

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday February 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted at the Horner Park Fieldhouse**

Attendees:

Ben Barker
Erica Beutler
Dana Dougherty
John Friedmann
Gretchen Helmreich
Daniel Honigman
Amy Jahnke
Jay Lyon
Peter Schlossman
Kirsten Southwell
Diane Sutliff
Kerrie Rovito (CPS)
Sarah Bethel (Spark Montessori)
Stacy Niemiec (Spark Montessori)
Carlton Jones (HPNWLL)
David Post (HPNWLL)
Lola Post (HPNWLL)
Deb Groh (Chicago Parks District)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Review of December 2022 Minutes:

- Daniel motioned to approve minutes. Erica seconded. All were in favor. Minutes were approved.

Annual Report Review:

- The annual report has been distributed. All officers and committee leads should provide feedback as soon as possible, ideally before February 15.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- We are in the quiet months of the year, so there is little activity in our accounts.
- The 1099NEC and the accompanying 1096 forms were sent in early January.
- Transition continues to Chase Bank, and that will be completed by the end of February.
- The 990 Form will be sent to the IRS by February 28.

- Treasurer's Reports and financial statements will follow under separate cover.
- Please send ideas to treasurer@hornerpark.org.
- **Valentine's Dance Support:**
 - Daniel made a motion for HPAC to spend up to \$200 to support the Valentine's Dance. John F. seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.
- **D&O insurance:**
 - HPAC will be renewing its D&O insurance.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **Exercise Equipment Progress:**
 - HPAC approved the larger of the two options for the equipment, of which there will be six pieces of equipment. Peter to follow up with Maria Stone.
 - **Walking Path Repair:**
 - No report.
 - **Bottle Filler:**
 - It has been ordered.
 - **Elevator Repair:**
 - No report.
 - **Other:**
 - The gym floors are being repaired after the water damage from Fall 2022.
 - **Mound:**
 - Planting is tentatively scheduled to start April 15, weather permitting. The mound could be open to the public in fall.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - **Kiosk Maintenance:**
 - No report.
- **Jacob Playlot Park:**
 - No report.
- **Sunken Gardens**
 - No report.
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - No report.

Stewardship Committee:

- **Waters School partnership:**
 - Waters students have been working with Friends of the Chicago River on microinvertebrate research and want to get involved in stewardship activities. Kerrie Rovito will coordinate efforts with Deb and the Stewardship Committee.
- **Other:**
 - Kirsten mentioned the continued issue of dogs on the Nature Path. She volunteered to spearhead a new effort to create and place new signage.
 - Diane motioned to create a subcommittee for new signage. Erica seconded. All were in favor, and none opposed. The motion passed.

Concerts Committee:

- The Concert Committee is hard at work on the 2023 season. We will feature our usual number of shows, with many at Ravenswood Manor Park but one again at Jacob Park, and another at Horner Park. Artists include:
 - Grammy-winning saxophonist Frank Catalano
 - Local indie artist Nathan Graham
 - The Red Roses, a great band that covers the music of many different artists
 - Local artists and residents including Neptune's Core
- The committee is also working on a Blues in the Park night at Horner Park, featuring an artist or two from the local Delmark Records label. Another show will feature the music of one of the bands from the survey sent at the end of last season. Of course, the committee will also bring back the Narloch Piano Recital and Le Ballet Petit to round out the season with local flavor.
 - This may end up being part of BrewFest. Details are to be confirmed.
- Here are a few highlights from our 2022 survey; there were 22 respondents.
 - The majority wanted to see the number of concerts in the season stay the same.
 - There was clearly a desire for shows to be spread around more. About half the respondents wanted to either see more shows at Horner or to see a similar number of shows at each location.
 - The vast majority wanted to see the shows remain on Fridays, but some wrote they might like to see some shows on Sunday. We may put one show on a Sunday this year and see how the response is.
 - Some respondents commented about featuring bands that were not just covering one artist, and there was also a request to include some multicultural acts.
- The committee will consider all of this as it looks to make the series more inclusive.

312 RiverRun Committee:

- The committee had its first meeting several weeks ago and will have another soon. RiverRun will be on June 24.
- The committee still needs volunteers. Everyone interested should email Peter.

Farmer's Market Committee:

- The 2023 market season will run from June 3 to October 14. (20 markets.)
- The online application page is live on the Horner Park website (hornerpark.org).

Nominating Committee:

- There will be a strategic planning meeting February 25 at Jay Lyon's office.

Horner BrewFest Committee:

- The date will either be July 14 or 21.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:

- **Fundraising:**
 - Calendar sales have wound down.
 - A \$1,000 anonymous donation was received in late December.
 - The next event will be the Doggie Egg Hunt. The DFA Committee will work with Deb Groh on details. (Considering April 1 event date.)
- **Build and Maintenance:**
 - No word yet on plan/costs to bring electricity for fountain operation.
 - Regular cleanups continue. The committee is currently getting quotes for spring mulching work.
- **Administration update:**
 - Erica Beutler has stepped down as chair of the Dog Friendly Area Committee. She will continue the role of liaison with the Park District Department of Planning and Construction to finish the DFA build started in November 2020 and to work with HPAC's treasurer regarding DFA finances.
 - Laura Bolesta, Corinne Fleming and Sara Tews will be heading up the DFAC with Laura taking on communications, Sara fundraising/events, and Corinne coordinating volunteers. They will continue to engage other members to help with these and other responsibilities.
- **Other:**
 - HPAC wants to thank Erica Beutler for all her hard work chairing the DFA Committee over the years.

Communications Committee:

- Amy will wait to send the next HPAC email until Egg Hunt and BrewFest dates are set.

Website Committee:

- Minutes through November 2022 have been posted on the HPAC website (hornerpark.org).

New Business:

- Holiday supplies purchase:
 - Deb will request seasonal décor and/or supplies later in the year.
- Bus stop request:
 - HPAC received a request from Whitney Young students to place items (e.g., umbrellas, handwarmers) in the nearby CTA bus stops. HPAC does not think it can influence this effort, since it would take place outside of park property.
- HPAC internship:
 - Erica suggested creating an HPAC internship to address key tasks
 - Diane motioned to form a subcommittee to explore this, especially compensation and supervision. Erica seconded. All were in motion, with none opposed. The motion passed.

Old Business:

- **Arboretum Designation:**
 - HPAC has an opportunity to apply for arboretum designation.
 - Diane motioned to form a subcommittee to explore this further. Daniel seconded. All were in motion, with none opposed. The motion passed.
 - There was a question about the benefits of the designation; John F. responded that it may create new fundraising opportunities, make HPAC a candidate for grants, new tree varieties, and more.
 - Erica made a motion for John F. to pursue applying for arboretum status, contingent of Chicago Park District support.
 - All were in favor. None opposed. The motion passed.

Announcements:

- The Valentine's Day Dance will be held on February 10 at the Horner Park Fieldhouse

Motion to Adjourn:

Daniel motioned to adjourn at 8:31pm; Jay seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting:

The next HPAC meeting will be Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Horner Park Fieldhouse

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday March 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted at the Horner Park Fieldhouse**

Attendees:

Erica Beutler
Laura Bolesta
Athene Carras
Daniel Honigman
Nathan Hunter
Jay Lyon
Alan Mueller (RMIA)
John O'Connell
Ben Ranney
Peter Schlossman
Kirsten Southwell
Bea Tersch
Carlton Jones (HPNWLL)
David Post (HPNWLL)
Lola Post (HPNWLL)
Deb Groh (Chicago Parks District)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Review of February 2023 Minutes:

- Jay motioned to approve minutes. Daniel seconded. All were in favor. Minutes were approved.

Annual Report Review:

- The annual report has been distributed. All officers and committee leaders should provide feedback as soon as possible, ideally before February 15.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- Funds were safely sequestered for the Dog Friendly Area and Nature Play Space when those bills are due next.
- There was little activity this month, but contributions for the Summer Concert Series are coming in.
- We continue to have a healthy balance of unallocated money and look forward to great ideas from the community on how to improve our parks.

- The full HPAC transition to Chase Bank is still to be completed.
- HPAC has retained the services of an accountant; HPAC has filed an extension request for Form 990, and we now have five more months to submit the form.
- Treasurer's Reports and financial statements will follow under separate cover.
- Peter to deposit checks while Diane is out of town.
- Please email treasurer@hornerpark.org with questions or suggestions.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **Exercise Equipment Progress:**
 - Deb sent the Stewardship committee information about the possible color scheme; the Park District is waiting on final approval for it to go out to bid.
 - Erica suggested we encourage the project manager to look at the site while the utility lines are flagged for the path project to determine if there is conflict with using the site.
 - **Walking Path Repair:**
 - Hoping to get an early start to the repair, due to the mild weather.
 - **Bottle Filler:**
 - No report.
 - **Elevator Repair:**
 - No report.
 - **Gym Floors Repair:**
 - The gym floors are still being repaired.
 - **Mound:**
 - Planting is tentatively scheduled to start April 15, weather permitting. The mound could be open to the public in fall.
 - **Other:**
 - There will be no kids' egg hunt in the gym this year.
 - John met with Lauren from the Chicago Park District about getting CPD-approved signage for the nature path.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - **Kiosk Maintenance:**
 - No report.
- **Jacob Playlot Park:**
 - There is an abundance of toys (e.g., plastic cars and wagons) at the park, which must be cleaned up.
 - John O. suggested that HPAC post a notice advising owners to pick up their items before the Earth Day stewardship event.
 - Bea requested wood chips between the sidewalk and the wall, and some soil and grass seed on the hill. Deb will put in a request if possible.
- **Sunken Gardens**
 - No report.
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - No report.

Stewardship Committee:

- **Waters School partnership:**
 - John O'Connell and Ben Ranney recently met with Kerrie Rovito, a teacher at Waters Elementary School, who proposes to take classes to Sunken Gardens Park for environmental education. She contacted Deb Groh and will follow the CPD approval process.
 - Kerrie showed John work on the riverbank at Sunken Gardens Park completed by her and other local volunteers. The bank was terraced, and much invasive buckthorn was felled and laid out.
 - They propose to continue restoration efforts this spring and plan to plant natives for erosion control. They have been advised to clear any further work with the CPD and the MWRD and engage us in committee stewardship activities. (Photos sent under separate cover.)
- **Other:**
 - A Stewardship Committee Zoom meeting will be held on March 8 at 7 PM to discuss goals in all 5 parks for 2023.

Concerts Committee:

- The Concerts Committee held a meeting on February 6 and discussed its season. This year's shows will include:
 - **Friday, June 16:** RMIA show (to be determined)
 - **Friday, June 30:** Frank Catalano
 - **Friday, July 14:** Delmark Records: Blues in the Park (Horner Park)
 - **Sunday, July 16:** Narloch Piano Recital
 - **Friday, July 28:** Nathan Graham
 - **Friday, August 11:** Le Ballet Petit Performance
 - **Sunday, August 13:** Horner Park Jazz Band (Sunday Jazz in the park)
 - **Friday, August 25:** Red Roses
 - **Friday, September 8:** Luciano Antonio (Jacob Park)
- The Committee Chair put forth two goals for this season, and as a guideline for future seasons:
 - **Better balance.** We want to get away from being so cover band-heavy and involve more original artists. At least a couple of shows ought to be aimed at original music because those artists need support the most.
 - **Have artists who are representative of the community today.** We can and will do a better job of being more inclusive.
- Sponsorship and subscription information went out in February. We have received about \$400 in subscriptions to date and need to raise about \$16,000 to fund the season.
- Apart from fundraising assistance, the committee needs volunteers to run shows. If we are unable to secure volunteers to help at shows, we will be forced to examine the number of shows in the future.

