

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday October 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Horner Park Fieldhouse and via Google Meet - meet.google.com/pxy-hyta-obo**

Attendees:

Erica Beutler
John Friedmann
Tali Gorovoy
Daniel Honigman
Amy Jahnke
Jay Lyon
John O'Connell
Esther Young
Jeff Young
Deb Groh (Chicago Park District)
Carlton Jones (Illinois Little League)

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

Review of September 2021 Minutes:

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

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- September 2021 and fiscal end of year reports sent under separate cover. Committee leads have until the end of October to review and check for errors. Reports will be closed on October 31.
- There was a small reallocation of some August contributions, which were moved from General Contributions and Farmers Market to DFA, where they belong.
- There are roughly \$29,000 in unallocated funds, so ideas are always welcome.
- Fiscal books starting next fiscal year will be kept in QuickBooks Online (QBO), to ensure a more seamless transition to future treasurers. Diane has also compiled a best practices notebook as well for future treasurers
- Diane will be unable to cut paper checks for the next several weeks. If anyone needs a paper check or the debit card number, please contact Peter and Kevin respectively.

Nominating Committee Report – Election of Officers:

- The following individuals are nominated for two-year terms:
 - **President:** Peter Schlossman
 - **Vice President:** John Friedmann
 - **Vice President:** Amy Jahnke
 - **Secretary:** Daniel Honigman
 - **Secretary:** Tali Gorovoy
 - **Treasurer:** Diane Sutliff
 - **Assistant Treasurer:** Daniel Honigman
 - **Assistant Treasurer:** Gretchen Helmreich
- Daniel seconded the nominations. There were no other comments or officer nominations
- **Vote:** All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.
- In addition, it was suggested that the executive and nominating committees establish a task force to work on developing future HPAC leaders as it attracts new members.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:

- **Construction progress:**
 - The new fence panels were installed on Sept. 14th.
 - The water feature fix is still outstanding; but there's a desire to fix it now. However, water in the parks will be shut off soon.
 - A volunteer is working on the platinum donor sign.
 - Regular DFA maintenance continues.
- **Fundraisers:**
 - MOJO DOG CO. is donating a percent of sales from its grand opening event.
 - Calendars have not yet gone to print.
- **Other:**
 - The Committee would like to plant a tree in memory of Grace Gaughan. Planning will continue into Spring 2022.

Concerts Committee:

- **2021 Season:** We were able to hold eight shows from July 23 through Sept. 10 at Horner Park, and we had some shows with exceptionally large crowds. There was something for everyone, from the ballet recital to jazz to pop and good old-fashioned rock and roll. Having the shows in such a compressed timeline (every week) posed challenges for labor as well as promotions, because there was something to do every week, several times each week.
- **Contributions:** There is only one check outstanding. We received a handful of payments this season via Venmo and PayPal using QR codes that Diane Sutliff created, so we were able to generate another \$200 or so at events. QR codes will be used in our solicitations going forward and in any signage we use.
- **PA System:** The committee is rethinking the PA purchase based on the experience we had with a sound professional this season. Our system does need to be replaced but what that looks like is under consideration now.

- **Next Steps:** A Committee meeting will be set up in November. Anyone interested in joining should email Jay Lyon at jay@lyoncommunications.com. We are hopeful that we may return to Manor and the surrounding parks in 2022. Key 2022 committee needs:
 - Labor (setting up lights at the shows)
 - Assistance with donor mailings
 - Support for show promotion via email, social media (e.g., Facebook) and the website.

Farmers Market Committee:

- We closed the 2021 season of the Horner Park Farmers Market on Saturday, October 2. It was a great season! Our attendance was steady and was up about 25% over our 2019 season. Our new vendors were happy and would like to come back next year. Our veteran vendors were glad to be back with us.
- We moved to all electronic payment this year, which overall was great.
- We do currently have two outstanding invoices due from two vendors and are working to close those.
- Once our books are closed, we expect to net about \$5,700 this season, for a total of about \$33,800 since the market started in 2014.

