estimate, and will determine if a permit will be needed
- Jacob Playlot: No report

- Sunken Garden: No report
- Buffalo Park: No report

Website Committee Report:

• Will discuss any page/content needed for the Concert Committee

Farmer's Market Committee Report: No report

Communications Committee Report: No report

Stewardship Committee Report: No report

New Business

- New contact at Friends of the Park: Andrea Dennis
- ComEd has a Green Region Grant
 - Grant is for pollinator conservation (e.g. bees and butterflies); Grant application deadline is March 13.
 - John F. to look into and request help if needed.
- Chicago Parks Foundation Grant
 - \$500 grant application date of March 6.
 - Since the grant amount is small, HPAC will not pursue it.
- Ravenswood Manor Ash Tree Treatment
 - RMIA conducting Ash Tree treatment event; suggested they contact John F. for advice/assistance, and connection to a vendor for a new quote
- River Day
 - Will be May 9
 - John to talk to Jason (or Stacy) about trail maintenance; Peter to write a letter to be transmitted through to Mike
 - John to connect with Home Depot about a materials donation for the trail (e.g. timber); if no resources provided, John to ask for a financial contribution

• BrewFest

- Will be July 17
- The first BrewFest Committee meeting will be in early March. (Date TBD)

Old Business

• Recognition for Deb Mell: We have the gift card; we just need to set up a date to give it to her.

Announcements

- Valentine's Dance on February 14 at Horner Park
 - Deb requested an HPAC donation of \$100 to purchase pizzas for the band.
 - John O. motioned, all approved. Motion passed.
- No Lunch with the Bunny this year; doing a glow-in-the-dark egg hunt instead in the gym on April 11 will be two separate events: one for smaller kids and one for bigger kids
 - Deb still figuring out details; will provide more info in the March meeting
- Teen architecture/graffiti camp event
 - Proposed for July 18, as it might be a good showcase if there's a Horner Family event that day

• 2020 PAC Conference: March 21 at Malcolm X College

Attachments (under separate cover)

- Treasurer's Report
- Minutes from December 2019 meeting

Next Monthly Meeting March 4, 7:00 pm at the Horner Park Fieldhouse

Horner Park Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Wednesday Mar. 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Fieldhouse

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Kevin Anderson Erica Beutler Cynthia Fox, Secretary John Friedmann, VP Deb Groh, Chicago Park District Daniel Honigman, Secretary Amy Jahnke, VP Communications Tom Mayer Alan Mueller, Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association Peter Schlossman. President Diane Sutliff, Treasurer Carlton Jones, Horner Park Little League (NPNWLL) Oscar Valenzuela, Horner Park Little League (NPNWLL) Vanessa Hernandez, Horner Park Little League (NPNWLL) Lola Post, Horner Park Little League (NPNWLL) David Post, Horner Park Little League (NPNWLL)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Horner Park Little League group requested to present first.

Carlton (and others) came to the meeting to take part in the HPAC meeting and wanted to be more active with our group since they have been in the park for 40 years. There are three little leagues in the park - general baseball, girls softball, and the Challenger Program for special needs players. For the Challenger Group's 10th year, the group is hoping to grow the local program from seven kids to 60. They also want to host a 10 Year Anniversary event on Saturday, June 7 at Horner Park

The group is also working on grants for various field improvements, and were open to receiving input on the items needed (e.g. scoreboards, field improvements, restructured dugouts, temporary HR fences).

Approval of the February 2020 Minutes

Peter motioned to approve the minutes. Amy seconded. Motion carried.

Reports

Treasurer's Report:

Diane Sutliff presented the financial reports. She presented last year's special projects for the extra money. The concert committee was thinking about \$5,000 for the concert committee. Cynthia talked about her and John's idea to update the fencing and maybe a bench for Ravenswood Manor Park.

Peter asked the group to send any future project ideas to Diane based on our expenditure requests and the working document.

Park Briefs:

- Horner Park
 - **Valentine's Dance Report:** Deb reported that it went well. There were about 250 people with a Jazz Band and pizza.
 - Glow in the Dark Scavenger Hunt / Doggie Easter Egg Hunt: Start in the small gym with face painting, to glow in the dark beads and silly bead projects and pictures with the bunnies. HPAC previously approved \$400 in event expenses for April 11: 3 5 year olds: 9 10:15 am; 6-12 year olds: 11 12:15 pm. The Doggie Easter Egg Hunt is going to be about the same as last year. There will be a slight cost increase from last year to cover the fees and get a bit of money for the fundraiser.
 - **Nature Play Spaces:** No updates for the pricing for the nature place space needs from the park district.
 - **Nature Play Space at Wendell's Garden:** She would like help publicizing and make sure a room at the field house is available. She would like to come to our May meeting for a large presentation.
 - **Maintenance:** Deb said there is a request to get the broken glass and new locks for the bulletin board to be replaced. The HPAC advised that the grating at the back of the park near that electrical vault is broken, sunken and could be a safety hazard.
 - **Basketball court lights:** Deb reported that running power would be \$30,000. Stacey called the alderman's office to let them know about the costs.
 - **NW Portage Walking Museum / Santiago X Earth Mound project:** John F sent a report to Peter. He reported that the Earth Mound received the \$25,000 from the participatory budgeting from the alderman.
- Ravenswood Manor Park: No report
- Jacob Playlot: No report
- Sunken Garden: No report
- Buffalo Park: No report

Stewardship Committee:

• **Earth Day Registration:** Deb asked about the park's participation and Cynthia provided an update. Cynthia will be taking over the coordination of Earth Day tasks for John O'Connell.