312 RiverRun Committee:

- The Eventbrite page went live today. Sign-ups are now being accepted.
- The next committee meeting will be Wednesday, March 8.
- The committee still needs volunteers. Everyone interested should email Peter.

Farmer's Market Committee:

- No report.

Nominating Committee:

- The Board, along with several Committee chairs, participated in a retreat meeting on February 25, hosted by Jay Lyon, and facilitated pro bono by Joshua Christiansen. Participants included Peter Schlossman, Amy Jahnke, John Friedman, Erica Beutler, Jay Lyon, Gretchen Helmreich, Daniel Honigman, John O'Connell, and Diane Sutliff.
 - The committee – and HPAC – thank Joshua Christiansen for his efforts in facilitating the session.
- The primary goal was to initiate an outline of strategies to help convey our message and recruit new volunteers, all working towards volunteer development and succession planning. Some session highlights:
 - After initial thoughts on “How can we?” questions, we identified Categories from which to address the various needs. Categories included:
 - A. Black Holes (items over which we have no control)
 - B. Communications
 - C. Community Interest/Volunteering
 - D. Council Growth
 - E. Diversity
 - F. Fundraising and Sponsorship
 - G. Meetings
 - H. Other Organizations and Partners
 - I. Younger Generations/Families/Children
 - The group was divided into 2 teams, and after focused deliberations, defined 2 Items on which to initially address:
 - Item A) Category E: Diversity. Start by defining our inclusivity needs and retain an experienced Diversity Advisor (DEI Expert) to help manage that effort.
 - Item A) should be assigned to a new Inclusivity Committee.
 - Item B) Category C: Communications. Start by writing our “Elevator Speech;” Prepare a short, unified message of our mission we all can mantra, that also encourages involvement by the addressee.
 - Item B) should be assigned to the Communications Committee.
Peter volunteered to create the first draft of the Elevator Speech.
 - Initial timeline of progress on each item was targeted to May 1.

- It was agreed that from these two initial objectives, we can make progress on many of the other ideas that were derived from the exercises. Amy Jahnke captured all the effort in a prepared outline and has shared it with the participants. (Attached)
- It was agreed that we should continue this exercise within several weeks, as we define goals, make assignments, set timelines, and measure progress.

Horner BrewFest Committee:

- The date will be July 21, from 6-10pm.
- The committee will be meeting Thursday, March 9 at 7pm at John's F. house.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:

- **Fundraising:**
 - The committee will begin its Mulch Madness campaign to raise \$15k for mulch and grade, stone for erosion mediation, and drainpipe installation near the water feature (quote received from Christy Webber).
 - The annual Doggie Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 1 from 1pm-3pm. 250 dogs (and their families) will hunt for treat-filled eggs and participate in activities such as a photo area, paw print flower painting, paw impressions. Volunteers are needed!
- **Build and Maintenance:**
 - The committee will push a campaign to make monthly cleanups more popular and to recruit additional volunteers.
 - Mulch and build improvement to begin once money is raised.
 - There has been no update on plan/costs to bring electricity for fountain operation.
- **Other:**
 - Laura has created a Teams-based SharePoint site for the DFAC with links to documents housed on the committee's Google Drive. The committee is posting committee meeting minutes to the Dog-Friendly Area channel on the HPAC Teams site.

Communications Committee:

- The committee would like to send an email with dates for all upcoming events. All committee chairs should provide dates as soon as possible.
- The stewardship@hornerpark.org email distribution list has been acting funky of late.
 - Peter to reach out to Kevin Anderson to explore further.
- **Dog signs subcommittee:**
 - Kristen did put together some findings. Key findings:
 - Recommendations were to be more authoritative in message and visuals
 - Develop a campaign (akin to "Bark Rangers" for the National Parks)
 - Kristen to share report with Daniel to post on Teams for internal distribution

Website Committee:

- The committee recognizes that the website redesign project has stalled, and we need to get moving. It proposes to form a small subcommittee to revisit progress and get a timeline together.
- Minutes through December 2022 have been posted to the HPAC website (hornerpark.org).

New Business:

- None.

Old Business:

- **HPAC Internship Idea:**
 - This may not be practical now but will be explored further.
- **Valentine's Day Dance:**
 - The event was an enormous success and was well attended.
- **Arboretum Designation:**
 - No updates.

Announcements:

- **Events:**
 - May 13 (River Day): There will be a mulching event at Horner Park.
 - July 23: Friends of the River is discussing a float event, during which attendees jump into the river by the River Park boat launch, and float down to Horner Park.

Motion to Adjourn:

Erica motioned to adjourn at 8:13pm; Jay seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting:

The next HPAC meeting will be Wednesday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Horner Park Fieldhouse

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday April 5, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted at the Horner Park Fieldhouse**

Attendees:

Erica Beutler
Larry Hodak
Daniel Honigman
Amy Jahnke
Alan Mueller (RMIA)
John O'Connell
Peter Schlossman
Kirsten Southwell
Diane Sutliff
Max Umansky (Sen. Feigenholtz)
Manny Vega (Save Winnemac Park)
David Post (HPNWLL)
Lola Post (HPNWLL)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Review of March 2023 Minutes:

- John O. motioned to approve the minutes. Diane seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The minutes were approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- Contributions for the Concert Series continue to roll in, as well as money for new mulch at the DFA (Dog Friendly Area).
- Vendors are submitting fees for the upcoming Farmer's Market season.
- Large expenditures were a deposit for the new mulch, and payment for the new water bottle refill station for the main fieldhouse.
- Form 990 remains outstanding, while we wait for tax season to subside.
- We have a healthy surplus on hand and are always looking for community input on ways to make our parks better. Please email treasurer@hornerpark.org with questions or suggestions.
- March Treasurer's Reports and financial statements were sent under separate cover.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **Exercise Equipment Progress:**
 - The color selection was submitted to the Chicago Park District.
 - The flags marking the utility lines are still there, but there is no indication the project manager has examined the site.
 - **Walking Path Repair/Replacement and Parking Lot Progress:**
 - Some work has been done, but it will likely not be completed before the 312 RiverRun event.
 - **Bottle Filler:**
 - The deposit has been sent in, and now it just needs to be installed.
 - **Elevator Repair:**
 - No report.
 - **Gym Floors Repair:**
 - A temporary fix was made, with different finishes for the indoor sports season. The plan is to start work again in August 2023.
 - **Mound:**
 - Planting will start in late June.
 - **Tree and Grass Replacement:**
 - Some grass and the tree were torn up near the Fieldhouse; HPAC would like to see it replaced before the start of the Farmer's Market season.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - **Kiosk Maintenance:**
 - The light was fixed.
- **Jacob Playlot Park:**
 - Most toys were removed; some remain on the playground.
- **Sunken Gardens**
 - HPAC would like to thank Luke Ross for all his recent efforts.
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - No report.

Signage Committee:

- There was a committee meeting in late March to gather feedback on the proposed signage designs documented by Kirsten.
- There will be a meeting tomorrow (April 6) with Matt Freer, Maggie Warren, Lauren Umek and Mike Raczyla from CPD to exchange ideas and learn more about the signage creation/approval process.
- Kirsten suggested we document the current state of the path to show a "before and after" to show the impact of new signage.
- Manny Vega (Save Winnemac Park) discussed what is being done in Winnemac to address the off-leash dog issue.

Stewardship Committee:

- A Zoom meeting was held for Stewardship on March 8, 2023, draft minutes were sent under separate cover and are available on the HPAC Microsoft Teams site.
- Thanks to Larry Hodak and Susan O'Connell for helping to clean up Ravenswood Manor Park in mid-March.
- Earth Day cleanup events will be in Ravenswood Manor, Buffalo, Sunken Gardens and Jacob Parks on Saturday April 22, from 9-11am. The committee will not be cleaning Horner Park that day.
- River Day will be at Horner, Jacob, and Sunken Gardens on Saturday May 13 from 9-11am. The committee plans to mulch the river paths and remove litter.
- John O. has submitted an article for the RMIA News ("[The Manor News](#)") on the history of Ravenswood Manor Park as a method of recruiting new stewards. The article was sent under separate cover.
- John O. made a motion to provide \$250 for plant material to be used at Sunken Gardens along the riverbank.
 - Daniel seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed. The motion passed.
- John O. made a motion to provide \$300 for plant material to be used at Ravenswood Manor Park and Buffalo Park.
 - Diane moved to amend the motion to cover up to \$400 in costs.
- John made a motion to provide up to \$400 for plant material at Ravenswood Manor Park and Buffalo Park.
 - Diane seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed. The motion passed.
- John O. would like to thank Larry Hodak and Susan O'Connell for recent efforts in cleaning up Manor Park.
- **Upcoming events:**
 - **Earth Day:** April 22
 - **River Day:** May 13
 - **It's Your Park Day:** June 3

Concerts Committee:

- The committee is continuing to raise money and still needs volunteers for shows. Please reach out to Jay Lyon (jay@lyoncommunications.com) for details.
- This season's shows are as follows:
 - **Friday, June 16:** RMIA show (to be determined)
 - **Friday, June 30:** Frank Catalano
 - **Friday, July 14:** Delmark Records: Blues in the Park (Horner Park)
 - **Sunday, July 16:** Narloch Piano Recital
 - **Friday, July 28:** Nathan Graham
 - **Friday, August 11:** Le Ballet Petit Performance
 - **Sunday, August 13:** Horner Park Jazz Band (Sunday Jazz in the park)
 - **Friday, August 25:** Red Roses
 - **Friday, September 8:** Luciano Antonio (Jacob Park)

312 RiverRun Committee:

- Banners are up, and materials have been purchased.
- Waste Not will return as the event's primary sponsor; more sponsors are being added.
- The volunteer signup is on the HPAC website at hornerpark.org.

Farmer's Market Committee:

- No report.

Nominating Committee:

- John drafted an initial HPAC "elevator speech" and requests feedback and/or suggested edits. The draft document is available in the HPAC Microsoft Teams site for review.

