

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

ATTENDEES:

Erica Beutler
Athene Carras
Alyssa Edes
John Friedmann
Rebekah Hatcher
Daniel Honigman
April Janssen-Marajan
John O'Connell
Jonathan Ostroff
Peter Schlossman
Kirsten Southwell
Diane Sutliff
Sara Zimmerman
Deb Groh (Chicago Park District)
Lola Post (HPNWLL)
David Post (HPNWLL)
Shannon Condon (RMIA)

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

Introductions

Review of February 2024 Minutes:

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

Bylaws Revisions:

- Erica made a motion to approve the updated bylaws. Daniel seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed, and the bylaw revisions were approved.
- The co-secretaries will finalize the bylaws and have them posted on the website.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- February was a quiet month except for new fees coming in for the Farmer's Market. Gretchen is actively invoicing vendors both new and returning.
- We anticipate busier months ahead as fundraising for the Summer Concert Series begins.
- The 990 Form for FYE 9/30/2023 was successfully filed with the IRS.
- Formal financial reports will be sent under separate cover.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **Gym Floors Repair:**
 - The floor is still damaged; the CPD environmental team has done some testing and additional evaluation. Updates to come.
 - **Exercise Equipment Progress:**
 - The work is completed.
 - Peter will email the 33rd Ward office to thank them.
 - **Coiled Serpent Mound Progress Report:**
 - No update.
 - **Front Lawn Tree Replacement:**
 - No update.
 - **Fieldhouse Front Native Shrub Garden:**
 - No update.
 - **Natural Area Dog Signage:**
 - Kirsten recently counted roughly 10% of Natural Area attendees brought dogs (with only one off the leash) one recent weekend.
 - The Communications Committee has created signage and handouts to educate attendees on where dogs are allowed.
 - Kirsten requests HPAC provide feedback on all materials and will send the draft signage to Chicago Park District contacts for review once ready.
 - Erica motioned for up to \$500 to be spent on temporary signage. Diane seconded the motion.
 - All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed.
- **Other:**
 - Edith is Horner Park's new attendant.
 - Dennis (music instructor) will be leaving March 31.
 - Eric has created renderings for a wooden enclosure for the dumpsters behind the Field House. The enclosure would be decorated with graffiti. Deb will submit it for consideration (along with estimated pricing) by the Needs Assessment Committee.
 - The table saw in the wood shop may need to be replaced. Deb will submit it for consideration by the Needs Assessment Committee.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - **Kiosk maintenance/alley fence repair:** No update.
 - Deb has submitted a service request for a light outage.
- **Jacob Playlot Park:**
 - No report.
- **Sunken Gardens Park:**
 - No report.
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - **Tree replacement:** Bogdan will be planting the tree.

Needs Assessment Committee:

- The committee welcomes any new ideas for consideration.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:

- **Fundraising:**
 - The Doggie Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 23 from 1-3 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase on Eventbrite.
- **Build and Maintenance:**
 - The committee is planning an Earth Day cleanup event, joining the official CPD event as “cleaning the SW corner of Horner Park.”
 - **Phase III report:**
 - The DFA Committee submitted the requested information to CPD so that it can complete the grant application to receive the \$75,000 in state funding allocated by Representative Jaime Andrade for dog park improvements.
 - Erica is in contact with the CPD project manager about installing a turf play field in the center of the big dog area.

Stewardship Committee:

- The Stewardship Committee met on February 15.
- There will be a Tree Walk event in Horner Park on April 12.
- Earth Day will be April 20, with River Day on May 11.
 - Sunken Gardens Park will participate in ED but not on that date; all others will likely sign up.
- Trees were trimmed at Manor, Buffalo, and Horner parks in 2023.
- Consideration should be made to replace the pear trees on California Avenue near Buffalo Park.
- A new tree will be planted in Jacob Playlot Park in memory of Bea Tersch.
- Arboretum plans for Horner Park are progressing.
- The committee is working on a second Nature Play space near the Horner playground.
- Liability forms required by CPD were distributed for completion by stewards.

Communications Committee:

- The website is ready to launch. Thank you to those who contributed content updates; the committee looks forward to coordinating on further developments.
- The committee has decided, for now, to keep email coordination in MailChimp
- The first HPAC Meeting "welcome packet" ready to distribute.
 - John O. is working on stories about the history of HPAC and Manor Bash; both will be included in the packet and put on the website when ready.
- The committee is making a huge push on dog signage. The committee has received approval from the CPD for temporary signage pending HPAC / Deb approval of design and placement. The committee is looking to coordinate a dog volunteer event to educate / advocate for better dog ownership practices. The committee will coordinate with the DFA Committee to mobilize volunteers.
- Kirsten updated the HPAC business card design and will submit a small order. She is happy to put in more.
 - John O. made a motion to reimburse Kirsten. Sara second the motion.
 - All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed.

Concerts Committee:

- The Concerts Committee is hard at work on the 2024 season. Jay has the marketing materials ready for printing and they should be distributed by March 8.
- There are still a couple of slots to fill but the committee has targeted acts that will tour this summer and is trying to see if it can work them into the schedule based on their availability.
- The season is shaping up to include local musician Phil Angotti (who will play originals from his 2023 critically acclaimed release as well as some Beatles favorites), Los Gallos (a terrific Tex-Mex band), Jon Langford and Sally Timms (an intimate show), an evening of female singer-songwriters (we are finalizing the artists for this one), our regular Horner Park Jazz Band and Narloch recital shows, and the return of Manor Bash on August 24.
- Manor Bash will feature the LBP School of Dance and the Red Roses.
- John O. will meet with Jay to develop a budget request.
- The committee developed a piece related to a permanent concert stage at Horner; it hopes to engage the CPD in talks in the next few months after more details are worked through.

Horner BrewFest Committee:

- The committee will be meeting soon. More than 30 breweries are confirmed.
- The band is confirmed.
- John O. will meet with ticket vendors to determine their ability to support BrewFest.

Farmer's Market Committee:

- The Horner Park Farmers Market is excited to accept applications for its 10th season.
- The 2024 HPFM will take place on Saturdays, 9am-1pm, from June 1 through October 12. There will be live music at every market and free community yoga at 10 a.m. at each market, weather permitting. Expect to find your favorite farmers and vendors from previous seasons as well as some exciting new additions.

312 RiverRun Committee:

- The committee had its first meeting on March 5, and seeks additional volunteers for the event on Saturday, June 22.

New Business:

- **Riverfront Fishing Access:**
 - John O. mentioned a potential uptick in anglers along the Nature Area, and a potential need for additional signage. He will discuss it further with the Needs Assessment Committee.
- **Sled Library:**
 - RMIA will submit a sled library concept to the Needs Assessment Committee.

- **General HPAC Fundraising:**
 - Erica suggested an expansion of general HPAC fundraising efforts.

Old Business:

- **Osprey nest platform**
 - John F. mentioned ComEd will donate a light pole to Horner Park for the osprey nest; however, the Forest Preserve District is still determining the best place to install the site.
 - John F. will connect the FPD with Matt Frier (CPD) to discuss site suitability.
- **Arboretum designation:**
 - No update.
- **PAC Annual Report**
 - Peter thanks all committees for submitting their reports.

Announcements:

- John F. will present at the PAC Conference on March 9 about special events.

Events:

- **March 23, 2024:** Doggie Easter Egg Hunt
- **June 22, 2024:** 312 RiverRun
- **July 19, 2024:** Horner Park BrewFest
- **August 24, 2024:** Manor Bash

Motion to Adjourn:

Daniel motioned to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.; Sara seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. The motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting:

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