

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2019**

Attendees:

Peter Schlossman, President
John Friedmann, Vice President
John O'Connell
Diane Sutliff, Treasurer
Alan Mueller, RMIA Rep
Deb Groh, Park District Supervisor
Erica Beutler
Luna Edward
Kevin Anderson

Meeting was called to order.

Minutes:

April meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report, Diane Sutliff Reporting:

- Financial worksheets provided by Diane under separate cover reflect balances as of April 30 2019.
- Extruder received and installed in art room.
- FifthThird Bank bought MB Financial so may see some changes to banking.

Concert Committee, John O'Connell Reporting:

- Goal to raise \$17,500, up to about \$13,000 now so in good shape, about \$1500 outstanding.
- Expect to put \$1000 toward new sound system if get close to funding goal.
- John Friedmann to connect with new 33rd ward officer, Chris Poulos, re sponsorships for concert program and Hornerfest.
- County Commissioner Bridget Degnen took out an ad, as did many other area politicians.
- Waiting for People's Energy to respond.
- Narloch Piano Recital accidentally left off of concert schedule flyer but that has been corrected.
- John Friedmann in talks with Shakespeare's Motley Crew about doing two performance mash ups.
- Programs going to print May 25th so please help get final ads in soon.
- Deb confirmed that Porta Potty and banners have been requested/ordered.

Hornerfest Committee, John Friedmann Reporting:

- Tickets will go live on May 15th, as will volunteer sign up site.
- TULIP policy rates up, John is looking into other insurance options.
- New fence quote includes installation, better price, but we still have to take down Saturday for Farmers Market.
- Diane confirmed that HPAC has already approved \$1500 for preliminary spending for Hornerfest. John said that good for now, but would be making additional funding requests shortly.
- John will get revised budget to Diane.
- Working on Park District permit and should be ready to submit next week
- Karaoke group enlisted for Saturday, getting line up together.

Farmer's Market, Peter reading in Gretchen Helmreich's Report:

- Planning is going well. Will open June 8th, 2019. Last market October 5th, 2019.
- Deb noted that Pumpkin Patch will be held October 5th, 10-2. Farmers Market may want to alert vendors to bring more food.

Stewardship Committee:

- *April 20th tree planting:* JF reported that went very well. About 50 volunteers helped plant 29 trees (six at Ravenswood Manor Park along alley, and 23 at Horner along California). Challenge now is to keep watered. John has receipts for coffee and pizza. Thank you to John Friedmann and Openlands for getting the trees.
- *Earth Day:* JO reported that every park was covered, captains did a great job. Weather was poor so only worked for a couple of hours. Cynthia and Sarah going to do follow up work at Ravenswood Manor Park. **Motion for \$300 for Manor and Buffalo park planters was approved.** John hopes to buy from the Manor Garden Club plant sale. Shout out to Susan Davenport who has been working hard to make Buffalo Park look great.
- *Front Garden at Horner:* Order in with contractors, planting planned for mid-May, HPAC to write check to Chicago Park District Comptroller for cost when get invoice from Midwest Ground Cover for Bogden's work. Up to \$5,000 has already been approved by HPAC. This does not include bulbs. Work is on target, waiting for warmer weather and seasonal workers to start.
- *North Point Manor Park:* Barb Wood said no to Park District putting tree there. HPAC to discuss whether it still want to do
- Going to move lilies from Buffalo to Ravenswood Manor Park alley. Julia Smith volunteered to water new trees – and lilies—at Manor.

Dog Friendly Area Committee, Erica Beutler Reporting:

- The Doggie Egg Hunt went well. Over 250 dogs, made \$2750. Big thanks to Deb and team as well as DePaul kids.
- Received Park District comments on our 50% submittal. Our engineer has taken them under consideration and we are working to get the Park District the next set of revised drawings for review soon.
- Discussed water line issue. Deb to see if we can get the fountain at the dog park to be included in list of fountains to be replaced at Horner. Park District has 5-year plan to remove or replace 700 water lines connected to lead-tainted fountains in its parks. Horner currently has 11 fountains and we believe that 3 are slated to be replaced, presumably the ones that are now running continuously. When originally conceived DFA plans the water line out to Irving Park was active. Agreed that would not be among most used fountains before DFA, but DFA installation changes the equation.
- Calendar contest will start in May, will have monthly table at Farmers Market, and hope to start selling engraved pavers and dedicate other items such as benches soon, pending Park District approval.
- **Exciting news from John Friedmann:** John met with Alderman Mell to discuss whether there were any remaining menu funds that could be directed to our parks to fund further improvements before she left office, and the Alderman found \$29,739 which she allotted to the Dog Park project. Thanks to John for taking the initiative!

