

**Horner Park Advisory Council**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**Wednesday Oct. 7, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Via Google Meet - [meet.google.com/pxy-hyta-obo](https://meet.google.com/pxy-hyta-obo)**

**Attendees:**

Peter Schlossman  
Amy Jahnke  
Alan Mueller  
Deb Groh  
Emily Kuhn  
Teresa Weed  
John O'Connell  
Erica Beutler

**September 2020 minutes were approved.**

**Reports**

Treasurer's Report (pending)  
Financials (under separate cover, will come from Diane)

**Dog Friendly Area**

Bid results & next steps: The contract for Phase 2 for \$189,000 should be awarded this week! During the bidding process, we discovered that there now needs to be a Phase 3, which will include the canine friendly turf and mulch. Phase 2 construction will include a paved entryway, water feature, and small dog fence. The DFA committee will be working to communicate about closures due to construction to the public. As part of this effort, the committee is working on getting additional "no dogs" signs for the soccer pitch and tennis courts to accommodate possible misuse resulting from the DFA closure. Fence repairs due to the derecho are being bid under a separate estimate (which will be paid via Park District insurance claims) and will be completed by the Phase 2 contractor.

In fundraising news, the DFA calendar should be ready for sale by November.

**Park Briefs**

*Horner Park*

- Fieldhouse is open, but very little programming is happening. The park is super busy!
- **NW Portage Walking Museum / Earth Mound project:** No report
- **Nature Play Spaces:** Wendell's Garden progress meeting report: Lots of good ideas were shared; Eric Boelkens is going to draft up a plan for the team and Shawn to review.
- **Riverfront Restoration Abuse:** Paths keep being created in off-limits areas. Additional signs were put up; we're not sure how effective they were.

- **Landscape Border at ADA Ramp:** Repairs have been completed.
- The four ash trees at California and Montrose were treated on Sept. 24. Additional fundraising was done by neighborhood organizations to have other ash trees treated in the area surrounding the park.

#### *Ravenswood Manor Park*

- There has been a homeless person sleeping on the path in the park. Security will continue to go out RM park and Horner Park at night.

*Jacob Playlot: No report*

*Sunken Garden: No report*

*Buffalo Park: No report*

#### **Stewardship Committee**

**Fall Cleanup 10/17:** 9am-12pm. Signups are open now. Email has gone out and a Facebook event was created, but we've had minimal interest so far. Emily is putting up fliers in the next couple of days. No mulching will be done, but general cleanup, raking/repairing and possibly perennial planting. Thanks to Pitch In for the Parks for donation of masks, rakes, sanitizer, trash bags, waivers, etc. Park stewards are: Bea Tersch (Jacob), Luke Ross (Sunken), Cynthia and John O (Manor Park), Sue Davenport, and Peter (Buffalo). Erica has a resource for possible free mulch and will forward information.

**Communications Committee:** No report

**Farmer's Market Committee:** No report

**Nominating Committee:** Election postponed

**Website Committee:** No report

#### **New Business**

- John O. and Amy are both taking the Treekeepers course this fall
- Erica attended the 33rd ward for Participatory Budgeting, and reports that projects under consideration to be on the ballot for Horner Park include:
  - \$15k for nature play space
  - \$25k for lights for soccer pitch
  - Benches and backstops around the tennis/basketball courts
  - Chess Tables around the nature Play Space
  - \$25k for outdoor exercise equipment
  - Information Signs along the river (needs pricing).
  - Redoing the path on the east side with a bike lane would be about \$300k, not including fixing drainage issues (Note that making this a designated bike lane might encourage very fast biking in the area).
- The final items for participatory budgeting will be determined at a later date, possibly by November 1.

#### **Old Business**

Bus stop name request (no update)

Recognition for Deb Mell (no update)

**Announcements**

Basketball hoop update; when the hoops were put back up a couple of months ago, large groups were playing, so the city re-closed the courts.

**Next Monthly Meeting**

**Nov. 4 @ 7:00 pm: Horner Fieldhouse if possible; otherwise, it will be remote  
(Google Meet Dial-in at [meet.google.com/pxy-hyta-obo](https://meet.google.com/pxy-hyta-obo))**