Concert Committee: No update

Dog Friendly Area:

- The DFA received \$25,000 from the participatory budgeting process and had the most votes of any project.
- We are hoping that the 2017-2018 menu funds will be reclaimed for the DFA project.
- We received \$5,000 from the Chicago Association of Realtors.
- We thank Cook County Commissioner Bridget Degnen's office for connecting us with that grant opportunity. DFA will be presenting at the PAC conference.

Website Committee: Jay bought a vanity URL for the concert committee website similar to what HPAC has for the the BrewFest

Farmer's Market: Gretchen will be following up regarding composting, as last year's project fell through.

Communications Committee: No report

Nominating Committee: Need a new treasurer and new co-secretary for HPAC.

New Business

Bus stop name requests for the Montrose and Irving Park stops.

• Peter motioned to petition the CTA to change the names of the bus stops on Montrose and Irving Park. Alan seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

- **ComEd Green Region grant for pollinator conservation:** Due 3/13/2020; John F. looked into the grant; applicant must be a government agency. He contacted CPD with no response.
- **NRC banner program:** Confirming whether banners are up. Amy confirmed they are.
- Deb Mell Recognition: Still need to make it happen. Working on dates

Announcements

- 2020 PAC Conference: March 21 at Malcolm X College
- Glow in the Dark Scavenger Hunt / Doggie Easter Egg Hunt: April 11
- Earth Day: April 18
- Challenger Baseball Program 10th Anniversary Event: June 7

Attachments

• Minutes from Feb. 2020 meeting (under separate cover)

Motion to Adjourn: Peter motioned to adjourn, Amy seconded. Motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting April 1 @ 7:00 pm – Horner Park Fieldhouse

Horner Park Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Wednesday April 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Remote Meeting (Conference Call)

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Peter Schlossman Amy Jahnke Jay Lyon John O'Connell Deb Groh Daniel Honigman Helen Slade (Territory Chicago)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

Review of March Minutes:

Tabled Until May (Daniel to send after meeting)

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Not received as of the meeting start. Tabled until May meeting.

Park Briefs:

- Horner Park:
 - Events:
 - All events cancelled (doggie egg hunt, scavenger hunt, River Day, Earth Day).
 - Nothing happening now until at least 4/30
 - Spring Classes postponed, Little League cancelled
 - Permitted events will possibly be impacted
 - If classes are cancelled, everyone will receive a Parks District credit towards future classes
 - Other business:
 - Caution tape around baskets on basketball courts
 - May be shutting down tennis courts, but nothing definite yet
 - Caution tape around playground

- Nature Play Space:
 - Helen Slade reporting:
 - **Spring Design studio** with 13 teenagers for Wendell's Garden. Met twice before CPD/city rules changed. Program paused. Goal is to resume when everything else resumes (ie. following school schedules). After School Matters closed through 4/21 now.
 - Trying to do online classes, but only about 40% of students have adequate internet or tools.
 - Getting notification about funding opportunities. No slowdown yet, but will try to raise \$ through digital means
 - If we can't do much more given technical capacity, work will pick up.
 - Opportunity to hire teens through One Summer Chicago
 - Gathering ideas through Minecraft, etc. that could possibly be applied
 - Sean Shaffer sent estimate for the other playspace (just west of the playground by fieldhouse). Estimated at \$75K. Peter sending out estimates to get feedback.
- Maintenance:
 - Came out to look at grating by electrical vault. No other updates
- Basketball Court Lights:
 - No update yet from alderman's office about basketball court lighting costs (\$30,000)
- **Portage museum:** No updates
- Ravenswood Manor Park: No report
- Jacob Playlot: No report
- Sunken Garden: No report
- Buffalo Park: No report

Concerts Committee:

- Concerts don't start until end of June; hopefully we can assume business as usual
- Peter recommended not hitting up sponsors too much, as restaurants and other local businesses may be impacted by COVID
- A little over \$2400 in sponsorship, and \$1900 from subscribers. Tracking with efforts from previous years

- 650 residences with addresses from Chris Moran new potential subscribers. Postcards probably already out
- Some doorstop flyers went out, but held out w/ lockdown
- Good feedback on the new logo with microphone.
- John predicts most money from households vs. businesses
- Two open slots for concerts (Jacob and Sunken Gardens). All other concert contracts come out to \$6K.
- Got a quote on the new PA system. Looking around \$3500 for just about everything (except microphones, stands and monitors) Peter wanted to review the quote, but delivery could take only a couple of days after order.
- Jay wants enough time to put together instructions to keep with equipment before first event
- Met with Shelly to talk about social media, but decided to hold off until the situation improves. Can always start up in June

Stewardship Committee:

- Earth Day, River Day both cancelled
- Chicago Parks Foundation June event: Still on (as of now). Peter received signup, deciding to hold off on registering for now
- Jacob Playlot: Wants to do planters (similar to Manor and Buffalo)
- John O moved to spend \$500 (max) on Jacob, Buffalo and Manor for planters and other planting-related items. Daniel seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.
- No updates from Bogdan about looking @ Manor for recommendations
- John O. updates:
 - Cynthia helping with Stewardship. Talking about replacing grapevine fence in Manor. Plans are tabled, will report back with ideas.
 - Butterfly Gardens: Idea to get families involved to create a butterfly-related project along the alley in Manor Park. John to send information on concepts to the group.

