

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday September 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Horner Park Fieldhouse and via Google Meet - meet.google.com/pxy-hyta-obo**

Attendees:

Gretchen Helmreich
Daniel Honigman
Amy Jahnke
Alan Mueller
John O'Connell
Peter Schlossman
Diane Sutliff
Sarah Bethel (Spark Montessori)
Carlton Jones (Illinois Little League)
Deb Groh (Chicago Park District)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Review of August 2021 Minutes

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

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- Adequate funds remain on hand to complete the current initiatives of Dog Friendly Area Phase Two, Summer Concert Series 2021, and the Nature Play Space. We have unallocated funds on hand of about \$28,000 so new ideas are welcome.
- The HPAC Donate webpage now has a drop-down PayPal menu for all aforementioned initiatives, thanks to our tech team. QR code links to our Venmo and PayPal are available from the Treasurer if you would like to include them in your graphics.
- Because our meeting is on the first day of September, formal Treasurer's Reports will be delayed a few days and will be distributed under separate cover. For additional details please email Diane directly, or treasurer@hornerpark.org.

Dog Friendly Area:

- **Construction progress:**

- There has been no construction progress: The replacement/additional fencing has not been installed and the fountain has not been fixed. The committee is awaiting further updates on both.
- The stump by the hotbox was ground down. The coupler on the faucet to hose is leaking, which we need to address, and the Platinum Donor sign is in progress.
- **Fundraisers:**
 - The votes are in on the photos submitted for the calendar contest. We hope to have the calendars published and available for sale next month.
- **Other:**
 - The Committee is extremely saddened by the loss of one of its founding members. Grace Gaughan passed away on August 28th. We are grateful for all that she gave to the dog park and to this community as a long-time neighbor and Chicagoan. Her shining light will be dearly missed.

Concerts Committee:

- The Summer Concert Series has been going well. We have a few shows left, including a Sept. 3 Local Talent show, where we'll have a couple of local bands featured.
- The season ends on Sept. 10. All sponsors and subscribers have been sent their books (unfortunately, we don't have mailing addresses for people who paid via Venmo – something to think about for next year). The books turned out great, and we thank Chris Moran for facilitating that with @properties. They are heavy – almost 6 oz. – and cost \$2 each to mail.
- There are still a few checks to collect but we are mostly there. We will schedule a committee meeting before the end of the year to get an early start on 2022.
- The PA needs are being thought through; the committee has been working with a sound man at the shows with bands, and that's worked out well. It may be that HPAC invests in a smaller PA than we had initially planned, and we work with a sound professional on the band shows. It saves the backs of our volunteers, and the sound is better because it is mixed by a professional. (Volunteer time is better spent fundraising and assisting with mailings vs. lugging around equipment anyway.)
- We do still have to set up and tear down our lighting system, and we could use volunteers with that – as well as with handing out books at the shows. Chris Moran, Pat Nash and Jay have been handling it to this point, and thanks go out to Chris and Pat.
- Diane Sutliff made us some Venmo signs so that people can donate while they are actually at the show, and we've received a little money from that (it was a great idea). Next year we'll include our QR code right on the mailing so people don't even have to fill anything out and send it in.
- Daniel and Amy to reach out to Jay about creating a banner for future events, and possibly setting up a table to collect email signups.

Farmers Market Committee:

- The market is going smoothly this season. Attendance has been up about 25% overall - which is great. Vendors are happy and doing well.

- We've had two new coffee vendors with us so far - Dulce de Leche Cafe (Albany Park) and Back of the Yards Coffee (BotY). Both were well received. We have two more new coffee vendors to introduce in September and October.
- We moved to all electronic payments this year, and that has been great. We've used a combination of PayPal for the application fee and Square for application and market space fees. We like that we can schedule invoices on Square and set auto-reminders.
- We expect to net about \$5,700 this season, for a total of about \$33,800 since the market started in 2014.
- Finally, there are only two free yoga days left (9/11 & 9/25) and only five markets left this season! The last market will be on October 2.

Stewardship Committee:

- No full August report. Committee members have done minimal watering and tending, and John will continue to work with committee members to sustain these efforts.
- There will be another Pitch in for the Parks event on Saturday, September 18 at 9-11am. An Eventbrite page is live, as well as a post on the HPAC website.
- John O. met recently with Tom Ebeling of Openlands; he inspected the RMP site for proposed planting. Openlands will provide a tree for the north point on Francisco parkway. He also thinks there is only room for one more tree on the Wilson alley. Jerome Scott of CPD Forestry has been consulted by Tom and there are no objections. Cost to HPAC may be deferred.
 - There will probably be a planting day on a weekday in the fall. John O, will coordinate with Deb Robinett of RMIA on logistics.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **NW Portage Walking Museum / Earth Mound Project:**
 - Phase One has been completed. (The basic structure has been built with surface, covered in temporary rye grass to prevent winter erosion.) The underpass is also complete.
 - Phase Two will begin in Spring 2022 with native plantings and plant construction.
 - Plans for a fundraiser are currently under discussion.
 - Plans for a consecration ceremony on October 11, 2021 (Indigenous Peoples' Day) are in development.
 - **Nature Play Space / Wendell's Garden:**
 - Building materials continue to accumulate near the designated area for the Nature Play Space. The project is still scheduled to go forward with the understanding that CPD is backlogged from COVID-19 delays.
 - HPAC has signed a CPD Funding Partnership Pledge, indicating HPAC will provide more than \$11,000 towards this project. Although we have adequate funds on hand to complete this project as currently described, it