Horner BrewFest Committee:

- Nearly 20 breweries have been confirmed to date for the event.
- The committee is still looking for a sponsor for the BrewFest glasses.
- There will likely be a committee meeting the week of April 9.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:

- **Fundraising:**
 - The Mulch Madness campaign is ongoing.
 - The Doggie Egg Hunt was held on April 1. 92 dogs and their people braved the cold to attend. Attendance was lower than usual due to the weather and a new business model incurred more costs, but most can be rolled forward to next year or re-used. The Committee made roughly \$1650 profit from the event.
- **Build and Maintenance:**
 - The next cleanup event will be April 15 at 9:00am.
 - Christy Webber will deliver 240 cubic yards (about twice the volume of a one car garage) of fibar on May 29. Installation is expected to take three days, weather permitting. The DFA will be closed while they are working.
 - CPD has requested payment for the build; Peter replied that payment will be remitted when the work is complete. The splash pad is still not operational due to an electrical issue that the supplier has not been able to fix. CPD is looking into what it would take to bring electricity to the location.
- **Other:**
 - Laura has created a Teams-based DFAC SharePoint site with links to documents housed on the committee's Google Drive. The committee is posting committee meeting minutes to the Dog-Friendly Area channel on the HPAC Teams site.

Communications Committee:

- Amy will begin to investigate the recent stewardship@hornerpark.org address issues.

Website Committee:

- The committee recognizes that the website redesign project has stalled. It proposes to form a small subcommittee to revisit progress and develop a timeline.
- Minutes through March 2023 have been posted to the HPAC website (hornerpark.org).

New Business:

- **Monarch Butterfly Habitat**
 - Kirsten suggested the creation of a monarch butterfly habitat in the park. Erica suggested Kristen reach out to Spark Montessori for potential collaboration.
- **Sara Feingenholtz Introduction:**
 - Max Umansky from Sen. Feingenholtz's office presented an overview of her current efforts, and upcoming events.
 - HPAC thanks Sen. Feingenholtz for her support of this year's Concerts Series.

Old Business:

- **Strategic Planning Follow-Up**
 - Diane motioned to make a \$300 donation to Wounded Warriors to thank Joshua Christensen for his efforts facilitating the strategic planning session.
 - Amy seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- **HPAC Internship idea:**
 - The board concluded this is not practical; the topic was tabled indefinitely.
- **Valentine's Day Dance:**
 - The event was an enormous success and was well attended.
- **Arboretum Designation:**
 - No updates.

Announcements:

- **Events:**
 - **April 22:** Earth Day
 - **May 13:** River Day There will be a mulching event at Horner Park.
 - July 23: Friends of the River is discussing a float event, during which attendees jump into the river by the River Park boat launch, and float down to Horner Park.

Motion to Adjourn:

Erica motioned to adjourn at 8:19pm; Diane seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting:

The next HPAC meeting will be Wednesday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the Horner Park Fieldhouse

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday May 3, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted at the Horner Park Fieldhouse**

Attendees:

Erica Beutler
Laura Bolesta
John Friedmann
Amy Jahnke
Jay Lyon
John O'Connell
Ben Ranney
Peter Schlossman
Kirsten Southwell
Diane Sutliff
Alan Mueller (RMIA)
Kerrie Rovito (CPS)
David Post (HPNWLL)
Lola Post (HPNWLL)
Carlton Jones (HPNWLL)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m.

Review of April 2023 Minutes:

- Jay motioned to approve April minutes. Amy seconded. All were in favor. Minutes were approved. John O. mentioned that the last three months of minutes say 2022 at the top.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- Form 990 remains outstanding, while we wait for tax season to subside.
- We have a surplus on hand and are always looking for community input on ways to make our parks better. Please email treasurer@hornerpark.org with questions or suggestions.
- Fifth Third account is still open and will remain so until the end of the summer in case of remnant transactions.
- April Treasurer's Reports and financial statements were sent under separate cover.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **Exercise Equipment Progress:**
 - Final equipment has been ordered, no update on timing
 - **Walking Path Repair/Replacement and Parking Lot Progress:**

- The construction crews are cruising right along. They believe that they will be done with the concrete work in 2-3 weeks. They encountered issues with the parking lot. The drainage system that is in place is not good. They must address the drainage before they are able to resurface. There is no timetable for this yet.
 - **Bottle Filler:**
 - This is on order; we hope to have it installed by July 4th.
 - **Elevator Repair:**
 - Still waiting for parts. They did already do some work to the elevator.
 - **Gym Floors Repair:** No update
 - **Mound:**
 - On Tuesday June 6th, 10am-11:30am, there is a public event sponsored by Earthworks Chicago with CPAC.
 - The fence will stay up until the plantings are done, likely in the fall.
 - **Tree and Grass Replacement:**
 - HPAC observed additional damage to the grass in front of the fieldhouse due to the new concrete sidewalk being poured.
 - **Nature Play Space:**
 - There are native plants planned for the triangle areas, these should be ready to plant mid- to late May.
 - Diane requests signage which states that HPAC funded the Nature Play Space, with a QR code for donating/ learning more.
 - Diane would like to request that Sean put us back in line for a smaller Nature Play Space southeast of the playground.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - **Kiosk Maintenance:**
 - A request was submitted to stain the kiosk.
- **Jacob Playlot Park:**
 - Eric and Deb went to Jacob. They have an idea of where they want the garage to go. It is along the fence where the pavement is. Eric will put together a design of something fun that will encourage the kids to put their ride-ons in there. Still would like to have a small deck box for sand box toys.
- **Sunken Gardens**
 - Waters kids have been weeding the gardens. Waters got a grant from the Awesome Foundation for more gardening supplies and will be planting native plants. Requests more mulch for the gardening beds – same size as before.
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - Diane, Deb, Peter, and Sarah met with Bogdan to discuss fixing the northern part of the park and the area around the sign. Bogdan is going to provide a plan for HPAC to review.

Farmer's Market Committee:

- Our 9th season in our 10th year! The market starts 4 weeks from Saturday!
- **Dates:**
 - We are going to stick with a 20-market season this year. June 3 to October 14.
 - **Kids Day:** Set for September 16.

- **Coffee:**
 - Everyone's priority... YES, Backlot Coffee is back with us this season!
- **Farms:**
 - Avrom Farms is coming back this year and will sell meat and eggs.
 - Also returning are Vangies Farm (flowers and produce), Los Rodrigues Farm (veggies, fruit, and preserves), Global Gardens (hyper local veggies), and Six Generations Farm (veggies and fruit).
 - Kaleido Greens will be with us too (microgreens, herbs, edible flowers, and market sandwiches!)
 - **Returning vendors:**
 - Stamper Cheese, La Boulangerie, Soothsayer Hot Sauce, Dilly Dally Provisions, Hilary's Cookies, Señorita Cupcake, Top Notch Bake Shop, Bartleby's Ice Cream Cakes, Tamales Express, Original Empanoli, Blaqué BÉL Catering.
 - **New vendors:**
 - Lunch Money Macaron: Macarons!
 - FLOUSE Mixes: Spice mixes!
 - Farm to Pet Treats: dog treats!
- **Music:**
 - We will be offering our musicians a stipend again this season. And we have so many musicians interested in playing that many market days will have multiple acts. Thank you to Jason Sperling for coordinating this!
- **Yoga:**
 - We will continue to be responsible for Yoga this season. A neighbor Yogi, Megan Backes, will be our yoga coordinator this season. FREE yoga every week is the plan. We pay a stipend to the instructor each week.
- HPAC thanks Gretchen for continuing to spearhead the market efforts.

Signage Committee:

- The committee had a walk-through with Matt Freer, Maggie Warren (CPD signage person), Lauren Umek and Mike Raczyla from CPD.
- Ball is in CPD's court for additions and changes to the signs in the riverfront nature area. They appeared to take some of Kirsten's suggestions into consideration.

Stewardship Committee:

- Earth Day clean up and gardening activities were held at Ravenswood Manor, Buffalo, Sunken Gardens and Jacob Parks on April 22. All except Buffalo had tree mulching. Thanks to Trim-Tex associates for coming out to Ravenswood Manor Park, where the branch fence was improved.
- John O'Connell's article in the RMIA (Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association) Newsletter, Ravenswood Manor Park: The Crown Jewel of the Manor, outlining the park's history and a call for volunteers, was recently published, and distributed in the neighborhood. It is also posted on their website.

- Michael Risella (CPD nature area manager) is looking into removing the plastic rails and replacing them with wooden rails on some of the paths.
- Sunken and Jacob will not have River Day activities as there is still no clarity between MWRD and the CPD on riverbank engagement. Ben Ranney sent an email regarding riverbank property control and has requested HPAC formally reach out to CPD now to determine how to initiate the process for entering into leases with the MWRD, same as the other parks with riverfront in the area. John F. has volunteered to research this.
- **Upcoming events:**
 - **River Day:** Saturday, May 13 – volunteer slots have been filled, but 10 additional spots have been opened (Email John F. to sign up). Mulching trails around the river with a semi-load of mulch.
 - **It's Your Park Day:** June 3

Concerts Committee:

- The Concert Committee continues its fundraising efforts, with the deadline approaching. We will make a final push for sponsors and subscribers, as we still have not reached our goal.
- The first show is on June 16th. The shows are every other week.

312 RiverRun Committee:

- They are currently in the last push for getting sponsors and are looking for volunteers. There are more than 100 signups so far; last year the race was filled at the last minute.

Nominating Committee: No report

Horner BrewFest Committee:

- This is the 5th year - July 21; Daniel has lined up 30 breweries; it is going to be the biggest event ever.
- Tickets went on sale May 15.
- Glasses have been donated by Hound Custom Screen Printing.
- John F. makes a motion for \$10,000 for expenses for the BrewFest, to be offset by income as it has been in the past. Motion passes, none were opposed.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:

- **Fundraising:**
 - MOJO DOGCO is starting a quarterly pack walk, proceeds will go to the DFA.
 - Spring cleanup has been completed, and water is on for the season.
 - Mulch will be delivered at the end of May; the dog park will be closed for a few days while mulch is distributed throughout the space.
 - The splash pad will need to have hard-wired electricity, which will be incorporated as part of redoing the nearby sidewalk (responsibility of CPD). There is currently no timeline for completion.

- Erica has asked if there is a space somewhere in the park to keep a wheelbarrow. Diane moves to spend up to \$300 on a wheelbarrow for the DFA for when we can find space; Erica seconds. Alan opposed. The motion passed.

Communications Committee:

- Question from Amy about how to handle incoming emails to stewardship, to avoid duplicate replies. Brief discussion resolved in:
 - Daniel can forward questions to Deb, with others filling in as needed.
 - Peter will handle all other issues, delegating to others as appropriate.
- Erica's access to the stewardship@ email has been fixed.
- Amy is working on getting HPAC's Google Workspace for Nonprofits set up so we can transition email to that space. We are currently waiting for HPAC's profile to be verified, which can take up to a week.

Website Committee: No report

New Business:

- **Ceriale memorial:** the flag is not lit; Deb is going to ask the electricians if a solar-mounted light can be put on the flag.

Old Business:

- **Arboretum Designation:**
 - No updates.
- **Elevator Speech:**
 - John O. asks everyone in the subcommittee to look at this and review.

Announcements:

- **Events:**
 - **May 13:** River Day.
 - **July 23:** Friends of the River is discussing a float event, during which attendees jump into the river by the River Park boat launch, and float down to Horner Park. More details to come.