Dog Friendly Area Committee: No report

Website Committee: No report

Farmer's Market Committee: Still currently scheduled for June opening.

Communications Committee: Keeping up with updates from the Park District. Referring all questions to CPD website.

Nominating Committee: No report

Old Business:

• Daniel connected with a person at the CTA about Irving Park bus stops. No updates from CTA yet.

New Business:

• None

Attachments

• Minutes from March 2020 meeting (under separate cover)

Motion to Adjourn: Peter motioned to adjourn, Amy seconded. Motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting May 6 @ 7:00 pm – Horner Fieldhouse if possible; Remote Meeting if not

Horner Park Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Wednesday May 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Remote Meeting (Conference Call)

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Alan Mueller Daniel Honigman Peter Schlossman Diane Sutliff Jay Lyon John O'Connell Helen Slade Deb Groh Erica Beutler Amy Jahnke Stacy Antti John Friedmann

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Review of March and April Minutes:

Daniel motion to approve both minutes. Amy seconded. All in favor, one abstention

Reports:

Park District Report (Stacy Antti reporting):

- All fieldhouses, playgrounds, etc. are closed until the end of May.
- Unfortunately people are breaking locks and barriers to get in. If you see lots of people playing or gathering, call 911; unfortunately there's not enough manpower to break up events or keep them broken up.
- Getting worse as the weather warms up. Because lots of locks and chains are getting broken, timely repairs are sporadic.
- Thanked HPAC for reminders
- Jacob Playlot is closed. A fence was put up in passive areas, but the playground is roped off. Residents and HPAC weren't informed the park would be closed.
 - Likely closed because it's considered a playground, and can be locked up.

• Erica observed a police presence at the park, but perhaps they need to be encouraged to talk to people. Deb to reach out to 17th district police tomorrow.

Treasurer's Report:

- March and April reports under separate cover.
- Some money has come in for concerts, but not a lot of money overall or from DFA. Not a lot of money going out, either.
- Diane filed for IL-990 extension (five months)

Farmer's Market Committee:

- No official word on Farmer's Market. (Deb: Up to City of Chicago to set policy)
- Several suggestions about cashless payment, socially distanced market
- Committee meeting next week

Concerts Committee:

- Wanted to see how things went, but given Governor's rules where concerts are deprioritized in rollout. Concerts will basically be impossible until everything is open again, probably will not be possible to happen this year.
 - **Recommendation:** HPAC will not do concerts this year; had general support.
- Jay and John talked about it, wanted to reword "thank you" letters to both business and subscribers to say that there won't be concerts this year, but the donations would have a choice of a refund or be credited towards next year.
 - Jay will draft something to give Amy for HPAC communications
- Have pretty much received everything that was pledged. (Roughly \$2K from 40 households, \$2K from eight sponsoring businesses)
- John O suggestion: If anything, no program book

Dog Friendly Area Committee:

- Got \$5,000 from Chicago Association of Realtors; is on its way
- Dog Park was closed @ alderman's request. Worked with CPD to get it done.
- Someone cut hole in the fence. No idea who or why. Was reported to Deb for temporary fix.
- No further updates on construction plan submission. (Deb: They're not at the offices, but should be working remotely.)
- No additional fundraising right now.
- No updates on money previously allocated by 33rd Ward.
 - Jamie Andrade offered to fund the difference (up to \$60K) out of appropriations. CPD has to accept it; hasn't responded to Jamie.

- Peter to draft a thank you note and send it to Erica for review.
- John F: There's a sign still up that says the dog park is open; suggested to take it down to not confuse people. (Spring program sign too)

Park Briefs:

- Horner Park:
 - Events:
 - Horner Brew Fest postponed until next year, and has been posted on website
 - Nature Play Space (Helen Slade reporting):
 - Slow progress, but presentation put together for space, precedent and layout. Ideally, they would be getting community feedback now. They want to do a digital meeting the week of May 18.
 - Will do some outreach to HPAC list, 33rd ward and maybe Horner Park Neighbors
 - Other Business:
 - Still has an estimate for smaller nature space. No feedback on that, but we don't have \$75K, so need a phased or smaller approach.
 - Maintenance:
 - Small fieldhouse bulletin board. No updates yet
 - Metal edging on grating by the nature area keeps sinking.
 - Basketball Court Lights:
 - No updates.
 - Portage Museum:
 - The Army Corps has approved the mound proposal with no changes. Last phase will be opened up for public discussion at the end of week. After discussion, they will be looking for a letter of approval.
 - Riverfront misuse, signage and web communications:
 - No additional signs as of this afternoon.
 - John F. thanked whoever did the maintenance
- Ravenswood Manor Park: No updates
- Jacob Playlot:
 - The stewardship group there has been doing some work in lieu of Earth Day, and has been cleaning up the riverfront area
 - Park is closed
- Sunken Garden: Park is open, but no updates
- **Buffalo Park:** Park is open, but no updates

Stewardship Committee:

- John O. sent email to stewardship committee thanking people for efforts with suspension of activities
- Some flowers have been purchased for Jacob and Buffalo parks.
- Future stewardship activities can continue at a small scale, if people follow safe practices (e.g. distancing, masks)
- John F. Lots of the trees along California are coming in well, and they were even mulched(!) Trees are good so far with water, but may need water down the road.

Website Committee: No report

Communications Committee:

- Accounts will be credited for spring classes (i.e. no refunds, but credit to future class)
- Daniel and Amy to reach out to people to find out
- Goal to send email newsletter out Tuesday or Wednesday next week. Looking for input from the group, especially Helen and Jay.