Stewardship Committee:

- **Events:**
 - **September 18 Horner Park Cleanup:**
 - Fewer attendees than previous events, potentially due to time of year, weather, and Farmer's Market location. There was also a Friends of the River event the same day.
 - **October 23 Manor / Buffalo Parks Cleanup:**
 - Eventbrite page, HPAC website post, and Facebook event are live. Promotion will occur over the next several weeks.
 - **October 13 Tree Planting Day:** RMIA and Openlands will be hosting a tree planting day on Wednesday October 13. One tree will be planted along the Wilson Ave. alley at Ravenswood Manor Park, and another on the parkway on Francisco St. at Manor Ave. at the north point of Ravenswood Manor Park. HPAC has contributed \$200 toward these trees. Volunteers are still needed to plant these trees and others in the Ravenswood Manor neighborhood that morning.
- **Other:**
 - Chris Moran and John O'Connell have recruited new stewards to help at Ravenswood Manor and Buffalo Parks. Jeff and Esther Young have volunteered to help keep the park clean and the gardens tended. John has given them access to the hoses in the JOBOX, as well as a fire hydrant wrench, a wagon with buckets, and a Buffalo box rig with key. It is hoped they can continue to keep the gardens watered during dry spells. John has relinquished many duties there due to recent health issues.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **Irving Park Road Underpass Opening:**
 - The underpass opening was successful. Mayor Lightfoot, Ald. Martin and Supt./CEO Michael Kelly were on hand along with other dignitaries. Michael Kelly acknowledged HPAC and the work of the DFA Committee for raising funds and getting that project constructed. (Kudos to the DFA committee!)
 - **NW Portage Walking Museum / Earth Mound Project:**
 - **October 11 Coiled Serpent Ceremony:**
 - HPAC published a blog post in support of the project to the website.
 - There will be a larger 'Grand Opening' event in 2023.
 - **Nature Play Space / Wendell's Garden:**
 - Sean Schaffer sent the following list of items for HPAC to complete:
 - **Some record or description of a public meeting:** When, where, were any concerns raised and how were they addressed, etc.) Peter to provide.
 - **Petition:** Can likely provide from prior open house events.
 - **Site surveys:** HPAC to obtain (need 3 surveys over 2-3 weeks / 2 at peak usage times. The Committee may need some assistance.
 - **Letter of support from PAC:** In this case since the PAC is the applicant – a local community org or Alderman.)
 - The written proposal itself should include the following
 - **Play Space design:** Complete
 - **Two-year funding plan:** Complete
 - **Group membership roster:** HPAC to obtain
 - **Maintenance plan:** HPAC to obtain
 - **Suppliers and installation plan:** Need to clarify what this is and if HPAC provides
 - **Plant list:** need to clarify what this is and if HPAC provides
 - **Participatory Budgeting (PB) Projects:**
 - The PB committee is now in the process of soliciting feedback and developing proposals for the ballot, which has not been finalized.
 - Everything is being posted to and comments can be made on a public platform this year, where the Alderman's office wants all conversations to occur so there can be transparency. HPAC should also post its official positions as to any of the below projects on the site. (Individuals can also post their opinions.)
 - Projects submitted that impact Horner Park are as follows:
 - **Repair/Repave Horner Path:** Since CPD is already working on this, we recommend removing it from the list.
 - **Turf Soccer Field:** Discussed in the September HPAC meeting; neither HPAC nor Deb support.