Motion to Adjourn:

Peter motioned to adjourn at 8:14pm; Diane seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting:

The next HPAC meeting will be Wednesday, June 7 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Horner Park Fieldhouse

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday June 7, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted at the Horner Park Fieldhouse**

Attendees:

John Friedmann
Daniel Honigman
Jay Lyon
John O'Connell
Josh Richards
Peter Schlossman
Kirsten Southwell
Alan Mueller (RMIA)
David Post (HPNWLL)
Lola Post (HPNWLL)
Carlton Jones (HPNWLL)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Review of May 2023 Minutes:

- Jay motioned to approve the May minutes. Daniel seconded. All were in favor. The minutes were approved. Prior 2023 meeting minutes have been amended from 2022 to 2023 where needed.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- Revised April Treasurer's Reports and the May Reports and financial statements were sent under separate cover.
- Please note the revised figures for April on the Treasurer's Report, where funds were reallocated from Farmer's Market Income to DFA (Dog Friendly Area) Income.
- In May we saw successful fundraising for Concerts and for the Mulch Campaign for the DFA. Also, the Farmer's Market continues bringing in funding for HPAC. There were only minor expenses, and we begin to see expenditures for the upcoming BrewFest.
- The remaining balance at Fifth Third Bank was transferred to Chase, only to have two Amazon Smile contributions show up. Those will be transferred to Chase as well to hopefully close that account for good.
- The contribution to the Wounded Warrior Project was made in May, as a thank you to Joshua Christensen for his group workshop facilitation.
- Diane continues to follow up with the new potential CPA to complete our 990 forms. They have been recovering from tax season.
- HPAC has a healthy bank balance and new initiatives and ideas are always welcome. Please email treasurer@hornerpark.org with questions or suggestions.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **Exercise Equipment Progress:**
 - No update.
 - **Walking Path Repair/Replacement and Parking Lot Progress:**
 - The drainage has been addressed. About one quarter of the parking lot has been repaved. The soccer field has also been repaved.
 - Peter will connect with Deb about grading around the edges of the walk.
 - **Bottle Filler:**
 - No update.
 - **Elevator Repair:**
 - No update.
 - **Gym Floors Repair:**
 - Repairs are expected to be completed once summer programs finish.
 - **Mound:**
 - The June 6th meeting was cancelled, and there are no public meetings scheduled until completion.
 - Planting has been delayed, due to the climate (i.e., dryness).
 - **Tree and Grass Replacement:**
 - No update.
 - **Nature Play Space:**
 - No updates from the May minutes.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - **Kiosk Maintenance:**
 - No update.
 - **Other:**
 - The light is still out.
- **Jacob Playlot Park:**
 - One of the trees in Jacob may need to be watered.
 - Eric has provided a concept for a toy storage crate, made of corrugated metal. The conversation was tabled for further discussion with the Jacob stewards.
- **Sunken Gardens**
 - There is a dead tree at Sunken Gardens on the river walkway.
 - John F. to reach out to MWRD.
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - **Bogdan proposal update:**
 - No update.

Farmer's Market Committee:

- The first market was well attended.

Signage Committee:

- No report.

Stewardship Committee:

- A new steward for Manor Park, Robert Grossman, will help with watering duties. He responded to the RMIA News article on the history of Ravenswood Manor Park.

- More than 60 volunteers came to Horner Park on River Day (May 13) to spread mulch on the river path. Most of the entire length of the lower path was refreshed.
 - Roughly the same number of volunteers (and amount of mulch) will be needed to do the upper path in 2024.
 - Thanks to Friends of the Chicago River and to the Chicago Park District.
 - Thanks to John F. and Peter Schlossman for organizing this massive effort.
- Mulch was delivered to Sunken Gardens and distributed by volunteers. New plants along the riverbank have been installed.
- The planters at Manor and Buffalo Park have been planted.
- A watering kit has been provided for Buffalo Park.
- The ornamental Hawthorn trees, and another one near Francisco at Manor Park show many dead branches that need some trimming. John O. would like to meet there with a CPD arborist. A damaged tree has also been identified at Manor Park near the alley.
- Trash is overflowing at Manor Park. The committee will request a few more trash cans.

Concerts Committee:

- The programs should be in this week, with “thank you” notes going out to sponsors and subscribers. A special Thank You to Committee members Thomas Applegate, Dana Dougherty, Patrick Duffy, John O’Connell, and Peter Schlossman for their fundraising work this year, it was a team effort.
- The concert season poster looks great. Thanks to Kirsten Southwell for her efforts!
- Our first concert is on June 16 at Manor Park.
- A full look at the season, which features one Horner show (July 14), and two Sunday afternoon shows at Manor Park:
 - **Friday, June 16, 7 pm:** Gabe Kuchan & Nate Wilson at Ravenswood Manor Park
 - **Sponsored by:** Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association (RMIA)
 - **Friday, June 30, 7 pm:** Frank Catalano at Ravenswood Manor Park
 - **Sponsored by:** Lyon Communications, and Patrick Duffy, Baird & Warner - North Center
 - **Friday, July 14, 7 pm:** The Delmark All-Star Band featuring Demetria Taylor & Jimmy Burns at Horner Park
 - **Sponsored by:** The Book Cellar, and Patrick Duffy, Baird & Warner - North Center
 - **Sunday, July 16, 2 pm:** Narloch Piano Recital at Ravenswood Manor Park
 - **Sponsored by:** Horner Park Advisory Council
 - **Friday, July 28, 7 pm:** The Red Roses at Ravenswood Manor Park
 - **Sponsored by:** Dreamtown – Susie Kanter Team, and Smart Association Management
 - **Friday, August 11, 7 pm:** LBP School of Dance Recital at Ravenswood Manor Park
 - **Sponsored by:** Horner Park Advisory Council
 - **Sunday, August 13, 2 pm:** Sunday Jazz in the Park with the Horner Park Jazz Band at Ravenswood Manor Park
 - **Sponsored by:** Horner Park Advisory Council
 - **Friday, August 25, 7 pm:** Nathan Graham at Ravenswood Manor Park

- **Sponsored by:** Albank, and Pfaff, Gill & Ports
- **Friday, September 8, 7 pm:** Luciano Antonio Duo at Jacob Playlot Park
 - **Sponsored by:** The Old Town School of Folk Music
- Volunteers are still needed for shows.
- Jay to put together a “run-of-show” for future event volunteers.
- The committee may need new stands for the lights. Jay will gather prices.

312 RiverRun Committee:

- The committee is ordering shirts; ticket sales are a little slower but nearing 400.
- Peter will provide Amy with materials for an upcoming email.

Nominating Committee:

- Peter Schlossman and John O’Connell have met to discuss next steps in preparation for developing a slate for the 2023 fall election.
- Preliminary calls are being made to various PAC members, seeking input and gauging interest in serving in the upcoming term.
- We will need volunteers for a Nominating Committee meeting by late July or August.
- **HPAC member diversity:**
 - No update.
- **HPAC elevator speech:**
 - No update.

Horner BrewFest Committee:

- There are now nearly 35 breweries lined up. There are several food trucks confirmed.
- We have asked Bumpus to perform.
- Permits have been applied for.
- Early Bird tickets are still available, and volunteers are needed.
- Jay to provide lights for BrewFest.
- Tickets went on sale May 15.
- Glasses have been donated by Hound Custom Screen Printing.
- John F. makes a motion for \$10,000 for expenses for the BrewFest, to be offset by income as it has been in the past. Motion passes, none were opposed.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:

- **Fundraising:**
 - No report.
- **Build:**
 - The dog park has been regraded and additional mulch put down.
 - No update on the splash pad

Communications Committee:

- Amy is still working on the Gmail issue.

- We have concerts and Brewfest content for an email newsletter (hopefully next week) - if people have other stuff for me to include, please send it to Amy by Friday, June 9.

Website Committee:

- The committee is unsure if Kevin is available to investigate a PayPal issue that Jay is having. If not, Amy will try to look into it the week of June 11.
- Minutes through April 2023 have been posted to the HPAC website (hornerpark.org).

New Business:

- **Spending Committee:**
 - Peter and others will form a Spending Committee to explore how HPAC should spend its funds.

Old Business:

- **Light for Ceriale memorial:**
 - No update.
- **Arboretum designation:**
 - The process is continuing; however, the official “tree tagging” is being delayed to the fall.
- **Strategic planning follow up:**
 - John O. and Peter request feedback on the elevator speech and diversity statement. (They will send it out again.) Elements may also be incorporated into future communications efforts (e.g., HPAC brochure).
- **Path edging at the riverfront:**
 - Mike Raczyla to provide a proposal for path edging.

Announcements:

- **Events:**
 - **July 23:** Friends of the River is discussing a float event, during which attendees jump into the river by the River Park boat launch, and float down to Horner Park. More details to come.
 - **August 5:** Tree Walk with Openlands.

Motion to Adjourn:

Jay motioned to adjourn at 8:15pm; Kirsten seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting:

The next HPAC meeting will be Wednesday, July 5 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Horner Park Fieldhouse

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday July 5, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted at the Horner Park Fieldhouse**

Attendees:

Athene Carras
John Friedmann
Daniel Honigman
Al Kelly
Jay Lyon
Alan Mueller (RMIA)
John O'Connell
Peter Schlossman
Kirsten Southwell
Diane Sutliff
Tiffany Wong
Deb Groh (Chicago Parks District)
David Post (HPNWLL)
Lola Post (HPNWLL)
Carlton Jones (HPNWLL)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Review of June 2023 Minutes:

- Diane motioned to approve the June minutes. John O. seconded. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- The June 2023 Financial Report was sent under separate cover.
- With the payment completed for the DFA (Dog Friendly Area) wood chips, HPAC has fulfilled its promise of \$15,000 worth of support for the Dog Friendly Area.
- Upfront expenditures for the Horner BrewFest were made in June and July
- The Farmer's Market continues to bring in funds.
- Payments to artists and sound engineers are continuing for the Concert Series; contributions are still being made.
- Formal Treasurer's reports to be sent under separate cover.
- Form 990 has been filed.
- HPAC continues to have a healthy bank balance. New initiatives and ideas are always welcome. Please email treasurer@hornerpark.org with questions or suggestions.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **Exercise Equipment Progress:**
 - No update.
 - **Walking Path Repair/Replacement and Parking Lot Progress:**
 - Completed, except for demobilization.
 - John has inquired about remediation of disturbed soil but did not receive a response as of the July 2023 HPAC meeting.
 - **Bottle Filler:**
 - No update.
 - **Elevator Repair:**
 - No update.
 - **Mini Pitch Repair:**
 - The mini pitch continues to be worked on; it may be done within a week.
 - **Gym Floors Repair:**
 - Repairs are still expected to be completed once summer programs end.
 - **Mound:**
 - Native plant plugs were placed this week on and around the Native American mound at the south end of the park to complete the last phase of construction. The contractor is handling watering requirements with hoses and sprinklers.
 - **Tree and Grass Replacement:**
 - No update.
 - **Nature Play Space:**
 - No update.
 - **Other:**
 - The new sidewalks handled the weekend rain event perfectly. Some grading still must be done around the sides with soil added.
 - A bit of poison ivy was spotted by the upper river path, opposite the hill. Deb will send Lauren to follow up.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - **Kiosk Maintenance:**
 - The request is in for it to be stained.
 - **Other:**
 - Watering duties at Manor Park are assumed by Robert Grossman, with John O'Connell backing up as needed.
 - The garbage pickup schedule seems dysfunctional.
 - Planters at Manor Park and Buffalo are completed and maintained.
 - Crocheted 'yarn bombs' and yarn patterns have been appearing on fences at Ravenswood Manor Park.
 - A section of the alley fence at RM Park needs repair.
 - The streetlight at Francisco and Eastwood is working again.
 - The lights were fixed.

