

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday May 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting (Conference Call)**

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Alan Mueller
Daniel Honigman
Peter Schlossman
Diane Sutliff
Jay Lyon
John O'Connell
Helen Slade
Deb Groh
Erica Beutler
Amy Jahnke
Stacy Antti
John Friedmann

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Review of March and April Minutes:

Daniel motion to approve both minutes. Amy seconded. All in favor, one abstention

Reports:

Park District Report (Stacy Antti reporting):

- All fieldhouses, playgrounds, etc. are closed until the end of May.
- Unfortunately people are breaking locks and barriers to get in. If you see lots of people playing or gathering, call 911; unfortunately there's not enough manpower to break up events or keep them broken up.
- Getting worse as the weather warms up. Because lots of locks and chains are getting broken, timely repairs are sporadic.
- Thanked HPAC for reminders
- Jacob Playlot is closed. A fence was put up in passive areas, but the playground is roped off. Residents and HPAC weren't informed the park would be closed.
 - Likely closed because it's considered a playground, and can be locked up.

- Erica observed a police presence at the park, but perhaps they need to be encouraged to talk to people. Deb to reach out to 17th district police tomorrow.

Treasurer's Report:

- March and April reports under separate cover.
- Some money has come in for concerts, but not a lot of money overall or from DFA. Not a lot of money going out, either.
- Diane filed for IL-990 extension (five months)

Farmer's Market Committee:

- No official word on Farmer's Market. (Deb: Up to City of Chicago to set policy)
- Several suggestions about cashless payment, socially distanced market
- Committee meeting next week

Concerts Committee:

- Wanted to see how things went, but given Governor's rules where concerts are deprioritized in rollout. Concerts will basically be impossible until everything is open again, probably will not be possible to happen this year.
 - **Recommendation:** HPAC will not do concerts this year; had general support.
- Jay and John talked about it, wanted to reword "thank you" letters to both business and subscribers to say that there won't be concerts this year, but the donations would have a choice of a refund or be credited towards next year.
 - Jay will draft something to give Amy for HPAC communications
- Have pretty much received everything that was pledged. (Roughly \$2K from 40 households, \$2K from eight sponsoring businesses)
- John O suggestion: If anything, no program book

Dog Friendly Area Committee:

- Got \$5,000 from Chicago Association of Realtors; is on its way
- Dog Park was closed @ alderman's request. Worked with CPD to get it done.
- Someone cut hole in the fence. No idea who or why. Was reported to Deb for temporary fix.
- No further updates on construction plan submission. (Deb: They're not at the offices, but should be working remotely.)
- No additional fundraising right now.
- No updates on money previously allocated by 33rd Ward.
 - Jamie Andrade offered to fund the difference (up to \$60K) out of appropriations. CPD has to accept it; hasn't responded to Jamie.

- Peter to draft a thank you note and send it to Erica for review.
- John F: There's a sign still up that says the dog park is open; suggested to take it down to not confuse people. (Spring program sign too)

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **Events:**
 - Horner Brew Fest postponed until next year, and has been posted on website
 - **Nature Play Space (Helen Slade reporting):**
 - Slow progress, but presentation put together for space, precedent and layout. Ideally, they would be getting community feedback now. They want to do a digital meeting the week of May 18.
 - Will do some outreach to HPAC list, 33rd ward and maybe Horner Park Neighbors
 - **Other Business:**
 - Still has an estimate for smaller nature space. No feedback on that, but we don't have \$75K, so need a phased or smaller approach.
 - **Maintenance:**
 - Small fieldhouse bulletin board. No updates yet
 - Metal edging on grating by the nature area keeps sinking.
 - **Basketball Court Lights:**
 - No updates.
 - **Portage Museum:**
 - The Army Corps has approved the mound proposal with no changes. Last phase will be opened up for public discussion at the end of week. After discussion, they will be looking for a letter of approval.
 - **Riverfront misuse, signage and web communications:**
 - No additional signs as of this afternoon.
 - John F. thanked whoever did the maintenance
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:** No updates
- **Jacob Playlot:**
 - The stewardship group there has been doing some work in lieu of Earth Day, and has been cleaning up the riverfront area
 - Park is closed
- **Sunken Garden:** Park is open, but no updates
- **Buffalo Park:** Park is open, but no updates

Stewardship Committee:

- John O. sent email to stewardship committee thanking people for efforts with suspension of activities
- Some flowers have been purchased for Jacob and Buffalo parks.
- Future stewardship activities can continue at a small scale, if people follow safe practices (e.g. distancing, masks)
- John F. Lots of the trees along California are coming in well, and they were even mulched(!) Trees are good so far with water, but may need water down the road.

Website Committee: No report

Communications Committee:

- Accounts will be credited for spring classes (i.e. no refunds, but credit to future class)
- Daniel and Amy to reach out to people to find out
- Goal to send email newsletter out Tuesday or Wednesday next week. Looking for input from the group, especially Helen and Jay.

Nominating Committee: No report

Old Business:

- **Bus stop name request:** Rejected for now, but will try again.
- **Recognition for Deb Mell:** No action; in-person event will hopefully happen.

New Business: None

Announcements: None

Attachments:

- Minutes from March and April HPAC meetings (under separate cover)

Motion to Adjourn: John O. motioned to adjourn, Peter seconded. Motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting

June 3 @ 7:00 pm – Horner Fieldhouse if possible; Remote Meeting if not