Nominating Committee: No report

Old Business:

- Bus stop name request: Rejected for now, but will try again.
- **Recognition for Deb Mell:** No action; in-person event will hopefully happen.

New Business: None

Announcements: None

Attachments:

• Minutes from March and April HPAC meetings (under separate cover)

Motion to Adjourn: John O. motioned to adjourn, Peter seconded. Motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting June 3 @ 7:00 pm – Horner Fieldhouse if possible; Remote Meeting if not

Horner Park Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Wednesday June 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Remote Meeting (Conference Call)

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Alan Mueller Daniel Honigman Peter Schlossman Diane Sutliff Erica Beutler John O'Connell John Friedmann Gretchen Helmreich

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Review of May Minutes:

Peter motion to approve minutes. Daniel seconded. All in favor, one abstention. Minutes were approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- The May 2020 reports were sent under separate cover.
- Some large donations this month for DFA: one from Chicago Association of Realtors and another from a private donation.
- Looked into cloud platforms for the books. Most start at \$20/month, but kick up to \$40/month. Doesn't make sense to change now, but maybe later once a new treasurer comes in. QBO (Quickbooks Online) seems to be the best option.
- Will be meeting with Kevin and Peter the next few days to look at the 990 form.

Farmer's Market Committee:

- There will be no regular Farmer's Market in 2020.
- Farmers don't have capacity to do alternative order/delivery options; however the committee is considering alternate market styles, and will coordinate with farmers based on their availability.

- Will serve as conduit for some deliveries, but customers will need to connect directly with farmers. Considering use of the parking lot on Cullom.
- Will post Facebook updates the next couple of days.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee Report:

- No report.
- Peter will follow up with Deb regarding Horner Park closures and when parts of the park will open (or if she knows).

Park Briefs:

- Horner Park:
 - Earth Mound:
 - Army Corp put out a call for public comments. Will be open for 30 days; then they'll look at comments and reconsider if needed.
 Deadline for comment June 26.
 - No calls for remediation or land swap, so no additional space needed.
 - Wants to start construction in fall and finish in winter, pending final approval.
 - John motions HPAC draft a letter of recommendation to Army Corp and submit before the deadline. Erica suggests amending approval to include the assumption that no remediation/space will be required. Daniel seconds. All approve, none opposed. Motion passed. John F. to work with Peter to draft the support letter.
 - Nature Play Space:
 - Daniel suggested smaller nature play space to focus on larger items first (i.e. wave one). Will need to revisit proposal
 - Territory Chicago facilitated a meeting with its student participants meeting with architects and designers about having more of a teen-centric space.
 - John F: suggest the park cut down the dead tree by the baseball fields to keep wood to do something with in the space.
 - Trees:
 - Several dead trees near the riverfront area, and one by Berteau.
 Peter to follow up with Deb.
 - Other updates:
 - Grating by back stairs was completed, along with landscape edging at nature space.
 - Bulletin board hasn't been fixed yet.

- Erica asked Peter to also speak to Deb about the broken soccer goal that is laying in pieces on the east side of the park, as someone should pick it up.
- Ravenswood Manor Park:
 - Peter will reach out to Deb about getting the park mowed.
- Jacob Playlot: No report.
- Sunken Garden: No report.
- Buffalo Park:
 - Peter will reach out to Deb about getting the park mowed.

Stewardship Committee:

- John O. sent a brief to most members in advance of the meeting regarding the city's water usage policy. The city requires an RPZ device to tap water from a hydrant which can cost PACs more than \$1,000 for the device and permit. HPAC's decision at this time is to cease using the current cap devices and not invest in the new devices. John O. is still waiting to hear about water procedures at Jacob Playlot and Sunken Garden.
- Horner Park:
 - Virtual tree work on Friday, June 12. John F. to send out a link.
- Buffalo Park:
 - Planters have been planted.
 - RMIA is starting to put together a fund for upkeep of Buffalo Park and tree upkeep; there's also some discussion about cleaning up some of the space around the park.
- Ravenswood Manor Park:
 - Planters have been planted.
 - Most trees survived, but a couple didn't. Discussion about buying trees.
 John F. will talk to Openlands about what more resilient trees could work in standing water.
- Jacob Playlot: No report
- Sunken Garden: No report

Communications Committee:

• Daniel and Amy are progressing on conversations with HPAC board members regarding communications. Interviews to complete, and will be followed by high-level recap.

Nominating Committee:

• John O. calling on the Nominating Committee to meet in advance of October board elections. Virtual meeting likely to be mid-July, (either 7/14 or 7/16); will give a couple of weeks' notice.

Concert Committee:

- "Thank you" notes were sent out; nobody has requested their money back.
- Committee hoping to do an informal concert by the end of the year.
- Will probably not move ahead on equipment requests this year.

Website Committee: No report

Old Business:

- Bus stop name request:
 - Daniel to try to get information on park usage boosting public transportation. John O. to introduce Daniel to the ATA contact, John F. to the CMAP contact. Erica to send Daniel contact information for Cook County Commissioner Bridget Degnan.
 - General support for Daniel to draft HPAC submission letter and support letter drafts from local organizations. Daniel will work with Peter.
- **Recognition for Deb Mell:** We still have the gift card. John F. to pick up the card from Diane and deliver, along with a note. Peter will draft.

