

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday May 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Via Google Meet - meet.google.com/pxy-hyta-obo**

Attendees:

Erica Beutler
John Friedmann
Tali Gorovoy
Gretchen Helmreich
Daniel Honigman
Amy Jahnke
Christopher Moran
Alan Mueller
John O'Connell
Peter Schlossman
Sarah Bethel (Spark Montessori)
Teresa Weed (Spark Montessori)
Sarah Dugan (Chicago Park District)
Deb Groh (Chicago Park District)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

Review of April 2021 Minutes:

- Daniel motioned to approve minutes. Peter seconded. All were in favor. Minutes were approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- No report for this month.

Farmer's Market Committee:

- **2021 Plans:**
 - Farmer's Market opens June 5, and will run through October 1
 - Still accepting applications, but the main vendors have been lined up.
 - Working with the City of Chicago to get a permit - a first for the market (likely due to COVID-19). Once that goes through, the permit from the park should go through
 - Once everything is confirmed, marketing efforts will begin

Dog Friendly Area:

- **Fundraisers:**
 - Made \$300+ from the Lou Malnati's fundraiser and \$200+ with the ClimbOn fundraiser
- **Construction progress:**
 - Water fountain and surrounding elements have been installed
 - Holdup item is the remediation with the broken glass; working with the CPD and the alderman's office to identify efficient and cost-effective solutions (e.g. installing new turf). Timeframe is TBD.

Concerts Committee:

- **2021 Plans:**
 - Permit has been submitted. As of the meeting, CPD dictates that events will only be held only at Horner Park, to support physical distancing. As of this writing, attendees will be capped at 100 people due to COVID restrictions.
 - The 2021 season will begin July 23.
 - Sponsor and subscriber mailings will go out this week, as they had to be re-run based on the change to Horner Park.
 - Potential concept to explore: concerts *not* in the park (e.g. a block party)
- **Chicago Children's Theater Walkie Talkie:**
 - No update.

Stewardship Committee:

- **Earth Day Report:**
 - 62 tickets 'purchased' (i.e., for free) via Eventbrite, plus a handful of additional attendees
 - Lessons learned include:
 - pushing the waiver to ensure commitment
 - HPAC gloves perhaps better than t-shirts for gifts
 - Ideas: Bring out kids' work gloves
 - coffee/donuts not necessary
 - remember to ask how people heard about the event (e.g., Facebook, newsletter, Horner Park website)
 - take more pictures!
- **River Day:**
 - Scheduled for May 8, will be co-hosted with Friends of the River.
 - Volunteer registration is full
 - Event starts at 9am
- **It's Your Park Day:**
 - Confirmed for May 22; will be co-hosted with the Chicago Parks Foundation as part of city-wide event
 - Eventbrite page set up; about 15 registrants so far
 - Event page on CPF website page for IYPD
 - Additional push via HPAC email, Facebook page?

- Will need to share email addresses, since usually CPF would run the pages to get emails for the mailing list
- **Other:**
 - Separately, encourage documented lessons learned/recap soon after each event. Document what we did, what worked/didn't work, and what to try next time
 - Upcoming planting opportunities at Sunken Gardens and Buffalo Park; if there's an opportunity for Spark Montessori students to participate, please email Sarah at sarah@sparkmontessori.com
 - Question from John O. on tree mulching; if community groups have tools they want to use for a mulching event, they can bring their own. CPD will not be loaning out tools for use at this time.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **NW Portage Walking Museum / Earth Mound Project:**
 - Project is fully funded.
 - Contractor will be selected on Monday, May 10
 - Mound construction will begin this summer; plantings will be installed in Fall 2021 or Spring 2022 (dependent on weather)
 - John F. to work with Amy on rewriting the article.
 - The Irving Park Road Bridge will likely be completed in late June/early July; opening pending landscaping
 - **Nature Play Space / Wendell's Garden:**
 - Committee met with Sean to discuss ways to bring the price down (e.g., removing or getting fewer boulders, removing or getting fewer log steppers or borders, swapping materials). Should be able to get close to the available budget, but may need some additional funding.
 - Some ideas to help raise the funds include: adding the Nature Play Space as a website donation option; sending to Spark Montessori parents for donations.
 - Amy and Kevin added the NPS to the Horner Park website's PayPal dropdown.
 - Peter to compile a writeup with pictures for the website
 - **Participatory Budgeting Projects:**
 - **Soccer pitch lighting:** Getting priced out, but as of yet, the alderman's office has not communicated with the nearby neighbors.
 - HPAC recommends the 33rd Ward Aldermanic Office hosts a community meeting with neighbors regarding the lighting, and requesting public feedback, if the office hasn't done so already.

- **Benches:** Erica to contact alderman's office with list of recommended locations
 - **Sidewalk Repair:**
 - Peter sent Stacey an updated letter requesting sidewalk repair
 - John F. to confirm that the grant application was submitted by NRC
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - **Openlands tree initiative:**
 - We will be able to do trees in Manor Park with Openland grants. Sarah Dugan requested a map of proposed locations and trees in the park.
 - John O. to coordinate the response with RMIA regarding its grant application.
 - **Butterfly Garden:**
 - Sarah Dugan (CPD) wants to explore the opportunities to install more pollinator plants in the garden on the west side of the park (and maybe by the alley). John O. believes it's a strategic opportunity to connect the community with the park, for educational programs, etc.
 - John to facilitate discussion; potential interest from Tali in getting involved there and with other stewardship opportunities.
 - **Other:**
 - John to look into improvements to the parkway area outside of the park.
 - Christopher Moran suggested some improvement to the turf near the pergola in lieu of concerts. Christopher connected with a local landscape architect about potential improvements, including potentially installing French drains, regrading and/or resodding the turf. Chris to send Deb a list of requests and initial estimates to determine what CPD can support.
- **Jacob's Playlot:**
 - No report.
- **Sunken Garden:**
 - No report.
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - No report.

Communications Committee:

- No report.

Nominating Committee:

- John O. to connect with other board members about potential officer nominators

Website Committee:

- Minutes posted through March 2021
- Amy motioned for a reimbursement of no more than \$100 to pay for a migration of the HPAC website to another web CMS (if needed). Peter seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

New Business:

- None.

Old Business:

- **Bus stop name request:** No report, but trying to work through other channels in lieu of initial contact at CTA.
- **Recognition for Deb Mell:** John has/had the gift card, but no update otherwise.

Announcements:

- Yoga events for Summer 2021 have been approved. Additional details to come.

Motion to Adjourn:

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

Next Monthly Meeting

June 2 @ 7:00 pm: Horner Fieldhouse if possible; remote meeting if not.