- **Jacob Playlot Park:**
 - Bea Tersch can no longer steward Jacob Park. Dana Dougherty has agreed to succeed her as principal steward. Dana would like to purchase some new plant materials and will seek funds,
 - Since Bea Tersch is stepping down from Jacob, John O. suggests all future proposals are tabled until someone else takes over.
 - There is a loose utility wire near the river that could pose a hazard. It is not broken, but it is only five feet off the ground now. It is touching the fence and vines are climbing on it. It may pose a hazard, so investigation is requested.
 - John O. made a motion to approve up to \$500 for additional Jacob Park general maintenance (bulbs, mulch, etc.) Diane seconded the motion. All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed.
 - The water fountain is working.
 - Jacob Park was recently “ribbon bombed.”
- **Sunken Gardens**
 - The new plantings done by Kerrie Rovito and the Waters Elementary students were hit hard by dry weather; hopefully, some will survive.
 - The dead tree was removed.
 - Jay followed up with the MWRD.
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - **Bogdan proposal update:**
 - Bogdan said he would develop a proposal for additional planting.
 - **Other:**
 - Peter Schlossman is maintaining the plantings. A plan for the barren area is in development. A border trench was already dug.

Farmer’s Market Committee:

- Kirsten received a request about the market taking SNAP benefits, which was forwarded to Gretchen.

Signage Committee:

- No report.

Stewardship Committee:

- There is a volunteer peach tree at Jacob that needs CPD assessment. It may need removal.
- Ben Ranney assumed principal steward duties at Sunken. He reports MWRD removed a large dead tree trunk that was hanging precariously from an adjacent tree on the Sunken Garden riverbank. In the process they cut down a large buckthorn and a massive Ailanthus altissima (Tree of Heaven), both nasty invasives. (Both species are notorious for re-sprouting if not treated with herbicide at the time of removal, which it does not appear was done) so we should expect a lengthy process of managing new sprouts as they come up.

- The brush pile terracing that had been built up to reduce riverbank erosion was also removed, so we will need to keep a close eye on erosion. There is a lot more sunlight making it to the ground now, which should make it easier for native plants to grow and hold the soil in place, but it will take time and effort to get those established. We may want to consider investing in some native plants and shrubs this fall if the budget allows.
- John O. will meet with Jerome Scott (CPD forestry expert) to discuss tree trimming around the various HPAC parks, including Ravenswood Manor Park.
- A new steward for Manor Park, Robert Grossman, will help with watering duties. He responded to the RMIA News article on the history of Ravenswood Manor Park.
- The mulch was washed out at Horner Park; if there were a retaining wall, there is a chance this would not have happened.
- John F. and Kirsten met with an outdoor educator about providing nature tours along the river in association with River Day.
- Deb to place a request that trash is cleaned up from parks after each concert.
- There was not much trash left over from July 4th festivities.

Concerts Committee:

- The John O'Connell Summer Concert Series got off with a bang on June 16 with HPAC's first show of the season. Local musicians Gabe Kuchan and Nate Wilson and their band entertained a great crowd.
- We expect the Frank Catalano show to have a strong attendance on June 30, and at the Delmark Records 70th Anniversary All-Star Band show on July 14.
- The Committee raised almost the exact same amount as last year, so our fundraising was a success. Many thanks again to John O'Connell, Patrick Duffy, Dana Dougherty, and Thomas Applegate for all their hard work.
- Kirsten Southwell's graphics for the program, the banners and the posters have been very well received. With the help of Amy Jahnke, we already have concert emails scheduled for the rest of the season.
- Due to the concert name change, a temporary banner will be put up for the rest of the season and updated next year.
- Jay Lyon purchased new light stands and they worked out well at the first show.
- Electrical was approved for Concerts setup.
- The new garden lead asked Jay about hosting an additional event after the garden walk 7/23. There has been no response from the CPD permit department on this.
- The old PA system was lent indefinitely to the Horner Park Jazz Band. Deb should be CCed on all future requests from the Horner Park Jazz Band.

312 RiverRun Committee:

- The RiverRun was on June 24 and was a success with 400+ signups (370+ runners).
- There was no large race timer at the finish line. It has been purchased. It would be nice to hang it up high at the finish line.
- The committee thanks all volunteers, CPD and sponsors for event assistance.
- Deb requested more volunteers and more water jugs at the finish line water table.

Nominating Committee:

- Peter Schlossman and John O'Connell have met to discuss next steps in preparation for developing a slate for the 2023 fall election.
- Preliminary calls are being made to various PAC members, seeking input and gauging interest in serving in the upcoming term.
- We will need volunteers to convene a Nominating Committee meeting by late July or August. The next report should be submitted for the September meeting.
- **HPAC member diversity:**
 - No update.
- **HPAC elevator speech:**
 - The proposed elevator speech was read at the meeting.
 - John O. made a motion to adopt the "elevator speech" as written. John F. seconded the motion. All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed.
 - John O. will share the finalized statement with the Website Committee to post on the website.

Needs Assessment Task Force Subcommittee:

- Diane, John F. Jay, Kirsten, John O., Daniel will serve on the committee.

Horner BrewFest Committee:

- The committee received the liquor license.
- Many key elements (e.g., band, security, fencing, permit, etc.) have been completed.
- There are now nearly 35 breweries lined up. There are several food trucks confirmed.
- Early Bird tickets are still available; volunteers are needed – especially for breakdown.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:

- **Fundraising:**
 - **Mulch Fundraising:** \$2,000 left to go.
 - **Electrical Fundraising:** \$5,000 left to go.
- **Build and Maintenance:**
 - Additional/extra mulch was delivered but will not be installed yet in the area outside the dog park because grass will be planted there; it is currently in the parking lot next to the Nature Play Space.
 - The fountain activator will be on for an hour at a time throughout the day (odd hours of the day).
 - The DFA is still in conversation with the Park District about the splash pad.
 - The DFA is recruiting monthly cleanup volunteers.

Communications Committee:

- All emails for concert series are complete and/or scheduled to be sent.

- The website calendar has been updated with summer events. If you oversee an event, please log in to the calendar and put your event on there. If you need an invitation to edit the calendar, please let Amy know.
- Amy is continuing to explore the email issue.

Website Committee:

- Minutes through May 2023 have been posted to the HPAC website (hornerpark.org).
- The duplicate calendar issue has been fixed.

New Business:

- Daniel and/or Amy to respond to the Winnemac Park Advisory Council request for social media guidance.

Old Business:

- **Light for Ceriale memorial:**
 - No update.
- **Arboretum designation:**
 - No update.
- **Strategic planning follow up:**
 - Addressed under the Nominating Committee report.
- **Path edging at the riverfront:**
 - No update.

Announcements:

- **Events:**
 - **July 23:** Friends of the River is discussing a float party, during which attendees jump into the river by the River Park boat launch, and float down to Horner Park. More details to come.
 - **August 5:** Tree Walk event with Openlands.

Motion to Adjourn:

Daniel motioned to adjourn at 8:05 pm; John F. seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting:

The next HPAC meeting will be Wednesday, August 2 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Horner Park Fieldhouse

Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday August 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted at the Horner Park Fieldhouse

Attendees:

Athene Carras
Daniel Honigman
Jay Lyon
Mike Melgar
Alan Mueller (RMIA)
John O'Connell
Peter Schlossman
Kirsten Southwell
Sarah Tews
Deb Groh (Chicago Parks District)
David Post (HPNWLL)
Lola Post (HPNWLL)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Introductions

Review of July 2023 Minutes:

- Daniel made a motion to table the July Minutes approval until the September meeting.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- The July 2023 Financial Reports will be delayed and sent under separate cover.
- July was a robust fundraising month for HPAC:
 - The 312 River Run participation fees have arrived, and a final summary of profit/expenses will be included in the monthly Treasurer's Report, distributed separately. HPAC will share half of the proceeds with Clark Park in August.
 - Most expenses and income from Brewfest appear in the Treasurer's Report as well, but a final tally will be made in August after all checks have cleared and expenses have been presented.
- HPAC paid the Park District for our portion of the Nature Play Space; the initiative is officially closed.
- HPAC continues to have a healthy bank balance. New initiatives and ideas are always welcome. Please email treasurer@hornerpark.org with questions or suggestions.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **Exercise Equipment Progress:**
 - Excavation will begin August 14.
 - **Walking Path Repair/Replacement and Parking Lot Progress:**
 - Completed; there is still some extra dirt, and some spots to be reseeded.
 - **Bottle Filler:**
 - No update.
 - **Elevator Repair:**
 - No update.
 - **Mini Pitch Repair:**
 - The mini pitch work is almost done.
 - **Gym Floors Repair:**
 - No update.
 - **Mound:**
 - Plants are being watered and maintained as necessary.
 - **Tree and Grass Replacement:**
 - It will be done in the fall; more trees will be planted than originally thought.
 - **Fieldhouse Plantings:**
 - Diane requested a proposal for plantings on the northwest side of the fieldhouse. Deb to reach out to Bogdan for follow up.
 - **Other:**
 - The poison ivy near the upper river path was removed.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - **Kiosk Maintenance:**
 - No update on the stain request.
 - **Other:**
 - The alley fence has not been repaired yet.
- **Jacob Playlot Park:**
 - Dana Dougherty requested a shaded area be constructed.
 - More sand and fibar should be added to the playground soon.
 - The 40th Ward office reached out to ComEd on the loose wire.
- **Sunken Gardens**
 - No update.
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - **Bogdan proposal update:**
 - No update.

Horner BrewFest Committee:

- The 2023 BrewFest was the most successful one yet.
- Thanks to John F., Daniel, Peter, and the rest of the committee; all volunteers, sponsors, and everyone else involved.
- The event was at capacity (500 ticketed attendees).
- There were 33 total brewer sponsors.
- Gross sales were about \$27,000; net income to HPAC (minus expenses) is about \$16,000.

Nominating Committee:

- The Nominating Committee has met. It still must determine a couple of slots on the slate, but it will be announced at the September meeting.

Farmer's Market Committee:

- No report.

Concerts Committee:

- The John O'Connell Summer Concert Series continues to be successful. The July 14 show for Delmark Records' 70th Anniversary was a big hit and had a great crowd despite the threat of rain. We managed to get the entire show in, and the rain started when we were packing up the PA equipment.
- The threat of rain forced us to reschedule the July 28 performance of The Red Roses; it will now be August 27 from 5-7 p.m. The band requested this schedule change out of concern for its equipment.
- We have LBP School of Dance on August 11 and the Horner Park Jazz Band on August 13 both shows at Ravenswood Manor Park (the August 13 show is at 2:00 p.m.).
- The committee will take an active role with the new Needs Assessment Committee to ensure concerts can continue at the levels to which our constituents are accustomed.
- A show was added on July 23 after the garden walk.
- The committee has a new sign that will be used for upcoming concerts.