New Business:

• We received a request for a protest in Horner Park. Peter will advise the requestor to connect directly with the Chicago Park District.

Announcements: None

Attachments:

• Minutes from May's HPAC meeting (under separate cover)

Motion to Adjourn: Peter motioned to adjourn, Daniel seconded. Motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting

July 1 @ 7:00 pm – Horner Fieldhouse if possible; Remote Meeting if not

Horner Park Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Wednesday July 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Remote Meeting (Conference Call)

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Amy Jahnke Daniel Honigman Diane Sutliff Erica Beutler John O'Connell Teresa Weed (Spark Montessori)

Amy called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Review of June Minutes:

Daniel motioned to approve minutes (with amendments). Amy seconded. All in favor, no abstentions. Minutes were approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- No report as of the meeting time, due to the late receipt of the June 2020 statement. The June 2020 reports will be sent under separate cover.
- Diane filed the 990 form and will be compiling instructions/tips to complete the form in the future.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee Report:

- Reopened on June 8, with the gates mostly repaired
- Calendar contest is starting. People can submit photos on Facebook from July 5th through the 18th; voting occurs on Facebook through "Likes" and the calendars will be released in September.
- "Adopt-a-Bench" program for the DFA; raising funds before the next phase of work begins to maximize effort.
- Had a \$2,000 contribution in late May, and was waiting on additional funds that were committed for June.
- DFA Facebook page passed the 2,500 "Like" milestone.

Park Briefs:

- Horner Park:
 - Earth Mound:
 - HPAC sent its letter of support for the mound project to the Army Corp of Engineers.
 - Nature Play Space:
 - Peter to connect with Teresa Weed (Spark Montessori) to get her involved in the subcommittee,
 - Tennis and basketball courts being used by Midtown Tennis Club from 8-10am.
 - **Takeaway for next meeting:** Discuss formal permitting requirement for park leasing (e.g. league softball).
 - Trees:
 - Peter to follow-up with Deb around Nature Play Space and by the riverfront area.
- Ravenswood Manor Park:
 - There was an update on the Nora Leonard memorial tree funds; they are being used elsewhere.
- Jacob Playlot: No report.
- Sunken Garden: No report.
- Buffalo Park: No report.

Stewardship Committee:

- Buffalo Park:
 - North garden weeded, and the SE planters were planted.
 - No updates on RMIA request to fund improvements.
- Ravenswood Manor Park
 - John O. is maintaining the path and wired up some sticks to the fence area.
 - John O. to follow up with John F. about identifying resilient trees from Openland.
- Horner Park: No report.
- Jacob Playlot: No report.
- Sunken Garden: No report.

Communications Committee:

- Discussion around negative response on Portage park Facebook post (sent under separate cover).
 - Next steps:

- Erica to draft an outline for a HPAC site post about the history of the Portage Walking Museum and our support. The post will include a letter of support.
 - John and Amy to review.
- Amy to draft a post regarding park event policies and work with (e.g. who to contact) Deb.
- Daniel and Amy completed interviews of key HPAC members to discuss internal communications needs. Next steps will be to compile and begin to vet platforms.

Farmer's Market Committee:

- There will be no regular Farmer's Market in 2020.
- The committee investigated alternate order/delivery options, but it didn't work out.
- The committee has created a spreadsheet with vendor contact information for customers to order directly from if they'd like.

Nominating Committee:

- Virtual meeting to be held 7/14. John O. to send an invite.
- Please spread the word for officer roles (e.g. treasurer, secretary)

Concert Committee:

- Report sent written report under separate cover via email. Main portion of email update is pasted below:
 - 1. We sent a letter to all of our sponsors and subscribers...notifying them that the Concert Series for 2020 was cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control. In the letter, we informed them that we would appreciate a "do over" in 2021, so we would count their payment towards 2021. We told them that if they wanted a refund we would certainly provide one, but to date I have not received any requests for a refund.
 - 2. I personally let all producers know that the season was cancelled, and I asked them to inform their artists that we'll schedule them in 2021. Everyone has been extremely understanding as they realize there is nothing we can do. They all assumed they would be getting such a call.
 - 3. The Park District contacted me about our application for the season, regarding dates that were not going to be allowed based on current events. I let the Park District know that we were not planning to hold any concerts this season, so they know our application will not move forward.

Website Committee: No report

New Business:

- Workout station request via email. Concept received general support, but will table for next meeting.
- Fourth of July fireworks security. No discussion
- Teresa asked about if Spark Montessori students can pick some specific weeds from the Nature Area. Erica recommended Teresa get in contact with Pete Leki under separate cover, and will share his email address.

Old Business:

- **Bus stop name request:** The naming request was submitted in June. There has not been a response as of yet.
- **Recognition for Deb Mell:** Nothing to report.

Announcements: None

Attachments:

• Minutes from June's HPAC meeting (under separate cover).

Motion to Adjourn: Amy motioned to adjourn, Daniel seconded. Motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting August 5 @ 7:00 pm – Horner Fieldhouse if possible; Remote Meeting if not

Horner Park Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Wednesday August 5, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. Via Google Meet

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Kevin Anderson Erica Beutler Cynthia Fox, Co-Secretary Amy Jahnke, Co-Vice President Emily Kuhn John O'Connell Peter Schlossman, President Diane Sutliff, Treasurer Teresa Weed

Call to Order

Peter Schlossman called the virtual meeting to order at 7 pm via Google Meet.

