

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday Feb. 3, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
Via Google Meet - meet.google.com/pxy-hyta-obo**

Attendees:

Peter Schlossman
Deb Groh
Erica Beutler
John O'Connell
Daniel Honigman
Alan Mueller
Diane Sutliff
Emily Kuhn
Jay Lyon
Teresa Weed (Spark Montessori)
Shawn Pfautsch (Chicago Children's Theater)
Jessica Ridenour (Chicago Children's Theater)
Jacqueline Russell Chicago Children's Theater)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Introductions

Review of December 2020 Minutes

John O. motion to approve minutes. Erica seconded. All were in favor, pending minor copyedits. Minutes were approved. 2020 Annual Report not reviewed/approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- Doing 990 form. Just needs to be signed and sent in
- Just received renewal for insurance. \$450 for directors and officers liability insurance. Peter to sign and scan
- John Friedmann requested money (~\$250) for the latest tree inoculation.
- Going to start a financial breakout for the Concerts Committee (similar to DFA).

Dog Friendly Area:

- **Construction progress:**
 - The chainlink construction fencing came down, construction was delayed
 - Bench was broken during construction. Erica to follow up.
- **Other items:**

- Got a sponsor for the last bench; money received.
- Approached Tom Melvin about creating a donor board.
- Brainstorming new fundraiser events.
- The banners are back up.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**

- **NW Portage Walking Museum / Earth Mound Project:**

- Earth Mound is progressing. Project approved, and now fundraising
 - Will likely be able to use some of the earth dug out from the underpass.
 - Donations can be sent to the Chicago Public Art Group.

- **Nature Play Space:**

- Wendell's Garden pricing/Next Steps:
 - Large batch of wood was dropped off. Peter reached out to Sean for some additional details, but there's been no response yet.
 - Got \$25K from participatory budgeting to use towards permanent structure (e.g. fence).
 - Thanks to Ald. Rodriguez and the community for voting.

- **Bench at NE Park Entrance:** Has been fixed.

- **Riverfront Damage:** Cassi Saari is the new contact overseeing natural areas at CPD replacing Jason Steger. Peter and John Friedmann will follow up with her to report damage and other issues.

- Erica talked to the North River Commission regarding improvements, and raising money.

- **Sidewalk Repair:** Peter to update and resend the sidewalk repair request letter.

- **Flagpole:** The flag has been replaced.

- **Other:**

- CPD is doing limited in-person programming, but still doing some virtual events.
- Talking about opening up fitness centers in spring.
- Toy collection with WGN and virtual holiday craft events went well.
- **Snow sculptures:** Emily to email Amy, social media contest/photo contest at the end of the winter.

- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**

- John O. to talk to OpenLands about the tree planting/care program, and will report back

- **Jacob's Playlot:**

- No report
- **Sunken Garden:**
 - No report
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - **Dead beech tree:** The stump is still there, and can't be removed with the current weather.
 - A family set up a swing in the park and a jungle gym in the parkway along California; Deb handled/asked them to take down the swing due to park district rules.

Stewardship Committee:

- No report
- **Earth Day:** Unknown, but no permitting is happening until April at the earliest. (If it happens, it'd likely be a small, socially-distanced event.)

Farmer's Market Committee:

- Gretchen planning to apply, no other updates this month

Concerts Committee:

- **Chicago Children's Theater: Horner Park Walkie Talkie**
 - <https://chicagochildrenstheatre.org/event/walkie-talkies/> Shawn is working on a cross-media play inspired by Horner Park. Would be a guided audio walk-type experience through different parts of the park (e.g. the river trail, hill). Springtime -- April, May -- so plenty of time to coordinate.
 - Erica suggested a reminder for the participants/audience to stay on the trails/paths.
 - Deb to confirm that the CPD has no issues with the idea. If there are no issues, CPD can likely promote as well (e.g. through a QR code posted in the park).
- Discussed possibility of moving any 2021 programming to Horner Park, as Manor park may be too small for effective social distancing.

Communications Committee:

- No report

Nominating Committee:

- No report

Website Committee:

- No report

New Business

- **Jay: 'I, Naturalist' app and Horner Park BioBlitz**
 - I, Naturalist (app) / BioBlitz (project): create a project for a geographic area, done via GIS coordinates; take pictures, post them to the project: snapshot of plants and animals.
 - [YouTube video](#) about it.
 - Would like to set up a bioblitz at Horner. Co-marketing/promotion opportunity (with CCT, perhaps?)
- **Girls on the Run**
 - Deb can't give approval, but is in touch with Katie Rosich regarding her request to have the program at Horner. It would have to be coordinated with other programming and activities.

Old Business

- **Bus stop name request:** No update
- **Recognition for Deb Mell:** John has/had the gift card, but no update otherwise.
- **33rd Ward Participatory Budgeting Update:**
 - Funding approved for the Nature Play Area (\$25K), four benches and exercise equipment (\$5K per bench; \$45K total) and lighting for soccer pitch (\$25K)
 - Some concerns in the past about the soccer lighting due to light pollution for nearby neighbors. Ald. Rodriguez's office said it would coordinate. Erica to follow up.
 - Funding for buffered bike lanes across Montrose approved.

Announcements

- Cupid Craft Night on February 9 @ 6:30pm. (Making bows, arrows and quivers)
 - Participants need to register on CPD website.
 - Request for HPAC to promote the event (e.g. social).

Motion to Adjourn:

Diane motioned to adjourn, John seconded. Motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting

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