Needs Committee:

- Diane, Erica, John F. Jay, Kirsten, John O., Peter, and Daniel will serve on the committee. (This list has grown from what was reported in the July meeting.)

Signage Committee:

- No report.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:

- **Fundraising:**
 - The Dog Days at Burning Bush fundraiser is planned for 8/24, 6-9 p.m.
 - \$25 donation for a custom beer glass human or dog treat ticket.
 - Extra tickets will be available for purchase, 1 for \$3, 2 for \$5.
- **Build and Maintenance:**
 - No updates on splash pad or mulch.
 - The DFA continues to recruit new volunteers for regular maintenance.

Stewardship Committee:

- John O met with CPD Natural Resources Staff member Jerome Scott at Manor and Buffalo Parks, regarding tree trimming. He suggested organizing a Openlands TreeKeeper workday for both parks and to trim parkway trees they

have helped to plant in the neighborhood over the past decade. He trimmed some of the hawthorns in Buffalo.

- Al DeRue and Molly Roche from Openlands met with John O'Connell. They will organize a TreeKeeper day for the fall for Ravenswood Manor and Buffalo Parks. They will determine if the parkway trees in the neighborhood, that were planted, need trimming. A separate day could be planned for Horner. John will meet Molly at Manor Park on 8/3 to survey the scene.
 - John will be sure to talk to Molly about tree planting on California Ave.
- Bogdan submitted a quote for a new planting arrangement at Buffalo. A motion was made and seconded to approve the bid.
- **Other:**
 - The River Float event (run by Friends of the River) was cancelled.
 - Kirsten suggested hosting some sort of nature event to raise awareness for the natural area.

Communications Committee:

- Please send Amy event or newsletter updates by August 7 for the next HPAC email.
- Amy is continuing to explore the email issue.

Website Committee:

- Minutes through June 2023 have been posted to the HPAC website (hornerpark.org).

New Business:

- **Horner Park Jazz Band fiscal agency:**
 - The Horner Park Jazz Band wants HPAC to be its fiscal agent. Further discussions to follow.
- **Other:**
 - HPAC wishes to recognize Terri Sandblom and all her efforts through the years in support of the Dog Friendly Area.

Old Business:

- **Light for Ceriale memorial:**
 - Deb to explore whether a solar-powered light can be installed.
- **Arboretum designation:**
 - No update.
- **Strategic planning follow up:**
 - No update.
- **Path edging at the riverfront:**
 - No update.

Announcements:

- **Events:**
 - **August 5:** Tree Walk event with Openlands.

Motion to Adjourn:

Daniel motioned to adjourn at 8:02 pm; Jay seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting:

The next HPAC meeting will be Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Horner Park Fieldhouse

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday September 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted at the Horner Park Fieldhouse**

Attendees:

Charlie Corwin
Dennis Costanzo
Erica Beutler
John Friedmann
Amy Jahnke
Jay Lyon
John O'Connell
Peter Schlossman
Kirsten Southwell
Diane Sutliff
Sara Zimmerman
Deirdre O'Conner (40th Ward Office)
Alan Mueller (RMIA)
Deb Groh (Chicago Parks District)
Carlton Jones (HPNWLL)
David Post (HPNWLL)
Lola Post (HPNWLL)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Introductions

Review of July and August 2023 Minutes:

- Jay made a motion to approve the July and August minutes. Erica seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- The August 2023 Financial Reports were sent under separate cover.
- Activity begins to slow down as we near the end of our busy period. Committee members are asked to submit all receipts for reimbursement now so they can be paid and deposited by you before the month's end.
- DFA funds totaling \$50,000 were invested in a six-month CD; interest generated from that will be allocated to the DFA.
- We await a large payment from Brown Paper Tickets for the BrewFest.
- Please email treasurer@hornerpark.org with any ideas for new initiatives or other suggestions.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **Exercise Equipment Progress:**
 - Excavation has begun. The concrete pour is expected soon. Backfill, seeding and protective fencing will be in place by the end of September. The slab will be ready for gear installation upon delivery.
 - **Walking Path Repair/Replacement and Parking Lot Progress:**
 - Completed; there is still some extra dirt, and some spots to be reseeded. Peter will send letters of thanks.
 - **Fieldhouse Bottle Filler:**
 - No update.
 - **Elevator Repair:**
 - There was software incompatibility; we await new parts/software.
 - **Mini Pitch Repair:**
 - The mini pitch work is still incomplete.
 - **Gym Floors Repair:**
 - No update. Peter will investigate and reach out as needed.
 - **Earth Mound Progress Report:**
 - All the plants are in, but they were not watered so two oak trees must be replaced by the contractor. The opening date is TBD.
 - **Front Lawn Tree and Grass Replacement:**
 - Planting of new trees is on hold until trees that must be removed are out.
 - **Fieldhouse Front Native Shrub Garden:**
 - We will schedule a meeting with Bogdan for late September/early October.
 - Diane requested a proposal for plantings on the northwest side of the fieldhouse. Deb to reach out to Bogdan for follow up.
 - **Other:**
 - The Park District is working with the Chicago Department of Family Support and Services for rehousing services to assist these neighbors currently dwelling near the Nature Play Space.
 - Pickle ball/tennis usage rules signage is needed, which must be generated by CPD.
 - The poison ivy near the upper river path was removed.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - **Kiosk Maintenance:**
 - No update on the stain request.
 - **Other:**
 - The alley fence has not been repaired yet.
- **Jacob Playlot Park:**
 - Sandbox shade research continues.
 - The 40th Ward office reached out to ComEd on the loose wire. This remains unresolved.
- **Sunken Gardens**
 - No report.
- **Buffalo Park:**

- Perennial garden was planted and is being watered by Bogdan and park steward Sara Zimmerman, who added new plants to the corner gardens.

Nominating Committee:

- The following individuals have agreed to serve two-year terms if elected:
 - President: Peter Schlossman
 - Vice President, Stewardship: John Friedmann
 - Vice President, Communications and Community Outreach: Kirsten Southwell
 - Secretary: Daniel Honigman
 - Secretary: Sara Zimmerman
 - Treasurer: Diane Sutliff
 - Assistant Treasurer: Athene Caras

HPAC members eligible to vote are invited to self-nominate for any of these positions.

The Nominating Committee will review the bylaws and recommend changes.

Farmer's Market Committee:

- No report.

Concerts Committee:

- August brought four shows to Manor Park: the LBP School of Dance recital, a Sunday afternoon Jazz in the Park featuring the Horner Park Jazz Band, Nathan Graham and the rescheduled The Red Roses show from July. All were well attended and well received.
- Our last show of the year will be September 8 at Jacob Park, with the Luciano Antonio Duo in a show sponsored by the Old Town School of Folk Music.
- The Committee will have a year-end wrap up in September or October. It has ideas about 2024 and will hit the ground running.
- Jay would like to especially thank Patrick Duffy and his family for their assistance at shows this year, as well as John O'Connell and Alan Mueller for diligent program distribution. Also, thanks to Kirsten Southwell for her great design work and Peter Schlossman for helping with concert-related matters.
- Jay put in a request with aldermanic rep Deirdre O'Connor for support with the cost of a portable toilet at Manor Park for next year's concerts.

Needs Committee:

- The Needs Assessment Committee met virtually throughout August. It wants to thank the Farmer's Market committee chaired by Gretchen Helmreich, the Brewfest committee chaired by John Friedmann, and the 312 RiverRun Committee chaired by Peter Schlossman. Those teams generated the funds we can use for park improvements.
- The Needs Assessment Committee identified the following areas of interest where we are doing additional research and inquiry:
 - Placement of benches along the RiverBank Trail (inquiry in with Michael Raczyla, CPD Natural Areas Technician).

- Basketball court resurfacing (price estimate \$65-\$70K, with a four-year queue; research will be required for funding avenues).
- Retaining borders for the Riverbank Trail to help keep wood chips in place (inquiry in with Michael Raczyla, CPD Natural Areas Technician).
- Sunshade for the sandbox at Jacob Park (Jacob stewards researching vendors).
- "Northwoods" Nature Play Space to be located near the Horner playlot (a cost proposal request has been made to Sean Schaffer, CPD Nature Play Space coordinator for the features included in an earlier plan).
- Bulletin board for Jacob Park (waiting for quote from CPD).
- Native shrub garden for the front of the fieldhouse (we are to schedule a meeting with Bogdan in September or October, so he can then generate a proposal).
- Light for the Ceriale Memorial (Deb is researching a solar option).
- A dumpster enclosure behind the Horner Park Fieldhouse (Peter to research).
- Suggestions for additional needs are always welcome, and people with a particular interest in the initiatives above are invited to join the subcommittees that are forming now. Thanks to Deb Groh for making inquiries on our behalf and helping us move these ideas forward.
- We have no actionable items at this time.

Signage Committee:

- No report.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:

- **Fundraising:**
 - The Dog Days at Burning Bush fundraiser is complete, and funds were received
 - The 2024 calendar contest will soon be underway.
- **Build and Maintenance:**
 - Electrical was completed in August and the spray feature began running August 10. After some adjustments, they are now running at odd hours. With that, the project is mostly complete, despite some items that we are not happy with (low spots that need drainage, no activator on the spray feature). We will remit payment for the remaining \$116,696.
 - We are in discussions regarding bringing some prairie space to the small area by the hotbox and are still asking the Park District when they will remediate the area outside of the DFA. Deb is following up on that.
 - There will be a volunteer recruitment meeting pizza party on September 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Horner Park Fieldhouse.

Stewardship Committee:

- Buffalo Park was planted by Bogdan. A Serviceberry will soon be planted. They will water three times a week into September.
- A tree identification clinic and tree trimming will be held at Horner Park on Monday, September 18 at noon.
- A tree trimming event for Ravenswood Manor and Buffalo Parks with Openlands TreeKeepers will be staged on Monday October 23 starting at 9:00 a.m.

- John O. consulted with Openlands TreeKeepers regarding the four pear trees along California at Sunnyside (near Buffalo Park) that HPAC planted 30 years ago. They are near the end of their lifespan and are prone to splitting. It was recommended we work with the city to have them removed and the roots drilled. We can then work with Openlands on replacements.
- Year-end receipts from stewards have been requested.

Communications Committee:

- No report.

Website Committee:

- No report.

New Business:

- **Basketball court lights:**
 - More community input is needed.
- **Horner Park Jazz Band:**
 - Dennis Constanzo thanks HPAC for helping with funding for equipment and instruments. HPAC will coordinate all requests through Dennis.

Old Business:

- **Arboretum designation:**
 - No update.
- **Strategic planning follow up:**
 - We need a chair of the Diversity subcommittee.
 - Erica formulated a DEI approach, but there is no report yet.
 - We should also revisit our conclusions document and decide on other priority goals, which we can prioritize and seek to accomplish.