Approval of the Minutes – July 2020

AFter a review of the July minutes, John O'Connell motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Amy seconded. All approve.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report - Diane Sutliff presented the financials for the meeting. Updated financials will be available soon and uploaded to the cloud. Diane talked about some upcoming changes to the PayPal account that will eliminate any current issues.

Dog Friendly Area - Erica Beutler reported for the DFA.

- Fundraising: The bench campaign happened and is closed out with three benches remaining. They raised \$11,000 for two benches. We will keep trying to find some other businesses to support. Calendar campaign underway with 95 entries and pre-sales underway, bringing in another \$1,000+ Hoping to have calendars available in September.
- **Build update** The CPD finally responded to plans after the last seven months with some new comments. Erica and Peter were able to discuss things with the engineering firm. Our responses were provided to the Park District. More details to follow.
- **Request for water spigot** Peter mentioned someone emailed asking to have water spigot be turned in on the park. Deb Groh was able to respond to them indicating that the park district would not be turning them on.

Park Briefs

- □ Horner Park
 - <u>NW Portage Walking Museum / Earth Mound project</u> Outside of a letter of support that was sent, there was nothing to report.

- <u>Nature Play Spaces</u> Wendell's Garden progress and suggestions Peter reported that he requested an update from the Chicago Park District. He spoke with Eric and Sean from the park district about some next steps for the project.
- <u>Riverfront restoration abuse</u> The destruction on the riverfront and other issues are still ongoing in a message received from a neighbor through a Facebook message to HPAC. We are aware but it's a consistent problem that is struggling to be addressed. There was some discussion about more signage and the CPD has added some at each entrance. It's effectiveness remains to be seen.
- <u>Irving Park underpass</u> Peter was informed by CDOT that they are behind schedule. It's not going to be done for the fall but now it's slated to be complete in the Spring 2021.
- <u>New Trees</u>- Forty trees were planted in the park at various spots by the CPD
- Safety Issue from Bike Path on to Montrose There is an issue with excessive bike traffic from cyclists coming off of the paved path exiting east over the Montrose Bridge. There have been a lot of bikes riding on the bridge and it's causing a safety issue with a lot of bikes and pedestrians on the sidewalk over the river. With the Divvy station located in that general area, the bikes have no way to get onto Montrose with there being no curb cut or other street access. People are just coming off the path and almost running people over when they head down Montrose. The issue was raised about it being in the parkway and that the alderman is likely the best person to talk too about this issue. There was also discussion about the need for signage on the bridge indicating that there should be no bikes on the bridge.
- <u>Additional Signs for Tennis Court</u> As an add-in to the signage discussion, there was a discussion about adding another sign in the tennis courts opposite where the current signs are posted about how to wait for/claim space on the courts.
- > Ravenswood Manor Park Nothing to report.
- ➤ Jacob Playlot Nothing to report.
- Sunken Garden Nothing to report.
- > Buffalo Park The beech tree tied after a limb was removed.

Other Reports

- Stewardship Committee John O'Connell has been doing some basic work at Ravenswood Manor Park but not as much as usual. Otherwise, there was nothing significant to report.
- □ <u>Communications Committee</u> Nothing to report.
- □ <u>Farmer's Market</u> Nothing to report.
- □ <u>Concert Committee</u> Nothing to report.
- Nominating Committee The CPD sent an email to all PAC's to have any new elections be postponed. Most current officers shy one were willing to retain their position for the next year. We are still in need of another secretary and treasurer.
- □ <u>Website Committee</u> Nothing to report.

New Business

Workout station request - Someone requested that there be more outdoor gym equipment be placed within the park. We have discussed it briefly at previous meetings but the way of the world and the current state of funding is not an action item at the moment. We also do not have someone who will take charge of the project and champion the effort to fruition.

Old Business

Bus stop name request - No updates for this item.

Recognition for Deb Mell - Long overdue but still something for us to address.

Announcements

None to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm

Attachments

□ Minutes from July meeting (under separate cover)

Next Monthly Meeting Sept. 2 @ 7:00 pm – Horner Park Fieldhouse or Remote

Horner Park Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Wednesday September 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Remote Meeting (Conference Call)

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Erica Beutler Cynthia Fox Deb Groh Daniel Honigman Amy Jahnke Emily Kuhn John O'Connell Peter Schlossman Diane Sutliff

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Review of July and August Minutes:

Daniel motioned to approve the minutes. Diane seconded. All were in favor, pending minor copyedits. Minutes were approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- Revised July and August 2020 reports were sent under separate cover.
- Will be moving \$1,000 donated through Benevity from General Fund to DFA
 - Diane is also adding Benevity to the transition list for the next Treasurer.
- Hasn't adjusted Paypal account yet from Stewardship, but still plans to shift ownership to a Treasurer account to cut down on notifications.
- Venmo has been added as payment method
- Diane to send backups of Quickbooks to Peter
- Diane to upload recent financial reports to HPAC Google Cloud as a temporary stopgap until a new solution is in place.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee Report:

- **Bidding and Fundraising Progress report:** Erica was told drawings are out for bid; she is trying to get a timeline for the project, but she hasn't received it yet. However, the bid is supposed to go to Rapid Response
- **Derecho Damage:** Service request was made for fence sections (one on the north side, and one on the east side). There is nothing to report yet, however Stacy has put in the request. Damage across the Park District is still being assessed. Erica to follow up with Stacy in about a week.
- Dog Calendar: For sale next month

Park Briefs:

