

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting, Horner Park Fieldhouse
January 9, 2019**

Attendees:

Peter Schlossman, President, presiding
Kevin Anderson
Aliza Becker
Erica Beutler
John Friedmann, Vice President
Amy Jahnke, Vice President
Alan Mueller
John O'Connell
Thomas Sesko

Meeting called to order 7:06 PM

MINUTES

November and December Minutes: For the December minutes, on the Irving Park Bridge underpass groundbreaking ceremony, it was held on November 18, and also in attendance were CDOT Commissioner Rebeka Scheinfeld, and active Transportation Alliance's Ron Burke. Both months minutes were approved with these corrections.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Treasurer Diane Sutliff sent reports in advance, but was not in attendance for a presentation. (Subsequently provided by Peter):

\$15,474.10 in checking

\$115,086.01 in money market

\$519.80 in Paypal

Total \$131,079.91

- Spending requests:
 - Dog-Friendly Area: Peter and Erica have met with representatives of Baxter & Woodman, an engineering firm that will prepare important documents for the next phase of the DFA. They gave us a contract for \$15,000, a 25% discount off their normal fee for this service. Included in the engagement will be work on permits, engineering, topographical survey, demolition, utility drawings, and most importantly, storm water drainage management plan. HPAC received a certificate of insurance with CPD listed as additional insured. Costs for permits themselves would be additional.

A Motion was made by Erica to allocate up to \$15,000 from the HPAC General Fund to fulfill the B&W contract for design, engineering and construction documents for the DFA. Motion seconded. After discussion, Motion approved.

- Ash Tree inoculation: John Friedmann asked for \$7,200 from the General Fund for Kinnucan Tree Service to engage in the triannual inoculation for the ash trees at Horner Park. This is 10% more than spent 3 years ago. The service will be this spring.

A Motion was made by John Friedmann to allocate \$7,200 from General Funds for ash tree inoculation in 2019. Motion seconded. After discussion, Motion approved.

Park Briefs:

Horner:

- NW Portage Walking Museum/Santiago X Earth Mound Project: John Friedmann noted that the Field Museum (staff: Jason Campbell) is partnering with the American Indian Center on the execution of this improvement. There will be a fundraiser at the Field Museum. He is hoping CPD can donate some of the building materials. The Menominee Tribe may donate replacement trees for any that would be felled. (There was a short discussion of the tree felling recently at River Park due to the dam removal.)
- Nature Play Space: There will be another meeting in January of the design concept; all are welcome. There will be two areas planned: near the Little Field House and near Berteau. There would then be a public meeting to discuss the plan.
- Irving Park Road fence replacement: No word on when the fencing will be replaced.
- Woodshop part replacement: Eric informed Peter that saw repairs will be more extensive than the originally approved expense for replacement parts. He hasn't spent the allocated money yet, and may come back to HPAC for an increased request.
- Mulch along new path at river: Areas of the new path get muddy, causing hikers to go off-path and trample native plantings. Mulch could help, but there may be structural issues that need closer inspection. We need to inform CPD. Another suggestion was for there to be a few wooden boards deployed, similar to a "plank road." John Friedmann will follow up.
- Garbage: Aliza noted that trash is pervasive through the winter. She has been policing an adopted area, and suggested we support an "adopt your area" campaign. Another issue is that near the river path entrances, Flood Bros. is not picking up the cans that are on walk spurs – they rarely leave the figure "8" to collect all trash in the park. The Council found this unacceptable; contracts for trash removal should be for all trash cans on the walks. Aliza will discuss with Deb can placement. Peter will make a map of Horner for can disbursement discussion.
- Chicago River Day: May 11: We have been approached by Friends of the River to resume participation in River Day, on hiatus at Horner these past few years while the construction fence was up. John Friedmann agreed to be site captain that day, and will also look into having a crew focus on invasives like buckthorn that either did not get removed or are regenerating.
- DFA: A fundraiser was recently held at STAY. Approximately 50 blankets were sold, netting us \$1,250. Erica also reports she sold all of the 2019 Dog Calendars.

