

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Monday August 6, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.
Horner Park Fieldhouse**

AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Attendees:

Erica Beutler
Cynthia Fox, Secretary HPAC
John Friedmann
Daniel Honigman
Alan Mueller
John O'Connell
Jim Peters
Stacey Rosenberg
Peter Schlossman, President HPAC
Diane Sutliff, Treasurer

❖ **Meeting Started at 7 pm**

- ❖ **Approval of the Minutes – July 2018.** The July minutes were emailed prior to the meeting. John O'Connell moved to approve. Diane Sutliff seconded. John O also mentioned that the June minutes needed to be officially approved pending the changes presented at the prior meeting. Cynthia Fox indicated she would resend June with the requested changes.

❖ **Reports**

- **Treasurer's Report** - Diane Sutliff provided a brief report on the state of HPAC's financials. Diane noted that we had filed our 990 recently noting that our fiscal year October to September. Diane also reminded attendees that HPAC has multiple credit card processor to meet the needs of any project. They include PayPal, Square, Stripe, and Ecwid. If anyone has need to use one of these processors for HPAC event needs, they are to contact Diane directly.
 - Erica Beutler requested consideration from HPAC to use money from the general funds, after all other expected expenses were addressed, to dedicate additional funding to phase two of the DFA. The money was needed for construction drawings and permitting in phase two. This would cost approximately \$10,000-\$15,000. Erica proposed that everyone think about HPAC's spending needs and what we would like to see funded in 2019. This will allow a thoughtful conversation at the next meeting where we could create a budget for our 2019 fiscal year.
- **Farmer's Market** - The market is half way through the season. We are excited to have several new vendors and all vendor spots for the rest of the season are taken. A note of concern is that attendance is down. The committee was working on other ideas to promote and remind folks that it is there. The committee will also be purchasing grass this year.
- **Concert Committee** - John O'Connell presented. John stated that we may net \$3,000 from the concerts which is very successful. He announced that four shows will happen the weekend Aug 17, 18, 19 including the make up rain date dates. Next year will be the 25th year of concerts season.
- **Nominating Committee** - John O'Connell was looking for more people for the executive committee. The nominating committee needs to meet soon to recommend people for the group. There will be nominations at the September meeting and an October vote. If you have an interest in becoming an officer, please let John know.
- **Stewardship Committee** - John O'Connell talked about how the watering schedule has been difficult to maintain. We will be working to get another buffalo box key to have more access to the water especially at Ravenswood Manor Park. Cero, from the Italian Gardens, said that his work to water the new grass at RM Park in May and June was gratis as his gift to the community. John mentioned that small tree planted at the point of RM Park is dead. He suggested that we think about new ideas for the future.
- **Horner Entryway Gardens** - Diane reported about a meeting with Bogdan Bogdan, Chicago Park District employee who manages plantings throughout district to discuss the front garden. He indicated that the CPD would take care of the entryway path including all planning and labor. HPAC would be responsible to pay for the project's plants. Plantings will start in the spring and they will remove the plants this fall. We will need to order the plants for the spring in the fall. He will prepare us a plant list

and we will pay pending a water plan. Regarding the water plan, there is no water out front. Deb Groh, Horner Park Supervisor, said that as soon as the farmers market is over the water main will be fixed. The grass will be replaced after the water main is fixed. The repairs on the water main will create the delay for the water needs of the project. Diane was going to talk to the CPD about what happens if there is a delay in the work.

