

Horner Park Advisory Council
Draft Reports for the Monthly Meeting
Dec. 12, 2018

The HPAC meeting will be held at 7:00pm at Pete's Place – 2825 W. Irving Park. Rd.

Previous Minutes:

Minutes of the November meeting will be distributed separately. The draft reports that follow are a compilation of business from the November 2018 meeting and year end committee reports. This draft was distributed at the meeting for review.

Treasurer's Report:

The financial statements for this month were distributed separately.

Dog Friendly Area Committee:

2018 saw the opening of Phase I of the DFA on August 2, which was very exciting. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. We have instituted and will continue with monthly DFA cleanups on the 1st Saturday of each month. In between community cleanups, DFAC members will visit the site. 2018 also saw numerous fundraisers including a Nick's Pizza night, the Doggie Egg Hunt, shopping at Embellish, working Ribfest, the Calendar Contest, an Online Auction, a Family Movie night and a Howl-O-Ween party and a Holiday Market at Stay. We also joined the Great Hearts Initiative and continued to work the Horner Park Farmer's market once a month during the season as well as the Independence Park Farmer's Market a couple of times. At our events and online we sold calendars, dog toys and fleece blankets at various times as well as solicited both monetary and in-kind donations. Additionally, we applied for a couple of grants, but unfortunately did not win any. To date we have raised over \$150,000 with approximately \$95,000 remaining after expenses, including the fence and marketing material. These numbers include the menu money from Alderman Mell and Alderman Pawar as well as the original pledge from HPAC. We are in the process of looking for a firm to undertake the construction drawings so that we can begin Phase II of the DFA in 2019. The DFAC has asked HPAC for an additional allocation to help cover that cost. At this time, we do not have the full funding available to complete the DFA per the design concept, so we may be looking at doing a Phase II which would include the entryway, water fountain and small dog area, and then continue to fundraise the last \$100K for a Phase III to complete the large dog area build out. Next year, we hope to do many of the same fundraisers along with some new ones (such as selling engraved pavers for the entryway), apply for additional grants, and seek larger sponsors.

Concert Committee:

The Summer Concert Committee met in November. We expect to produce our 25th Season of free shows in Ravenswood Manor, with Horner BrewFest and HornerFest in mid-July, a jazz show in Sunken Garden in August, and 3 Theatre Hikes shows in Horner. We will likely partner with RMIA for a ManorBash in June in honor of our 25th anniversary of shows. The calendar and budget will be finalized in a few weeks, to be presented at the January meeting. A request for approximately \$16,000 in expenses will be forwarded in January as well, with contracts and permit applications to follow.

Last year's Horner Brewfest and the Horner Fest family day netted over \$11,000. Next year's Horner Brewfest is scheduled for Friday, July 19.

Farmer's Market:

The Horner Park Farmers Market was open for 18 markets this year. Attendance was slightly down overall. In total the Farmer's Market generated \$6450 in income, with \$1161 in expenses netting \$5,286 for HPAC in 2018.

Thanks to Gretchen and her team for another great season of Farmer's Markets at Horner Park.

Nature Play Space Committee:

The nature play space committee held a meeting in December and decided that two separate play areas would be appropriate for Horner Park – one south of the parking lot entrance at Belle Plaine suitable for older children and another adjacent to the playground by the main field house for younger children because of its proximity to toilet facilities. Details of the play elements will be discussed in future meetings. Sara, Emily and Peter attended a citywide nature play space meeting held by Sean Shaffer at Welles Park to discuss their project and how it performs.

Park Briefs:

Horner Park:

The second annual Turkey Trot was held Nov. 17. Despite bad weather, over 300 runners competed, and 12 turkeys and 7 pies were awarded to the winners.

The riverfront restoration opened in September. A ribbon-cutting celebration ceremony took place attended by the US Army Corps, Friends of the River, Chicago Park District staff, elected officials – Congressman Quigley, Alderman Mell and Pawar.

The Irving Park Rd. bridge underpass connecting to the 312 RiverRun Bridge broke ground this fall. Chicago Park District COO – Pat Levar, and other CPD staff, Mayor Emanuel, Ald Mell, and Margaret Frisbie from Friends of the River attended.

Wifi was added in Horner Park fieldhouse.

Horner Park had the tennis courts on Montrose resurfaced and the courts south of the field house were converted to two soccer mini-pitches. The response has been positive to both projects.

HPAC thanked CPD for the extensive improvements made to Horner Park this year. In addition, Aids. Mell and Pawar, Congressman Mike Quigley, Friends of the River, and the contractor for the riverfront restoration, Industria were also thanked for the opening of the restored river.

The ash trees treatment will be necessary again this year and funds were identified in previous meetings that make it feasible for HPAC to contract for that work.

The NW Portage Walking Museum group who are planning the earth mound art project are planning a fundraising campaign beginning in January with an event at the Field Museum. They

have formed an alliance with Field and AIC. Several donors are ready to supply materials for mound but waiting on final USACE approval.

The Horner Park Jazz Band celebrated their 40-year anniversary this year. Congratulations to Don Sadofsky and the band!

Santa's Secret Workshop was held Dec. 11 (ages 3-5), Dec. 12 (ages families w/ 8 – 14) and Saturday Dec. 15 ages (6-12)

Ravenswood Manor Park:

A history board was added on the west side of the existing bulletin board in RM Park. Thanks to the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association for their work on that project.

Jacob Park: No report.

Buffalo Park: No report.

Sunken Gardens: No report.

Website Committee: No report

Stewardship Committee:

Aliza Becker headed up a cleanup at Horner in November 17. It was a snowy day, so only a handful of volunteers arrived. Despite the small turn out, we appreciate the effort of all volunteers.

Ravenswood Manor and Horner parks were seeded for grass this fall.

Nominating Committee:

No report.

New Business:

Announcements:

Glow in the Dark Camp Dec. 26-28 at 10 am – 2pm

Peter Schlossman thanks the HPAC executive committee, committee chairs, and members, Deb Groh and the Chicago Park District for making 2018 the most successful year ever. This report outlines several of our accomplishments that make Horner Park and its satellite parks special places in Chicago. As always, I appreciate the work done by everyone behalf of our parks.

Have a great holiday and best wishes for the New Year!

The first meeting of 2018 will be held Wednesday, January 9 at 7:00pm at the Horner Park Fieldhouse.

Respectfully submitted: Peter Schlossman

DRAFT