Park Briefs, Deb Groh Reporting:

Horner Park:

- Horner is finally full staffed again, new rec leader and new hourly attendant. Also new landscaping foreman is doing great job! He is aware of leaf problem collecting along split rail fence and is working on it.
- *Pumpkin Patch* is back this year. October 5, 10-2
- Park District concessions asked Deb if Horner would take two clothes recycling bins. HPAC not receptive to idea and Deb said would pass along our concerns.
- *Ceramics Instructor position:* HPAC sent letter to Stacey Anti and received reply. HPAC still seeking timely replacement. Deb Groh said they are on the same page.
- *NW Portage Walking Museum/Santiago X Earth Mound Project:* [Post meeting notes from John Friedmann - - The latest Earth Mound proposal is being reviewed by CPD before sending to USACE for their approval. The Chicago Public Art Group and the American Indian Center have received additional grant funds, and are discussing hiring a general contractor at a discounted rate to perform the work.]
- *Ash Trees:* [Post meeting notes from John Friedmann- Ash tree treatment is tentatively going to take place after trees have fully leafed out in late May. They have to be measured beforehand to get a final quote.]

- *Nature Play Space*: A community meeting was held on April 27th. The weather was awful and though the meeting was sparsely attended it went well, valuable input was received and progress was made on design ideas. Next steps: Peter to talk to Sean Shaffer, usage surveys need to be done (we believe 6), and signatures need to be collected (we believe 12). Erica Smith attended and subsequently offered photos and notes from her visits to other nature play space areas. **Motion for \$150 for Nature Play Space meeting print costs was approved.**
- *Wood chip replenishment at river path*: John Friedmann working on that. Diane talked about Ronan Park path and Walking Stick park as examples. Erica mentioned new path at River Park and signs posted at nature trail entrances along Ronan park that show partnership between Chicago Park District and Nature Conservancy to clean and enhance the trail. Posters announcing work days for the season at trail heads and support from CPD and NC. Maybe we could do something similar. Erica forwarded photo of signs to Peter, Deb and John for any follow up.
- Lunch with Bunny and Doggie Egg Hunt – “Awesome!” – D.G. HPAC would like to thank Deb Groh and her staff and all of the volunteers who helped make these events such great successes.

Ravenswood Manor Park: See Stewardship notes. RMIA asked Deb about putting holiday lights at Manor this winter. Deb will get more info about that. But if do, she is already thinking of holiday events to do there: sleigh rides and hot cocoa.

Jacob Playlot: No Report

Sunken Garden: No Report

Buffalo Park: No Report

Communications Committee:

No report, but Peter noted that Amy had created and distributed a run down of HPAC events for May that was well received. Would be good to do monthly.

Website Committee, Kevin Anderson Reporting:

- Explained that he set up an alert to indicate when system down
- No updates made to website yet

New Business:

- **Recognition for Deb Mell**: Everyone in favor, just need to figure out what want to do. Suggestions included: framed picture, plaque, planting a tree, honorary
- **May 14th On the Table Event**: discussion held as to whether we want to organize and register for this Chicago Community Trust event. Theme this year is “Letter to the Mayor.” No one volunteered to take this up.
- **HPAC Meetings**: Discussion whether Wednesdays still best day for meeting, decided to stick with for now.

Announcements:

- Chicago River Day – May 11 John Friedmann organizing. Deb Groh working on getting mulch, wheel barrows, rakes, etc.
- **Next monthly meeting: June 5 @ 7 p.m. – Horner Park Fieldhouse**