

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday September 4, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Horner Park Fieldhouse**

MINUTES

Attendees:

Peter Schlossman, HPAC President
Amy Jahnke, HPAC VP (Communications)
Diane Sutliff, HPAC Treasurer
Daniel Honigman, HPAC Co-Secretary
John O'Connell, HPAC Concerts Committee Chair
Erica Beutler, HPAC DFA Committee Chair
Alan G. Mueller, RMIA
Emily Meizis, Spark Montessori
Deb Groh, Horner Park District Supervisor
Larry Hodak
Terri Versace
Anne Marie Mitchell

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm.

Approval of the Minutes: July 2019

The July 2019 minutes approval was tabled until all feedback has been provided.

Introductions

As there were some newcomers to the meeting (Ann Marie and Terri), everyone introduced themselves.

Reports

Treasurer's Report:

- Diane reported July and August numbers. Financials reported under separate cover, and reflect numbers as of August 31, 2019.
- End of HPAC fiscal is September 30; there are still outstanding items, including now four miscellaneous deposits (possibly related to the Farmer's Market), and we're still owed some outstanding payments. Hopefully everything will be resolved by 9/30.
- Question about the DFA promise money, which was committed in 2014 to the DFA Committee.
- Final Horner Brew Fest (Friday) net: \$5840; final HornerFest (Saturday) net: \$1350 - both good considering the weather.
- John O: Concert Series and Horner Fest sponsorship money still coming in; Peter and/or John Friedmann will follow up with the 33rd Ward again to inquire about partial payment prior to end of HPAC's fiscal year.
- Peter: Question about the AllState matching program. Will discuss with Diane offline.

Dog Friendly Alliance Committee Report:

- NOTE: Moved up earlier in the meeting from originally scheduled spot to accommodate Erica's schedule
- DFA made \$500 from RibFest
- Broken hinge for gate was an inferior, non-specified product that was substituted by the contractor. It was fixed - albeit with a low-quality hinge. It should be replaced soon with a better hinge that can withstand the wear and tear, and shouldn't cost any extra money.
- Calendar sales are going well; there will be some available for purchase at the September 14 Farmers Market
- The DFA auction will launch on September 15; there will be 75 items total available for bidding
- Construction drawings haven't been returned; the DFA is getting feedback on them, and will make a formal request to the two aldermen representing nearby Wards: Rossanna Rodriguez (33rd) and Matthew Martin (47th).
 - Money must be pledged to start the Phase Two build bidding process + start construction in Spring 2020.
- Discussion about the Fall Nature Fest, hosted by Cook County Commissioner Bridget Degnen
 - September 14, 12pm @ LaBagh Woods
 - Opportunity for DFA to raise money by "selling" the beer provided by Lagunitas Brewing; however would need to obtain proper permits and Dram Shop Insurance
 - Side Note: Friends of the Forest Preserve doing similar event on 9/28
 - Motion to approve that HPAC and the DFA participate; HPAC applies for licenses and insurance to participate in the event, with proceeds going to the DFA.
 - Erica motioned, Amy seconded. All in favor. **Motion passed.**
 - Peter to sign necessary documents ASAP for Erica.

Concert Committee Report:

- Successful 25th season
- John mentioned that while this is his last year as committee chair, he will continue to be involved and assist with the transition. As such, he's prepared a task list and calendar for whoever will be taking over his duties.
- John read a prepared statement about his time running the Concerts Committee, titled "25 Years of Summer Concerts: A Tradition in Transition," a portion of which should appear in an upcoming RMIA newsletter.
- There will be an October meeting to discuss the transition with the Concerts Committee.
- Motion to formally thank John for all of his hard work on the committee.
 - Erica motioned. Daniel seconded. All in favor. **Motion passed.**
- John will be hosting a season "wrap" party at his house (4530 N. Mozart) on September 22 in the afternoon (likely 3-5pm)
- Motion to allocate up to \$600 for food and drinks for the party.
 - John motioned. Diane seconded. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Horner Fest/Horner Brewfest Committee Report:

- Brewfest and Horner Fest both did well, despite the heat and inclement weather.
- Lesson learned with gate and the market, and to remove more (or all) fencing before the Farmers Market on Saturday morning to facilitate easier Farmers Market setup.
- John Friedmann to set post-event recap meeting. (Date TBD)

- Deb noted that at the end of Brewfest, more direction was needed for volunteers regarding where items were to be stored. She requested a task list for breakdown be created several before the event and provided to her for input on where items (e.g. tables) could be stored.