Announcements:

- **Events:**
 - **October 14:** Pumpkin Patch from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Horner Park.
 - **October (date TBD):** Bonfire at the Nature Play Space.

Motion to Adjourn:

Jay motioned to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Amy seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting:

The next HPAC meeting will be Wednesday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Horner Park Fieldhouse

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday October 4, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted at the Horner Park Fieldhouse**

Attendees:

Athene Carras
Daniel Honigman
David Harris
Diane Sutliff
Erica Beutler
Jeffrey Walter
John O'Connell
Pat Casler
Peter Schlossman
Kirsten Southwell
Sara Zimmerman
Deb Groh (Chicago Parks District)
Carlton Jones (HPNWLL)
David Post (HPNWLL)
Lola Post (HPNWLL)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Introductions

Review of September 2023 Minutes:

- Daniel made a motion to approve the September minutes. Diane seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

Reports:

Nominating Committee / Election of Officers:

- The committee nominates the following individuals for two-year terms:
 - **President:** Peter Schlossman
 - **Co-Vice President, Stewardship:** John Friedmann
 - **Co-Vice President, Communications/Community Outreach:** Kirsten Southwell
 - **Treasurer:** Diane Sutliff
 - **Assistant Treasurer:** Athene Caras
 - **Co-Secretary:** Daniel Honigman
 - **Co-Secretary:** Sara Zimmerman
- Diane made a motion to vote on the slate. Daniel seconded the nominations. There were no other comments or officer nominations.
 - **Vote:** All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed, with all elected.

- John O. moved to adopt a resolution thanking Amy Jahnke and Gretchen Helmreich for their many years of service as Vice President of Communications and Community Outreach and Assistant Treasurer, respectively. Peter seconded the motion.
 - **Vote:** All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed.

Bylaws Revisions:

- Suggested edits to the bylaws were sent under separate cover.
- An additional suggestion was made about term limits.
- Bylaws revisions will be voted upon in the November 2023 meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

- The September 2023 Financial Reports show the final numbers for the fiscal year ending September 30, and were sent under separate cover.
- The Treasurer expressed her appreciation to the team leadership and innumerable volunteers on the initiatives below for such a successful season.
- HPAC has paid the Phase Two invoice to the Chicago Park District (CPD) for the Dog Friendly Area (DFA). Additional DFA funds totaling \$50,000 were invested in a six-month CD; interest generated from that will be allocated to the DFA.
 - The Treasurer made a motion to recognize Erica's efforts with the DFA. Peter second the motion.
 - **Vote:** All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed.
- Fundraising for the Concert Series was on par with last year. While the cost for artists' fees was essentially unchanged, there were additional concert infrastructure expenses this year.
- HPAC received the payment from Brown Paper Tickets for the BrewFest.
- The Treasurer will work with the Needs Assessment Committee during the winter on recommendations for using money to enhance the parks under HPAC's umbrella.
- Please email treasurer@hornerpark.org with ideas for new initiatives or other suggestions.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **Exercise Equipment Progress:**
 - Installation should begin in the first week of November.
 - **Walking Path Repair/Replacement and Parking Lot Progress:**
 - Peter sent thank-you notes to the appropriate CPD contacts.
 - **Fieldhouse Bottle Filler:** No update.
 - **Elevator Repair:**
 - The inspection will occur on October 5.
 - **Mini Pitch Repair:**
 - The mini pitch work is still incomplete.
 - **Gym Floors Repair:**
 - The gym floor repair will be delayed due to moisture problems.
 - **Earth Mound Progress Report:**
 - The two oak trees must still be replaced by the contractor.

- Some minor construction is required for the pathway and mound top repair settling and water damage from heavy rains.
 - **Front Lawn Tree and Grass Replacement:**
 - Steffan Schoenauer is the new CPD contact for trees.
 - Planting of new trees remains on hold until the old trees are removed.
 - Grass replacement will likely occur once the trees are replaced.
 - **Fieldhouse Front Native Shrub Garden:**
 - Bogdan will meet with Peter and others on the 16th. Please tell Peter if you want to attend.
 - **Other:**
 - Several additional trees came down; Peter will take photos and share with Deb.
 - Those dwelling near the Nature Play Space have been rehoused.
 - Diane motioned to spend up to \$150 on supplies for the upcoming bonfire event on October 11 and up to \$300 on supplies for the Turkey Trot. John O. seconded the motion.
 - All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - **Kiosk Maintenance / Alley Fence Repair:**
 - The alley fence has not been repaired yet. Deb reached out to CPD.
- **Jacob Playlot Park:**
 - The loose wire is not electrical, but a cable or data line. Deirdre from the 40th Ward office reached out to see if it can get addressed.
- **Sunken Gardens:** No report.
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - A new tree has been staked and will likely be planted next year.

Farmer's Market Committee:

- The market has two weeks left, with the last one on October 14. The committee is excited about the CPD pumpkin patch that day as well.
- A full season summary will be sent after the market closes for the year, and before the November 2023 meeting.

Concerts Committee:

- The committee thinks the 2023 season was a success and will soon begin work on the 2024 season.

Needs Assessment Committee:

- The Needs Assessment Committee is continuing to research the following initiatives:
 - **Placement of benches along the RiverBank Trail:** Per Deb, the Natural Areas team has discussed ways to get more benches and are trying to produce a template that would allow our in-house crews to build/install. Until that gains more traction, we must look at our contractor. This approach will cost more.
 - **Basketball court resurfacing:** The price is estimated at \$65-\$70K, with a four-year queue, and research needed for funding avenues. Kirsten will be doing further work on the steps needed to generate the design aspect of this project,

so we will be ready when the resurfacing contractor is funded and on board. It has been suggested that this be submitted for Participatory Budgeting.

- **Retaining borders for the Riverbank Trail:**
 - Wood retaining borders remain the best option, even if it will need ongoing replacement/repair. Deb reports there might be money left in the budget at the end of this year to begin. Because of the project's size and nature, it can be done in segments, with lower trails a higher priority.
 - John F. presented at the CPD's annual budget hearing in mid-September, and the park board agreed to fund the improvement. The budget is to be determined, but John F. will work with CPD to see if funds cannot be released to begin work this year, and complete work by River Day 2024.
- **Jacob Park sandbox sunshade:** Jacob Park stewards to research vendors.
- **"Northwoods" Nature Play Space near the Horner playlot:** A cost proposal request (with features included from an earlier plan) was made to Sean Schaffer (CPD Nature Play Space coordinator) in late August. There has been no reply.
- **Light for the Ceriale Memorial:** Deb is researching a solar option.
- **Dumpster enclosure behind the Horner Park Fieldhouse:** Peter to research.
- **Bulletin board for Jacob Park:** Waiting for a quote from CPD.
- **Native shrub garden for the front of the fieldhouse:** The committee is scheduled to meet Bogdan so he can create a proposal to consider and vote on.
- **Other:**
 - Erica will create a spreadsheet to track all suggestions.
 - Erica suggested that the committee prioritize a suggestion and determine an ask and submit for 33rd Ward Participatory Budgeting consideration.
 - **Air conditioning:** John F. reported that CPD leadership agreed to investigate the air conditioning assessment for Horner Park conducted several years ago and will get HPAC that report.
 - **New suggestion:** Jeff W. and David H. suggested realignment of existing pickleball courts.
 - **New suggestion:** John O. suggested a stage for Horner Park concerts.
- Suggestions for additional needs are welcome, and people with a particular interest in any initiative are invited to join the subcommittees that are forming now. Thanks to Deb Groh for making inquiries on our behalf and helping us move these ideas forward.
- There are no actionable items yet.

Signage Committee: No report.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:

- **Fundraising:**
 - Phase Two has been paid for, with money transferred to the Park District.
 - The Dog Days at Burning Bush fundraiser is complete, and funds were received.
- **Build and Maintenance:**
 - The committee requests assistance to regrade the dog park mulch, as it is piling up at the edges and leaving muddy spots in the middle when it rains. (Is this something the baseball stewards could potentially help with?)
 - Erica will connect David and Laura.
 - There will be a volunteer recruitment meeting pizza party on October 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Horner Park Fieldhouse.

Stewardship Committee:

- There will be a Horner tree pruning on October 16, starting at 9:00 a.m. with Openlands TreeKeepers.
- Ravenswood Manor and Buffalo Parks (and nearby parkways with newer trees) will have a tree trimming with Openlands TreeKeepers on October 23, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- TreeKeepers hosted a recent event at Horner Park to inventory trees.
- Buffalo Park was planted by Bogdan. A Serviceberry will soon be planted. They will water three times a week into September.
- Erica made a motion to thank KPMG volunteers for its recent stewardship efforts on September 14. Daniel second the motion.
 - **Vote:** All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed.

Communications Committee: No report.

Website Committee:

- Minutes through August 2023 have been posted to the HPAC website (hornerpark.org).
- There are lingering issues with the Stewardship email address. Kirsten will investigate.

New Business:

- **Pickleball concerns:** Erica will meet with the pickleball group to learn more.

Old Business:

- **Arboretum designation:** No update.
- **Strategic planning follow up:**
 - We need a chair of the Diversity subcommittee.
 - Erica formulated a DEI approach, but there is no report yet.
 - We should also revisit our conclusions document and decide on other priority goals, which we can prioritize and seek to accomplish.

Announcements:

- **Events:**
 - **October 11:** Bonfire at the Nature Play Space.
 - **October 14:** Pumpkin Patch from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Horner Park.
 - **October 23:** Tree Trimming
 - **November 18:** Turkey Trot at Horner Park.

Motion to Adjourn:

John O. motioned to adjourn at 8:08 pm; Peter seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting:

The next HPAC meeting will be Wednesday, November 1 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Horner Park Fieldhouse

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday November 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted at the Horner Park Fieldhouse**

Attendees:

Athene Carras
Daniel Honigman
David Harris
Erica Beutler
Jay Lyon
John Friedmann
John O'Connell
Peter Schlossman
Kirsten Southwell
Sara Zimmerman
Tim Riggerbach (Chicago Hounds)
Deb Groh (Chicago Parks District)
Carlton Jones (HPNWLL)
David Post (HPNWLL)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Introductions

Review of October 2023 Minutes:

- Daniel motioned to approve the October minutes. John O. seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed and one abstention. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Reports:

Nominating Committee:

- Sara and Athene have attended enough meetings to be officer eligible.
- Alan Mueller will be moving from the area and will be stepping back from the HPAC board.
 - Erica made a motion to recognize Alan for his 35 years of service (and cookies) to the Horner Park Advisory Council.
 - **Vote:** All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed.

Bylaws Revisions:

- Peter received feedback from several HPAC members. Peter will create an updated version that incorporates everyone's feedback and will send it for review.
- Final bylaws revisions will be voted upon in the December 2023 meeting.
- Discussion of potential term limits will be tabled until early 2024.