- **Garden Stewardship Initiative for Manor and Buffalo** - Diane is asking that we consider hiring a resident gardener to help maintain these parks without asking the same five or six volunteers to maintain/continue the work gratis. Money needs to be raised to have dedicated individuals to properly maintain these park areas. Additionally, she mentioned that we are looking for more folks to join the stewardship committee.
 - Stacey Rosenberg asked about the oak savanna area to incorporate a nature area for the park similar to Wells Park. Additionally, she stated her motivation for attending the August meeting was to discuss litter. Most of the issues are around the basketball courts and baseball fields. Erica Beutler suggested Stacey empower herself to start a group to address the litter issues for the park and come back to the advisory council with recommendations.
- **Dog Friendly Area (DFA)** - Erica Beutler reported on the successful opening of the DFA. In regards to DFA funding efforts, Erica mentioned the online store is open though Eswidto sell calendars and their would be an online auction Sept 23 - 30, 2018 both supporting the DFA . She offered that anyone who had donations for the auctions should contact her directly. She also mentioned that the Rib Fest donation was coming soon. She mentioned that the committee was looking to establish regular monthly Saturday cleanup days to deal with ongoing maintenance. They wanted a garbage can inside the DFA because the park district will not allow because garbage collectors won't pick up bins inside the fence. Their pick up schedule isn't consistent enough for the committee to arrange to move them out in a timely fashion. Peter Schlossman questioned the need for HPAC to review insurance needs for the DFA. Erica mentioned the need for some sort of dog behavior policy / instructional notices to deal with some ongoing issues. Peter suggested we create a sign that would reference what aggressive dog behavior is for the park. Urban Pooch said they would help us come up with an informational sign about DFA friendly practices. In response to the incidents at the DFA, people should call 911 if it's an emergency or Cook County Animal and Rabies Control as the agency responsible for enforcing DFA rules. Daniel suggested that we look into a spanish language translation for signs at the park. Peter noted that Erica has done an amazing job leading the DFA efforts and appreciates her dedication to the DFA.
- **Horner Brew Fest / Horner Fest Committee report** - John Friedman provided the Horner Fest Report. This year's Brew Fest attendance was 480, a notable increase over last year. Ticket sales went up \$6,000 from last year's event. John F reported that we increased the number of breweries from 12 last year to 18 this year. The beer garden on Saturday was also successful raising \$1900. John F thanked the handful of sponsors who supported all of the events the weekend of Horner Fest. He noted that Friday had plenty of volunteers to help with Brew Fest. Saturday was very successful with a lot of children's activities. John F also mentioned that there were about 160 people for the riverbank tours and estimated 1,200 - 1,500 people on Saturday for free day of activities. A few notable issues from the weekend: (1) there was not enough power for the music and other needs, and (2) We were short volunteers on Saturday for cleanup that was an ordeal. John F suggested that we either expand our volunteers or increase the budget to hire people.
- **Park Briefs**
 - **Horner Park**
 - Tennis courts - Resurfacing was underway, new nets and signs are coming and the courts are being repainted. New tennis racks are being constructed by the woodshop and we will receive a request for paint. Pickleball lines will also going in.
 - **Walking Museum / Santiago X proposal** - John F started discussions. Erica was concerned about having the sculpture in the oak savannah noting that it merited discussion with the community. She offered that we should have the discussion about the impact of the sculpture in that location before we officially approve putting it there. The artist and the people from the Chicago Public Art Group were measuring the space with three park officials earlier in the day measuring where they want the earth mound to go. They understand their might be mitigation required with the Army Corps of Engineers. There is a 10' pole where they want to place the mound and noted that it would sit approximately 60' wide and 12-15' tall. HPAC attendees had a lot of discussion about needing a community meeting about the walking museum proposal. It was suggested that the Chicago Park District hold a community meeting ASAP to discuss the future plans. HPAC would be willing to host a meeting in August to facilitate dialogue where they present plans to the public to solicit community input before HPAC officially endorses the

project in its current iteration. Chicago Public Arts Group is the group that we need to reach out too.

- **Wifi** - for staff only at the moment
- **Nature Play Space Grant** - No report
- **Ecuadorian Festival report** - We received emails that it was too loud and went too late into the evening. If HPAC supports this parade again, we would make adjustments to the plan for the weekend before we would approve. We welcomed a more collaborative process to adjust the issues moving forward before we support the event as is for next year.
- **Vagrant activity** - The human waste and drinking has gotten pretty bad. The issue is escalating. There is a group of interested neighbors to facilitate a meeting with the city to help mitigate ongoing issues.
- **Bench committee report** - Diane reported that there is a standard vendor and style for metal benches. The cost is \$6,000 per bench on a cement slab. This idea is now cost prohibitive based on the email from the park district furniture person. The issue will be tabled.
- **Drum circle** - People are registering complaints and we will look into the issue.
- **Riverfront Opening** - The tentative date is September 15, 2018 from 12 - 3 pm. The committee is looking into crafts for kids and a scavenger hunt along the nature trail. This event is growing leaps and bounds because politicians and non-profits are signing up to speak. John F suggested that the earth mound plans would be rolled out with ceremonial Native American activities for the roll out of the earth mound. **Alan made a motion to send a letter to the Chicago Public Art Group to offer to host a community meeting in August to present the program in its proposed location and solicit community feedback. Diane seconded the motion.**
- **Ravenswood Manor Park** - No specific report outside earlier mentions
- **Jacob Playlot** - No specific report outside earlier mentions
- **Sunken Garden** - No specific report outside earlier mentions
- **Buffalo Park** - No specific report outside earlier mentions
- **Website Committee** - No report

❖ **New Business**

❖ **Announcements**

- Riverfront Opening Celebration – Sept. 15

❖ **Meeting ended at 9:30 pm**

Next Monthly Meeting
Sept. 10 @ 7:00 pm – Horner Park Fieldhouse