Farmers Market Report (provided via email by Gretchen Helmrich):

- It's been a great year for attendance. Lots of folks coming out to support the market this year. Our new vendors are doing well and are happy. Jim Armstrong (Armstrong Farm, usually next to Tamales Express) hasn't been at the market much this year. He's having a terrible farming season. We hope he's able to come back, if not this season, then next. There are only 5 markets left this year - we are open through October 5. And please spread the word that Kids' Day is coming up Saturday, Sept. 14! Please email farmersmarket@hornerpark.org with any market questions, concerns, etc.
- In-person discussion item from Deb: Deb to reach out to Gretchen to discuss details regarding the Horner Park pumpkin patch event (10/5 from 7am-2pm), and getting vendors to stay later and bringing more to sell, and possibly including more food trucks.

Stewardship Committee Report (multiple reports):

- **Horner Park**
 - The person who was watering the trees on California Avenue finished his last day of work, and must still invoice HPAC for work performed.
 - Drawings for the NW Portage Walking Museum were sent to the Army Corps of Engineers
 - The next meeting for the Nature Play Space will be 10/13
 - There are various other repairs that must be made, including of the split-rail fence and the pavement.
 - Deb suggested reaching two courses of action: attending an upcoming CPD budget meeting, and to connect with Alderman Rodriguez about writing a letter of support for repairs, as it's a safety hazard and continues to cause more damage to the surrounding area.
 - A new ceramics instructor will be starting in two weeks; programming plans will come soon after
 - Emily shared photos from a Spark Montessori school outing, during which students watered the flower beds. This will continue to occur on a regular basis.
- **Manor Park**
 - Terri and Anne Marie attended about a possible tree dedication for their neighbor's daughter, who passed away.
 - John mentioned that while Manor Park already had many trees, there were other dedication opportunities available, such as a flower planter or a bench (perhaps with a decoration or inscription), or other park stewardship activities. Deb and Peter suggested contacting Barb Wood at CPD if a tree was the preferred direction.
 - Terri and Anne Marie expressed interest in exploring these opportunities, and will continue to be in touch with the CPD. They hope to submit the application form and fee shortly to begin the process in Spring 2020.
 - The fence by the Nature area must still be fixed. Peter suggested building some sort of "Lincoln Log"-type fence

- **Jacob Playlot:** No report
- **Sunken Garden:** The park will host the next CAPS meeting on 9/26 from 6-7pm.
- **Buffalo Park:** No report

Communications Committee:

- Committee continuing to work on website updates
- Peter asked about upcoming events, including the Turkey Trot and Pumpkin Patch. Deb is trying to determine whether Go Run, who organized last year's run, will be involved again this year.
- North River Commission banner sponsorship program. NRC will have banners available on Montrose from California to Kedzie. Cost to participate costs \$175 per post (two banners per), for a two-year sponsorship.
- Motion to spend \$175 to participate in the banner sponsorship program.
 - John O. motioned. Peter seconded. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Website Committee: No report

Recognition for Deb Mell:

- John O. to invite Deb to "wrap" party; Deb to get her email address from Gina Munoz.
- Additional discussion around getting Deb some sort of potted plant or flower (e.g. orchid)

Nominating Committee: No report

New Business

- Ecuadorian Fest: issues with garbage, at least one noise complaint, group still owes permit fees from 2018 and 2019, and are being asked to pay \$5,000.

Motion to adjourn meeting.

- John O. motioned. Peter seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:56pm.

The next monthly HPAC meeting will be October 2 @ 7:00pm at the Horner Park Fieldhouse.