seems wise to continue to raise funds for future additions, replenishment of expendables, and to create a sense of community ownership.

- **Future tasks:**
 - Create signage (a Giving Tree?) at the site with QR links to the HPAC web page and giving portals.
 - Decide on a name (e.g., Wendell's Garden, South Woods, Sundial Park)
 - For additional details, please email Peter or Diane directly, or stewardship@hornerpark.org
- **Participatory Budgeting Projects:**
 - The Alderman's office has received around 150 ideas and its PB committee is processing them.
 - Ideas impacting Horner Park include:
 - Requests to fix the pathways around the park and the river trail.
 - The committee is generally in support of this.
 - Installing a turf soccer field
 - The committee has concerns about its feasibility.
 - Finishing the DFA.
 - Painting paint bike lanes on the pathway.
 - Playground repair and updates, including protection around its zip line and a splash pad for the playground.
 - The committee has concerns about the feasibility of the splash pad.
 - Electric vehicle charging spots in the parking lot.
 - Community garden space.
 - More public art.
 - If HPAC has a strong opinion on or information related to any of these project ideas, it may want to provide it for the PB committee's consideration.
 - **Benches:** A proposal was submitted to Alderman's Rodriguez-Sanchez's office and Chicago Park District Planning and Construction. We understand that the Park District isn't taking on new projects right now, even if they are funded, due to lack of capacity.
 - **Exercise equipment:**
 - The PB ballot item last year for \$45K bundled the exercise equipment project with the benches. The money was intended to cover both projects with \$20K allotted for the benches and \$25K for the exercise equipment. The cost estimates used for PB were derived from conversations with the CPD about installing a few simple pieces such as a pullup bar, parallel bars, a sit-up bench and more; they could either stand together or to be spread around the park. Basic standalone pieces were priced at a couple thousand dollars each with the remainder going toward delivery and installation costs.

- At this time, to allow for a month of awareness and other discussion in advance of the vote for officers this next term, we will propose to nominate the following in October:
 - President: Peter Schlossman
 - Vice President: Amy Jahnke
 - Vice President: John Friedmann
 - Secretary: Daniel Honigman
 - Treasurer: Diane Sutliff
- Nominations are welcome from other members before October's meeting.
- The Committee will also be developing a succession plan to position HPAC for a strong, continuous transition to new leadership.

Website Committee:

- Minutes through July 2021 are posted on the HPAC website.
- Diane's been getting bounced emails from DreamHost. Kevin reactivated HPAC's free Google Workspace (formerly Google Suite) for Nonprofits account so we can switch to it. This free service is provided through our TechSoup.org account. I plan to migrate hornerpark.org's email server address from DreamHost to Gmail/Google once I've verified everything will port over smoothly and have archived the existing email accounts. This should fix the bounced email problem, and restore the ability to forward stewardship@hornerpark.org emails to comcast.net addresses, and any other domains that have been blocking DreamHost emails.
- No updates on migration to Wix. Google Search Console reports no major change for hornerpark.org.
- Discussed future QuickBooks options with Diane and Daniel, and shared our old QuickBooks Premier 2015 license via ftp.hornerpark.org so they can download it. I suggested possibly using Amazon's WorkSpaces to host the Desktop version of QuickBooks. Amazon has a nonprofit plan providing \$1000 of credit for 1yr of services, which would let HPAC setup a virtual cloud PC to run QuickBooks on. There's no commitment to this this approach, but I'd like to ask HPAC for permission to apply for the credit so we can move quickly if it proves useful. (We could probably host hornerpark.org on AWS too using surplus funds from that credit.)

New Business

- None.

Old Business:

- **Recognition for Deb Mell:**
 - The thank you card and gift certificate were delivered; she was appreciative.

Announcements

- Fall programs begin next week (i.e., week of September 6).

- The Fieldhouse is back to normal programming and can accommodate rentals and partners once more.
- There is an opening for a physical instructor role at Horner Park.

Motion to Adjourn:

Daniel motioned to adjourn; Peter seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting

October 6 @ 7:00 pm: Horner Fieldhouse and via Google Meet