- **Splash Pad:** Discussed in the September HPAC meeting. Neither HPAC nor Deb support, due to space concerns and existing splash pads at nearby parks.
- **Fitness Equipment:** \$25K was already allocated from 2020 PB funds. The plan was to install three or four pieces of equipment. Current funding should cover what's in the original scope, with some extra funding possibly coming from HPAC. CPD hasn't yet assigned a designer to this project, but it may be in 2022.
 - **Current HPAC position:** HPAC recommends sticking with the current plan due to spacing constraints.
- **Community Garden:** there is a process for developing community gardens that includes approval from Park Supervisor, park PAC, site approval (within 100 feet of existing water source with ample sun), gaining petition signatures, completing site surveys, holding community meetings, and having a group to support and maintain endeavor. Deb did not feel there was a good spot for this at Horner and it seems like there needs to be more community support structure in place as funding is only a small part. Additionally, there are 100 community garden spots available at Lawrence and Manor, just six blocks away.
 - **Current HPAC position:** HPAC is generally against this idea, due to space constraints, coordination, and more.
- **Riverfront Stone Step:** There was a request to fix the stone steps; it is currently in the process of getting repaired.
 - **Current HPAC position:** Since this is already being repaired, we recommend removing this from the list.
- **Riverfront Dog Trail:** There was a separate request for a trail that allows dogs, however there may be a CPD rule for nature areas preventing this.
 - **Current HPAC position:** Since CPD does not allow this, we recommend removing this from the list.
- **Dog Friendly Area:** While the DFA still needs funding for Phase Three, including dog-friendly turf play fields, the Alderman's office says it has already given \$50K to the project, and discussions must occur regarding the same project making the ballot twice. HPAC and the DFA feels that (among other reasons) since the Alderman's office spent funds that had been allocated by the previous alderman, since it also limited the available funding listed on the ballot to \$25K, and since the project should be finished, it should remain.
- **Earth Mound:** Additional clarification is required for the request; HPAC was told last year that PB funds could not be used for plantings for the Nature Play Space. The PB committee is following up with the organization to determine the need, and the Alderman's office is following up on whether PB can be used for plantings for purposes of this project. The Mound project also previously received \$25K in PB funds. (It is also unclear whether

the alderman has given the mound project additional funds.)
There are other planned improvements.

- **Current HPAC position:** None yet.
- **Electric Charging Station**
- **Bike Repair Station:** Details to come.
 - **Current HPAC position:** HPAC is in favor of this – including placement and the identification of parties responsible for maintenance – pending additional details.
- **East Path Repairs:**
 - The CPD plans to repair the path next spring. Extent or type of work is still to be determined.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:** No report.
- **Jacob's Playlot:** Bea Tersch will organize a mulch event on October 30. Time TBD.
- **Sunken Garden:** Luke Ross will organize an upcoming event. Date/time TBD.
- **Buffalo Park:** No report.

Communications Committee:

- The committee is working with Stewardship to promote the 10/23 cleanup event.
- The committee is exploring options other than Mailchimp for email marketing.
- No action items.

Website Committee:

- Minutes through August 2021 have been posted on the website. An additional post about the October 23 Buffalo/Manor Park stewardship event has also been published.
- The site continues to function despite an outdated theme and some incompatible plugins. One of these plugins is an automatic backup system; Kevin is working on one-click backups with DreamHost in lieu of this.
- No meaningful change to search/tracking results.
- No progress on Wix site to date.

New Business:

- **Clark-California and Horner Park Fun Run:**
 - Peter met with a Clark Park Advisory Council member about a potential Fun Run from Clark to California to Horner Parks and call it the 312 RiverRun.
 - The idea is to hold it on March 12 (a Saturday), and it would be 3.12 miles (just over 5K), for a round trip. He figures if it snows, we can make it a ski, snowshoe, or sledding event.
 - Deb is open to the event. Amy to work with Peter about forming a subcommittee.

Old Business:

- None.

Announcements:

- Welcome new Area Manager Greg Czajkowski!
- There are two openings at Horner Park: one for a physical instructor and one for a music instructor.
- Recently retired Don Sadofsky is volunteering his time to keep the Horner Park Jazz Band together.
- Deb is working on removing the light post left behind from recent construction
- There will be a re-dedication of LaPointe Park.
- Horner Park is hosting a boxing event on October 14th.

Motion to Adjourn:

Amy motioned to adjourn; Daniel seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting:

November 3 @ 7:00 pm: Horner Fieldhouse and via Google Meet