- Horner Park:
 - NW Portage Walking Museum / Earth Mound Project: No updates
 - Nature Play Spaces:
 - Wendell's Garden progress: Question about approach and direction it's going in. General consensus that it's working so far.
 - HPAC would pitch in about \$10K, to match the grant received. The idea received general support.
 - No motion needed yet; meeting to happen first in committee
 - Tentative meeting date of September 10th. Peter to confirm if Shawn is available.
 - **Riverfront Restoration Abuse:** General approach to take anything unsafe down, but to leave things break down on their own especially with recent weather.
 - Landscape Border at ADA ramp: Concrete and gravel tossed into area.
 Deb to reach out to landscaper about removing them and replacing with mulch
 - Amazon Locker: General consensus that HPAC is not in favor of it. Deb doesn't think Amazon and CPD will proceed with it, but will pass along feedback.
 - **Ash Tree treatment:** John F. requested \$400 for ash tree treatment.
 - Daniel motioned, Amy seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Peter to follow up with John F. about providing money.
 - Other:
 - Fall programs starting next week, but they're limited. Fieldhouse hours currently M, Tu, Th, Fr 8am-8pm; W is 8am-6pm.
 - Starting after Labor Day, hours will be 10am-7pm Monday through Friday only. (Still will not be open weekends)
- Ravenswood Manor Park:

- But some trees may need to be replaced; others will need some trimming.
 John O. to update if/when needed
- There was some graffiti, but most has already been removed
- Other trees will need some trimming
- Jacob Playlot: No report
- Sunken Garden: No report
- Buffalo Park
 - **Dead beech tree:** Will need to be removed, along with surrounding weeds.

Stewardship Committee:

- Watering needs: Park District is OK with HPAC using water. John O. to provide update if additional help is needed
- Ramping up Cynthia/Emily involvement in the Stewardship Committee.

Communications Committee: Still confirming a few final details. Recommendation to come in future meeting.

Farmer's Market Committee: No report

Nominating Committee:

• Election postponed; however John O. still looking for replacement for Diane (Treasurer) and Cynthia (Co-Secretary)

Website Committee: No report

New Business:

- **Participatory Budgeting:** Idea collection ends September 6. Next two weeks will be to develop projects/pricing. Concepts + details need to be ready by end of the month for adding to the calendar in October.
 - Ideas discussed were outdoor exercise stations, curb cut
 - Deb to follow up on pricing for exercise equipment
 - Erica requested the board email any additional ideas or provide feedback on existing ideas.

Old Business:

• Bus stop name request: No update

• Recognition for Deb Mell: No update

Announcements:

• After-school program M-Fr 3-6pm for 18 kids (nine per pod/group). Some virtual programs lined up

Attachments:

• None

Motion to Adjourn:

Diane motioned to adjourn, Cynthia seconded. Motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting October 7 @ 7:00 pm: Horner Fieldhouse if possible; Remote Meeting if not

Horner Park Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Wednesday Oct. 7, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. Via Google Meet - meet.google.com/pxy-hyta-obo

Attendees:

Peter Schlossman Amy Jahnke Alan Mueller Deb Groh Emily Kuhn Teresa Weed John O'Connell Erica Beutler

September 2020 minutes were approved.

Reports

Treasurer's Report (pending) Financials (under separate cover, will come from Diane)

Dog Friendly Area

Bid results & next steps: The contract for Phase 2 for \$189,000 should be awarded this week! During the bidding process, we discovered that there now needs to be a Phase 3, which will include the canine friendly turf and mulch. Phase 2 construction will include a paved entryway, water feature, and small dog fence. The DFA committee will be working to communicate about closures due to construction to the public. As part of this effort, the committee is working on getting additional "no dogs" signs for the soccer pitch and tennis courts to accommodate possible misuse resulting from the DFA closure. Fence repairs due to the derecho are being bid under a separate estimate (which will be paid via Park District insurance claims) and will be completed by the Phase 2 contractor.

In fundraising news, the DFA calendar should be ready for sale by November.

Park Briefs

Horner Park

- Fieldhouse is open, but very little programming is happening. The park is super busy!
- NW Portage Walking Museum / Earth Mound project: No report
- **Nature Play Spaces:** Wendell's Garden progress meeting report: Lots of good ideas were shared; Eric Boelkens is going to draft up a plan for the team and Shawn to review.
- **Riverfront Restoration Abuse:** Paths keep being created in off-limits areas. Additional signs were put up; we're not sure how effective they were.

- Landscape Border at ADA Ramp: Repairs have been completed.
- The four ash trees at California and Montrose were treated on Sept. 24. Additional fundraising was done by neighborhood organizations to have other ash trees treated in the area surrounding the park.

Ravenswood Manor Park

• There has been a homeless person sleeping on the path in the park. Security will continue to go out RM park and Horner Park at night.

Jacob Playlot: No report Sunken Garden: No report Buffalo Park: No report

Stewardship Committee

Fall Cleanup 10/17: 9am-12pm. Signups are open now. Email has gone out and a Facebook event was created, but we've had minimal interest so far. Emily is putting up fliers in the next couple of days. No mulching will be done, but general cleanup, raking/repairing and possibly perennial planting. Thanks to Pitch In for the Parks for donation of masks, rakes, sanitizer, trash bags, waivers, etc. Park stewards are: Bea Tersch (Jacob), Luke Ross (Sunken), Cynthia and John O (Manor Park), Sue Davenport, and Peter (Buffalo). Erica has a resource for possible free mulch and will forward information.