Treasurer's Report:

- There was minimal activity in October, as the Farmer's Market winds down and the DFA (Dog Friendly Area) continues to gather donations for the annual photo calendar.
- Formal financial reports will be sent under separate cover.
- Please email treasurer@hornerpark.org with ideas for new initiatives or other suggestions.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **Exercise Equipment Progress:**
 - Still expected to be installed in November.
 - **Fieldhouse Bottle Filler:**
 - No update.
 - **Elevator Repair:**
 - The repair is complete.
 - **Mini Pitch Repair:**
 - The mini pitch work has been completed.
 - **Gym Floors Repair:**
 - No update.
 - **Coiled Serpent Mound Progress Report:**
 - We are getting quotes from contractors for the improvements (e.g., redo flagstone, tree replacement).
 - **Front Lawn Tree and Grass Replacement:**
 - The old trees were removed, but Steffan is waiting for all leaves to fall before planting new grass seed.
 - Planting of new trees will now likely occur in spring 2024.
 - **Fieldhouse Front Native Shrub Garden:**
 - No update.
 - **Other:**
 - The October 11 bonfire event went well, despite the rain. It was one of the best-attended bonfire events around the city parks.
 - The pumpkin patch event was also successful.
 - Eric, the woodshop instructor, is back.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - **Kiosk Maintenance / Alley Fence Repair:**
 - No update.
- **Jacob Playlot Park:**
 - The loose cable wire was fixed.
- **Sunken Gardens:**
 - No report.
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - No report.

Farmer's Market Committee:

- There was a 25% sales increase in 2024, and a 33% increase in market spaces.
- The net income from the 2023 season was more than \$10K.
- Daniel made a motion to recognize Gretchen and the committee for a successful season. Peter seconded the motion.
 - **Vote:** All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed.
- The full Farmer's Market end-of-season report was sent under separate cover.

Needs Assessment Committee:

- Erica has gathered all the initiatives under consideration into one spreadsheet. We continue to gather information and to contact park officials for guidance.
- Others should add suggestions to the spreadsheet before the February 2024 meeting.
- The committee will need to consider which initiatives we wish to put forward for Participatory Budgeting funding. 33rd Ward Alderman Rodriguez has scheduled community meetings that explain the process for submitting ideas for community consideration and voting. Diane hopes to attend one scheduled in December.

Signage Committee:

- The committee is looking into replacing Nature Area plastic signage with wood signs.
- Kirsten made a motion to consolidate the Signage, Communications and Website committees into a single Communications Committee. Daniel seconded the motion. All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:

- **Fundraising:**
 - \$440 was raised from the Stay Howl-o-Ween event.
 - Calendar contest voting is going on through this week (ends Friday, Nov. 3).
- **Build and Maintenance:**
 - David Post will try to re-grade mulch November 2 to help fill in the muddy spots.
 - The committee gained several new volunteers at the recent volunteer recruitment pizza party in mid-October and is excited to start working with them.
 - The committee is still trying to turn off the spray feature.

Stewardship Committee:

- John O. is transitioning committee leadership to John F.
- Openlands TreeKeepers organized tree trimming days on October 16 at Horner Park, and October 23 at Ravenswood Manor and Buffalo Parks.
- **Riverfront Improvements:** As discussed last month, Horner was awarded funding from Chicago Park District administration to repair and improve the riverfront trails. Budget is still not determined but estimated to range from \$75k to \$100k. Work to commence this fall. Improvements being considered include:

- Removing all plastic edging, and replacing with timber edging on the lower trails
- Limestone outcropping along the steep areas
- Adding a bike trail gravel mix for the upper trail
- Possibly formalizing a new fishing station
- Consideration for future bench installations
- John F. met with a Lane Tech group interested in volunteering at Horner Park.
- John O'Connell attended the Openlands Annual Meeting and luncheon in honor of retiring CEO Jerry Adelman for his 43 years of service.

Concerts Committee:

- The committee will pay the fine for the portable toilet incurred during the 2023 season.
- The committee will begin planning for the 2024 season.

Communications Committee:

- Kirsten met with Amy to work around the email issues, archive the old website, content calendar, email lists. Amy has transitioned the committee leadership role to Kirsten.
- Deb will send Turkey Trot and coat drive information to the committee.

Website Committee:

- Minutes through September 2023 are posted to the HPAC website (hornerpark.org).
- The Website Committee will be incorporated into the Communications Committee.
- Various new efforts are being explored.

Diversity Committee:

- The committee expects to have a communications overhaul by January, where we will chart out five different projects over 2024 to boost diversity of which will likely include a "welcome packet" for new members, a website redesign, and revisiting on-site messaging in the parks (bulletin boards and signage).
- In the next two months, the committee will also identify local organizations and community groups to build organic relationships with.

New Business:

- **Public safety incident at Riverfront path:**
 - There was a recent incident. Kirsten and John F. will investigate ways to improve visibility to the specific area where the incident occurred.
- **Other:**
 - Tim R.'s baseball team the Chicago Hounds (a local baseball team) is looking to move its games to Horner Park. He will connect with Deb and David P.

Old Business:

- **Pickleball concerns:**
 - The pickleball group met to discuss rule changes and will submit them to Deb.
- **Arboretum designation:**
 - With assistance from Openlands' arborist, 35 distinct species of trees were identified and logged into its TreePlotter database. This fulfills one requirement of the ArbNet application. The rest of the application should be ready for HPAC review within the next few weeks and after that, for submission to the park district for its approval.
- **PAC Conference:**
 - Peter will attend the Park Advisory Council Code of Conduct training on Nov. 4.

Announcements:

- **Events:**
 - **November 18:** Turkey Trot at Horner Park.
 - **December 13 and 16:** Santa's Family Workshop and Santa's Secret Workshop.

Motion to Adjourn:

Jay motioned to adjourn at 8:16 pm; Daniel seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting:

The next HPAC meeting will be Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m.
location to be determined.

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday December 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted at the Horner Park Fieldhouse**

Attendees:

Athene Carras
John Friedmann
Jay Lyon
John O'Connell
Susan O'Connell
Ben Ranney
Peter Schlossman
Kirsten Southwell
Diane Sutliff
Sara Zimmerman
Carlton Jones (HPNWLL)
Lola Post (HPNWLL)
David Post (HPNWLL)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Introductions

Review of November 2023 Minutes:

- Jay made a motion to approve the November minutes. Sara seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

Bylaws Revisions:

- Final bylaws revisions and discussion of other items (e.g., potential term limits) will be voted on in the February 2024 meeting.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- There was little activity during November.
- Diane is adding Athene to QuickBooks and to Chase in the weeks ahead.
- Formal financial reports will be sent under separate cover.
- Please email treasurer@hornerpark.org with ideas for new initiatives or other suggestions.
- HPAC received a \$1,000 check for River Run, to be split 50/50 with Clark Park.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **Exercise Equipment Progress:**
 - Benches and fitness equipment to be installed by the end of the week.
 - **Fieldhouse Bottle Filler:**
 - Water bottle filler installation to be complete by the end of the week.
 - **Coiled Serpent Mound Progress Report:**
 - No update.
 - **Gym Floors Repair:**
 - No update.
 - **Riverfront Restoration:**
 - The restoration of the riverfront path is near complete.
 - New wood timber trail edging, a fishing landing, limestone stairs and outcroppings, gravel upland trail and mulch were added.
 - HPAC thanks the Chicago Park District for its improvements and investment in our natural area. Peter will send a thank-you letter to the appropriate CPD contacts.
 - **Front Lawn Tree and Grass Replacement:**
 - Grass seed is being put down in the front area this week.
 - Planting of new trees will now likely occur in spring 2024.
 - **Fieldhouse Front Native Shrub Garden:**
 - No update
 - **Other:**
 - The Turkey Trot was successful, with at 750+ people attending.
 - No woodcraft scheduled for winter session due to Eric's injury.
 - Horner Park Attendant Joe Saucedo will be retiring on January 31, 2024, after 33.5 years of service.
 - John O'Connell made a motion to thank Joe for his years of service with a card and \$100 VISA gift card.
 - **Vote:** All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed.
 - Diane will deliver a thank you card and gift card to Joe before he retires.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - No report.
- **Jacob Playlot Park:**
 - No report.
- **Sunken Gardens:**
 - No report.
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - No report.

Needs Assessment Committee:

- The committee continues to gather ideas for ways to improve our parks.
- Erica created a spreadsheet of all the ideas currently circulating.
- The committee awaits more information about the new CPD approval process for new improvements going forward.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:

- **Fundraising:**
 - Calendars are here for a \$20 donation! They are available at pop-ups at the dog park, or on the DFA website (<https://hornerparkdogpark.company.site/2024-Calendar-Donation-p611057019>.)
 - An end-of-year giving campaign is in the works.
- **Build and Maintenance:**
 - The committee sends its thanks to David Post for spreading mulch around!
 - Volunteers are needed to scoop mulch away from the fence before more re-grading can be done.

Stewardship Committee:

- John F. and John O. met to establish division of duties in 2024. John F will focus on Horner activities while John O will liaison to the satellite parks.
- Longtime Jacob Park steward Bea Tersch has passed away. Consideration of a donation in her memory.

Concerts Committee:

- The committee held a 2023 wrap-up meeting and moves ahead with 2024 events.
- The committee will supply music for Manor Bash, which RMIA is bringing back in 2024.
- The committee has paid the fine for the portable toilet incurred during the 2023 season.

Communications Committee:

- Kirsten transferred ownership of Mailchimp, Dreamhost, and Gmail from Amy.
- Have resolved the stewardship@hornerpark.org issue, but now have recipients limited. Kirsten is personally routing emails to correct parties. She will work with committee chairs and HPAC officers to figure out communication structure
- A 2024 content and event calendar are in progress
- Minutes through October 2023 are posted to the HPAC website (hornerpark.org).
- December/January priorities:
 - Matching the content calendar to email templates.
 - Outlining the process for pushing social media and website updates.
 - Conducting a website content audit.
 - Developing HPAC "welcome packet" content (should also align with website).

Horner BrewFest Committee:

- The committee held an Appreciation Party for 2023 BrewFest volunteers and brewers on December 2. Thank you to John F. for hosting.
- John F announced the planned date for 2024 Horner BrewFest: July 19, 2024.

Old Business:

- **Pickleball concerns:**
 - No update.
- **Arboretum designation:**
 - No update.
- **PAC Conference:**
 - Peter and John F attended the PAC Code of Conduct training in December.
 - Peter emailed Code of Conduct to all HPAC members on December 4.
 - HPAC officers and frequent HPAC volunteers should submit a volunteer application and complete a background check if they have not done so.
 - Volunteers who volunteer in HPAC activities no more than two times a year should fill out the one-day volunteer waiver.
- **Public safety incident at Riverfront path:**
 - No update.
- **Chicago Hounds Baseball:**
 - No update.

Announcements:

- Deb expressed her thanks to Chicago Park District staff and HPAC members, sponsors, volunteers, committee members, and the executive committee for its continued efforts.
- HPAC expressed thanks to Alan Mueller for his years as the RMIA representative.

Events:

- **December 13 and 16, 2024:** Santa's Family Workshop and Santa's Secret Workshop.
- **July 19, 2024:** Horner Park BrewFest

Motion to Adjourn:

Peter motioned to adjourn at 7:23 p.m.; Jay seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting:

The next HPAC meeting will be Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Horner Park Fieldhouse.