- Phase II of the DFA, which will include a paved entry, small dog cordoned area, and mulch in spring to help reduce mud. There may be a “Phase III” once more money is raised for amenities like berms and a water feature. Another fundraiser is planned for spring.
- The issue was raised that dog owners are using the new tennis courts to exercise their pets; this is damaging to these expensive improvements. It was suggested we sponsor information signs discouraging the practice. We should also use social media. Amy will work with Deb on a “message from HPAC.” It was noted that despite the new DFA, there are still many dogs off-leash on the ball fields; this can only be resolved through better police enforcement and citation.

Ravenswood Manor Park:

- No word back from CPD as to replacement of the dead tree on the parkway at the point of Francisco at the L tracks.
- A short discussion on consideration of removal of the snow fence on Eastwood, protecting recent seeding and sodding. It was agreed to allow the fencing to remain into spring.
- John O’Connell noted that the bollards at Ravenswood Manor Park, both on Francisco and Manor, which were installed almost 30 years ago when Eastwood Avenue surface was deeded to the CPD by City Council action, have deteriorated. Some are missing, and at least two are now prone. Discussion ensued on what is best – replace them all, or remove, as currently, it looks terrible. It was noted that since their installation, fencing has been installed, likely negating their need.

John O’Connell made a Motion to ask the CPD to remove all the bollards and repair the parkways. Motion seconded. After discussion, Motion approved. Peter will approach the CPD on this.

Jacob: No report

Sunken Gardens: No report

Buffalo: No report

Stewardship:

- The natural plantings behind the Henry Horner Monument were removed last fall, and CPD promised to replace. This has not happened yet.
- John O’Connell said Friends of the Parks has not announced the date of the 2019 Earth Day, but it will likely be April 20. He will reach out to them to confirm and register. We once again hope to have all 5 parks stewarded that day.

Communications:

- Amy is preparing a new updated brochure, and needs copy and photos in the next week. John O’Connell plans to use them in his concert mailing after February 20.

- Amy will create a worksheet where members can submit their content and functionality requests for a new website, from which she and Kevin can generate an action plan.

Concerts:

- John O'Connell is moving along nicely on planning for the 25th season of free concerts in 3 parks in 2019. We will open June 7 at RMPark with Old Town sponsoring the Mike Drassler Trio. RMIA has agreed to sponsor ManorBash 6/22. BrewFest will be 7/19, with HornerFest either 7/20 or 7/27. More shows through August. Still waiting to hear if Theatre Hikes is back, but likely. 1 show in Sunken Gardens. Piano recital 7/14.

John O'Connell made a Motion to approve the spending of funds on the season, with a revenue and expense budget of \$18,000. Motion seconded. After some discussion, Motion approved.

- John has also been recruiting new leadership for this committee as his possible successor in subsequent years. Recent meeting with Shelly Staat and Dan Pokorni. He will also chair a ManorBash Committee in February. John Friedmann will chair a HornerFest meeting in February. John O'Connell plans to begin his mail campaign early March.

Farmers' Market:

No report

Website:

- Peter is no longer receiving Pay Pal payment notices. They may have gone to spam. Kevin will look at this.
- Amy suggested members give her their committee goals/desires and she will generate an Action Plan template.

New Business:

- Peter mentioned a couple of new donations, including a \$500 anonymous.
- There will be no Family Valentine Dance this year.
- A short discussion ensued on the sunken sidewalks near Little Field House and near the river, and how they need correction. John Freidmann thinks the CDOT bike program will get these sections repaired.
- John Friedmann announced that the North River Commission is sponsoring a Mayoral Candidate Forum at Roosevelt HS on Tuesday, February 5 at 7 PM.

No other business presented, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 6 at 7 PM in the Field House.

Respectfully submitted: John O'Connell, for the Co-Secretaries.