Communications Committee: No report Farmer's Market Committee: No report Nominating Committee: Election postponed Website Committee: No report

New Business

- John O. and Amy are both taking the Treekeepers course this fall
- Erica attended the 33rd ward for Participatory Budgeting, and reports that projects under consideration to be on the ballot for Horner Park include:
 - \$15k for nature play space
 - \$25k for lights for soccer pitch
 - Benches and backstops around the tennis/basketball courts
 - Chess Tables around the nature Play Space
 - \$25k for outdoor exercise equipment
 - Information Signs along the river (needs pricing).
 - Redoing the path on the east side with a bike lane would be about \$300k, not including fixing drainage issues (Note that making this a designated bike lane might encourage very fast biking in the area).
- The final items for participatory budgeting will be determined at a later date, possibly by November 1.

Old Business

Bus stop name request (no update)

Recognition for Deb Mell (no update)

Announcements

Basketball hoop update; when the hoops were put back up a couple of months ago, large groups were playing, so the city re-closed the courts.

Next Monthly Meeting

Nov. 4 @ 7:00 pm: Horner Fieldhouse if possible; otherwise, it will be remote (Google Meet Dial-in at meet.google.com/pxy-hyta-obo)

Horner Park Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Wednesday Nov. 4, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. Via Google Meet - meet.google.com/pxy-hyta-obo

Attendees:

Peter Schlossman John Friedmann John O'Connell Erica Beutler Daniel Honigman Alan Mueller Helen Slade Teresa Weed Deb Groh Stacey Anti

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:17pm.

Review of October Minutes

John O. motioned to approve minutes. Daniel seconded. All were in favor, pending minor copyedits. Minutes were approved.

Reports

Treasurer's Report:

- September 2020 (i.e. year-end) report and October 2020 reports were sent under separate cover.
 - \$6,000 donation for DFA
 - No expenses going out
- Diane to connect with Daniel about completing the Microsoft application for O365 access.
- All money moved out of Paypal

Dog Friendly Area:

- Phase Two construction started 11/3, supposed to be six to eight weeks. Fencing up with signs, etc. to signal DFA is closed for now.
 - Park staff to remind park-goers to leash their dogs where possible
- Lots of calendars sold
- Four out of five benches sold
- CPD taking care of fence repair from storm; will come out of CPD fund

Park Briefs:

• Horner Park:

- **NW Portage Walking Museum / Earth Mound Project:** Final approval from Army Corps given on October 12 (Indigenous Peoples Day)
 - No remediation will be required, but some money still needed (\$50-60K, including soil) to be raised and/or donated to begin construction in sprint
 - John to compile information on signage along the river trail; could be good timing when other efforts (e.g. River Run, etc.) are also complete.
 - Note: To be added to December 2020 agenda
- Nature Play Spaces:
 - Eric Boelkens put together some initial plans for the space that could make the Wendell's Garden area look nice. Next step is to get pricing for items to use the funds committed.
 - May also get funding from Participatory Budgeting, but any funds from there would be more on infrastructure (e.g. fences).Could be up to another \$25K.
- Landscape Border at ADA ramp: Looks great thanks to CPD for fixing this.
- Bench at NW Garden entrance: One of the benches near Ruby Cleaners (i.e. by the statue) has come loose from its mounting. Deb/Stacey to put in a request to repair and/or anchor it.
- Ravenswood Manor Park: No report
 - Two more of the six trees planted in 2019 along the alley died and were removed; only two are left.
- Jacob Playlot: No report
- Sunken Garden: No report
- Buffalo Park:
 - **Dead beech tree:** Work order to remove tree has been submitted. Deb to follow up on request.
- **Related:** River Park has started its own PAC. Peter and Diane attended the kickoff meeting.

Stewardship Committee:

- **10/17 Fall Cleanup report:** Cleanup effort in four parks. Main work done at Manor and Buffalo Park, but some other work done in Jacob and Sunken.
 - Weeds around beech tree @ Buffalo Park. Request to remove Bishop's Weeds (or try to contain with some cardboard boxes.
 - Deb advised not to do the cardboard boxes, and to do something more "official" looking (e.g. rope it off, put a sign). Other option: hold off for the next few weeks until the tree gets removed.

• Deb to reach out to Michael Brown (CPD) to find out when he thinks the tree to be removed; committee to make a decision when this information is received.

Farmer's Market Committee:

• 2021 application period open; HPAC to submit

Communications Committee:

• No report

Nominating Committee:

• No report; nominations tabled until upcoming meeting (e.g. December)

Website Committee:

• No report

New Business

- 33rd Ward Participatory Budgeting:
 - Nature Play Space (up to \$25K)
 - Lights for soccer pitch (up to \$25K)
 - Alderman Rodriguez's office has offered to take on the gathering of community feedback in case it gets funded
 - Question on lighting. Would the pitch lighting schedule be the same as the basketball courts? (Deb believes so, but needs to be confirmed)
 - Combo for benches (basketball, tennis) and exercise station (up to \$45K)
 - Should know by 11/9-11/10 whether items will make the ballot and in what amounts. Erica to get the PDF from the Participatory Budgeting team to get group access to vote.

Old Business

- Bus stop name request: No update.
- **Recognition for Deb Mell:** John F. and Diane to coordinate gift delivery

Announcements

• None

Motion to Adjourn:

Peter motioned to adjourn, Daniel seconded. Motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting December 2 @ 7:00 pm: Horner Fieldhouse if possible; Remote Meeting (and virtual Happy Hour) if not