

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Monday July 2, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.
Horner Park Fieldhouse**

JULY MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Attendees:

Jackie Aguilar, Ecuadorian Festival
Manuel Aguilar, Ecuadorian Festival
Cynthia Fox, Secretary HPAC
John Friedmann
Deb Groh, Chicago Park District
Daniel Honigman
Michael Leff
Carol Maher
John O'Connell
Jim Peters
Peter Schlossman, President HPAC
Diane Sutliff, Treasurer

❖ **Meeting started at 7 pm.**

- ❖ **Approval of the Minutes – June 2018.** The June minutes had not been emailed by the start of the meeting. Approval was delayed until the minutes could be reviewed.

❖ **Reports**

- ❖ Treasurer's Report -- Diane Sutliff provided a brief report on the state of HPAC's finances.
- ❖ Concert Committee -- John O'Connell gave a report on upcoming concerts that will be hosted at Ravenswood Manor Park. All dates and performers are listed on the HPAC website and will be posted on advisory council social media platforms by John.
- ❖ Farmer's Market - There was no report provided by the Farmer's Market committee. Carol Maher reported that the past weekend's yoga was very well attended by approximately 60 participants even with the excessive heat warnings. It was also noted that vendors seemed to be doing well even with a slower than normal day due to the heat.
- ❖ Park Briefs
 - Horner Park
 - ❖ Air Conditioning - Deb Gohr reported that hopefully the units would be installed in the next few days. Discussion was had about box fans and other options for other rooms in the field house. Deb said she would think about what she needs and get back to the council for discussion.
 - ❖ Tennis courts - No updates on the construction. Discussion was had regarding our desire to add seating around the tennis courts. An ad-hoc Bench Committee was created that Diane volunteered to lead. John Friedmann and Daniel Honigman offered to join with the goal of coming up with recommendation and budget for the council.
 - ❖ Walking Museum / Santiago X proposal - They have been in contact with CDOT and the Irving Path will be closed for two years due to new construction. The native mound can not go in the proposed location. They toured the park for another option and suggested the savannah area. They asked for soil from the excavation for the mound. There is interest in a combined ceremony/ribbon-cutting in early September with the riverfront opening.
 - ❖ Riverfront Opening - After a series of emails to HPAC and Deb, discussion was had about the whether or not the Riverfront Opening Date on September 8 was flexible. John Friedmann was going to reach out to the Mayor's office this week to see if there is a request to push the date to accommodate the Mayor's attendance. There is a potential date conflict with a request from DePaul College Prep for a city-wide track meet at the park. John F said he would contact the city to get clarification and get back to Deb within a week to let DePaul know if they can use the park that day.
 - ❖ Wifi - no update

- ❖ Nature Play Space Grant - no updates
- ❖ Ecuadorian Festival - Festival organizer Jackie Aguilar talked to the council about event planning concerns. Alderman Mell suggested that they look into Horner Park after Roosevelt HS was no longer an option. She presented to the council at the May meeting. Their permit application has been started with the park district. The dates are August 4 and 5, 2018. On Saturday, they will host a small event ideally on the hill at the northern end of Horner Park for a small festival with live music and have a volleyball tournament (3 on 3 equiball). They will serve beer. The parade organizers will be providing power via generators, porta potties, and 24-hour security for both days. There will be simple kids games but no carnival. The entrance to the event will be controlled through wristbands within a fenced area that will be overseen by their security. Sunday is their parade through the neighborhood. Sunday will be live music until 10 pm. **The Horner Park Advisory Council approves of this event as permitted by the Chicago Park District.**
- Ravenswood Manor Park
 - ❖ Ravenswood Manor History Display - Jim Peters from the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association (RMIA) presented a request from RMIA to install two metal signs as their "history station" on the back of the existing kiosk at Ravenswood Manor Park. **After a brief discussion, Cynthia Fox made a motion to allow RMIA to put their history station signs on the back of the current Manor Park Kiosk. Diane Sutliff seconded. The motion was approved.**
 - ❖ John O'Connell reported ongoing issues with ongoing and unsightly defacement of the pergola at the park. Chalk and mud being put on the structure was difficult to clean and created an eye sore for the Friday concerts.
 - ❖ Deb reported that the park district is bringing back the Rolling Rec Program. It's a mobile education van with activities for kids in the park. They will be at the park Tuesdays and Thursdays between July 5 - August 17 from 4:30 - 5:30 pm.
- Jacob Playlot - no update
- Sunken Garden - no update
- Buffalo Park - The north planter is being planted soon.
- ❖ Dog Friendly Area - John F said that the grass is coming in nicely. Erica was expecting the fencing after the July 4 holiday and hoping to be up by the end of July.
- ❖ Stewardship Committee
 - Horner Entry Garden at Field House - Diane has talked to a few landscape architects about those planters. Diane would like to have a Garden Sub-Committee that Diane would lead. She thinks the hired folks would come in this year one day and then have a big community work day to plant the plants into the empty spaces. The sub-committee would take on coming with a plan to deal with refreshing and long term maintenance and budget. The plan would also look at Buffalo and Manor. Diane will send an email through the stewardship email list with the new date for the committee and then anyone interested can participate.
 - John O reported that he had not heard from Serro's about the bill for the watering the new grass and sod at Ravenswood Manor. He said he would follow up about the bill.
- ❖ Horner Fest Committee
 - John F - Friday is the Beer Fest. We have 247 tickets have been sold as of today with the total capacity set at 600. He reported that 18 breweries are currently committed. The park district permit came through earlier in the day and the liquor license is waiting to be issued. John reported that there is still a need for reliable event volunteers. John F was asked to resend the email asking for volunteers to the DFA and stewardship list for solid volunteers that we know. He also reported that there could be a tent over the tennis courts if weather requires it.
 - Saturday - Family Fun Day with free admission. The schedule and timing was provided on a flier. Deb said that she put a call out for park district seasonal staff to help monitor the bounce houses and other activities that HPAC would pay for working. There were also need for volunteers for Saturday.
- ❖ Birding website link / article - Discussion was had about possibly sharing the information/website provided by the individual who reached out via email. Daniel said he would talk with Kevin about the feasibility and desire to do so.
- ❖ Nominating Committee - John O reported he is always looking for new folks to join the council.

❖ **New Business**

- ❖ August HPAC Meeting - Diane requested that HPAC meet in August even though we have not done so historically. She pointed out that we have a lot of events in the summer and taking the month off did not seem like a good idea. **Diane motioned to have a HPAC meeting on Monday, August 6 at the Horner Park Field House. Seconded by John F. The motion was approved.**

❖ **Announcements**

- ❖ HornerBrewFest / HornerFest - July 13 & 14
- ❖ Chicago Astronomer Mars Viewing Session - July 31
- ❖ August HPAC Meeting - August 2, 7 pm at Horner Park Fieldhouse
- ❖ Riverfront Opening Celebration – Sept. 8 (Tentative pending confirmation from Mayor's office)

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.