

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

Attendees:

Stacey Anti
Erica Beutler
Daniel Honigman
Amy Jahnke
Jay Lyon
Christopher Moran
Alan Mueller
John O'Connell
Peter Schlossman
Diane Sutliff
Sarah Bethel (Spark Montessori)
Shawn Pfautsch (Chicago Children's Theater)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

Review of March 2021 Minutes

- Daniel motion to approve minutes. Amy seconded. All were in favor. Minutes were approved.
- 2020 Annual Report approved and sent to Park District.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- Question on miscellaneous \$20 from Benevity. (Was a matching donation from Daniel from his company.)
- Separate \$100 donation from Blackbaud Giving Fund (Standard Insurance)
- Insurance has been renewed.
- Diane to give Peter a checkbook so he can make payments.
- May's treasurer's report will be submitted after next month's meeting, due to Diane's schedule.

Dog Friendly Area:

- **Construction progress:**
 - Pavers have been laid, fence repair and fencing off of small dog area has been started, they hope to finish this week
 - Fountains will be installed next week

- Broken glass unearthed during construction will need to be remediated before reopening. Meeting to be scheduled with the CPD Department of Natural Resources. Solution and timeframe TBD.
 - Two fundraisers planned:
 - Pizza at Lou Malnati's on April 28. 20% of proceeds will go towards DFA for anyone who uses the fundraising code. Erica sent Amy and John flyer for posting online and in Manor Park
 - Online fundraiser with ClimbOn, April 10-23. Will receive 40% of profits from sales when people purchase through link.
- No Doggie Egg Hunt, and no auction given current circumstances.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **NW Portage Walking Museum / Earth Mound Project:**
 - Still soliciting bids on the project, that would occur in two phases
 - Will get a donation for fill from the underbridge connector, construction of which starts in June
 - Native plantings would start either in Fall 2021, or Spring 2022.
 - The Irving Park Road Bridge may be completed around June
 - **Nature Play Space:**
 - Estimate on Nature Play Space budget developed with Sean.
 - Possible to reduce initial estimate (~\$75K) by ~\$17K.
 - About \$10K from the HPAC budget has already been committed.
 - Also have a \$25K commitment from Aldermanic Participatory Budgeting funds.
 - Committee meeting to follow. Date to be determined.
 - **Participatory Budgeting Projects:**
 - Diane met with Deb to discuss possible locations for bench and outdoor exercise equipment. Erica to identify additional locations as needed.
 - Deb was in contact with Ald. Rodriguez-Sanchez's office about the soccer pitch lightening project. The alderman's staff is still gathering information before outreach is done.
 - **Sidewalk Repair:**
 - Discussion with North River Commission about a grant for replacing the sidewalk. There was a \$300K estimate for replacing the walk on the East side of the park, along the bike route. NRC is considering a grant application for all or some of the money.

- Peter to update the previous letter and send it to Stacey for submission.
 - **Other:**
 - **Riverfront Damage:** Peter talked to Lauren about potentially opening up other paths to allow riverfront to regenerate
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - **Openlands tree initiative:** No update.
- **Jacob's Playlot:**
 - No report.
- **Sunken Garden:**
 - No report.
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - No report.

Stewardship Committee:

- **Earth Day:**
 - Lots of interest in Earth Day activities.
 - CPD has decided park cleanup is OK; no mulching or equipment will be provided.
 - Friends of the Park activities will be Saturday, April 24, and could potentially support an event. FotP would likely provide bags, gloves, buckets and water.
 - Peter to contact FotP to express our interest, get the registration link and release documents; will coordinate offline with Daniel.
 - Could also be interest in doing work at Ravenswood Manor Park
- **River Day:**
 - Scheduled for May 8, run by Friends of the River.
- **It's Your Park Day:**
 - Would be May 22, run by the Chicago Parks Foundation.
- **Other:**
 - Emily Kuhn (Stewardship Co-Chair) is moving out of state, and will be stepping down from her role.
 - Daniel motioned to thank Emily for her efforts. Amy seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. HPAC thanks Emily for her effort with both the Stewardship committee and as an HPAC officer!
 - Work order out for taking stuff out of Buffalo Park. Stacey to follow up on.

Farmer's Market Committee:

- **2021 Plans:**
 - Insurance certificate was received. No opening date set as of today, but aiming for June 5.

Concerts Committee:

- **2021 Plans:**
 - Jay has emailed CPD about accepting permit requests, but an application has not been submitted yet. Still unclear when concerts will be able to begin. (Hopefully July or August.)
 - Events still likely to be held only at Horner Park, to support physical distancing.
 - Discussed newsletter and digital giving campaign with Amy for donors and sponsors. An announcement will also be included in the RMIA newsletter.
 - Reached out to last season's artists; so far everyone who participated in 2020 would participate in 2021.
- **Chicago Children's Theater Walkie Talkie:**
 - Scheduled for release on May 1.
 - CCT to partner with CPD on additional Walkie Talkies after Horner Park is completed; will be announced when Horner Park Walkie Talkie is released.
 - HPAC to share desired links for CCT to post on the final event page.
 - Question about whether signage or a QR code could be posted in Horner Park to promote the Walkie Talkie.

Communications Committee:

- **Microsoft Teams update:**
 - Amy and Jay in Teams. Peter and Diane will reach out to Daniel with any questions about getting set up.
 - Jay to meet with John O. about setting up the Concerts Committee ecosystem.
- General email pending updates/input from John F.
- Stacey to share information on CPD summer jobs with Amy to post.

Nominating Committee:

- Several available roles. Nominating committee to meet; date TBD.

Website Committee:

- Minutes posted through February 2021

New Business

- None.

Old Business:

- **Bus stop name request:** No report.

- **Recognition for Deb Mell:** John has/had the gift card, but no update otherwise.

Announcements

- Spring (hybrid live and online) programming currently occurring.
- Picnic and league permits are starting to be issued.

Motion to Adjourn:

Daniel motioned to adjourn, Amy seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting

May 5 @ 7:00 pm: Horner Fieldhouse if possible; remote meeting if not.