

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday April 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted at the Horner Park Fieldhouse**

Attendees:

Erica Beutler
Courtney Eilers
John Friedmann
Jay Lyon
Alan Mueller
John O'Connell
Peter Schlossman
Diane Sutliff
Bob Brobson (Lane Tech Softball)
Roger Irwin (Lane Tech Softball)
Grace Brobson (Lane Tech Softball)
Stella Brobson (Lane Tech Softball)
Moiria Irwin (Lane Tech Softball)
Regan King (DePaul College Prep Softball)
Emma Jones (DePaul College Prep Softball)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Review of March 2022 Minutes:

- Erica motioned to approve minutes. Jay seconded. All were in favor. Minutes were approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- Funds continue to come in for this summer's Concerts series.
- There were minor expenditures in March 2022.
- Financial reports will be distributed under separate cover.
- Form 990 completed

Park Briefs:

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

- Planting must be done by June 15th or it cannot be done until fall. A meeting was held with the Chicago Park District to discuss the condition of the mound and plantings.
 - The group applied for a city-funded grant for \$85K and was shortlisted for approval. Chantay Moore from the American Indian Center and the artist X and are scheduled to make a presentation for final approval. If received, it will be enough to complete the work. They are optimistic.
 - **Nature Play Space / Wendell's Garden:**
 - Sean Shaffer reported that work can begin once the ground is ready, and the contractor gets scheduled. Work is expected to begin soon.
 - **Bottle Filler Progress:**
 - Estimated at \$2500, including plumbing and electrical but not masonry. Deb will investigate further on pricing and see if we can get costs down.
 - **Divvy Bike Pad:**
 - No update.
 - **312 RiverRun Event:**
 - The RiverRun Run date is June 25.
 - Sponsor letter was drafted; may need help securing sponsors.
 - A Lane Tech student made t-shirt design.
 - Another meeting will be held next week; fair amount of work to do yet.
 - **Salt on Paths:**
 - Peter to send an email to Deb to express HPAC (Horner Park Advisory Council) concern regarding excessive use of salt on the environment.
 - Deb to talk to landscaping about using less salt and better calibrating equipment.
 - **Mobile Makers:**
 - Peter and Daniel to connect with Maya Bird-Murphy to possibly coordinate around summer events. Services are fee-based so will be subject to further discussion/vote.
 - **Exercise Stations and benches:**
 - Erich Sprague is no longer the Project Manager.
 - Peter spoke with Maria Stone on April 6th, who said we could get the equipment and benches installed for \$50,000. Erica/Peter to follow up.
 - **Other:**
 - Deb will request NO DOGS signs to be placed on the tennis court gates.
 - John F. discussed with Lauren Umek the addition of NO DOGS signs to be placed at new 312 trail entrances at the Irving Pass underpass.
 - Courtney Eilers proposed pouring rubber surface for playground to replace current woodchips as safer and less maintenance. Deb to explore feasibility. (Deb has already ordered more fibar for the playlot.)
 - Deb walked pathway with Beth Tomlins. Repair plans are "in queue" but probably not going to happen this spring.
 - Deb talking to CPD about remediation plans for area outside of DFA.
 - Horner is in the process of hiring a new music instructor.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - John O. cleaned and cut back garden beds and planters at the park.

- John O. and Amy updated the information board at Manor Park with a new banner and background.
- Deb ordered more fibar for the playlot.
- **Jacob's Playlot:**
 - Deb ordered more fibar for the playlot.
- **Sunken Garden:**
 - No report.
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - No report.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:

- Ongoing DFA maintenance continues.
- Currently fundraising for fresh fibar. This will be an annual maintenance expense. Goal is \$5,000 for spring improvements and maintenance. Fiber will be ordered separately and Italian Gardners will install. Hoping to have it completed next month.
- The large dog area gate latch broke and was replaced.
- There is no update on the build or State Farm grant.
- There will be no Doggie Egg Hunt this year.
- DFA Earth Day Cleanup will focus on picking up both inside and around outside of DFA.

Stewardship Committee:

- A Stewardship Committee meeting was held March 29; draft minutes were distributed under separate cover.
- **Earth Day:** Earth Day events will be held on Saturday, April 23 at all five HPAC parks from 9am-12pm. All parks are registered with Friends of the Parks, the event's sponsor.
 - Mulch will be provided at Ravenswood Manor Park and Sunken Garden.
 - Notre Dame group will do its own clean up on April 30 instead.
- **River Day:** River Day will be Saturday, May 14 from 9am-12pm, and is sponsored by Friends of the River. John F reported that Horner will participate. Plan to mulch trails and already have volunteers signed up.
- May 21 is the It's Our Parks Day event. HPAC participation is to be determined.

Concerts Committee:

- **Summer Concert Series:**
 - The 2022 Summer Concert Series dates are set. The schedule is as follows:
 - **5/20:** Fortunate Sons (CCR)
 - **6/10:** Hōkūle'a
 - **6/24:** Second Hand News (Fleetwood Mac)
 - **7/8:** The Waco Brothers
 - **7/22:** Pat Mallinger and Urban Soul
 - **7/24:** Narloch Piano Recital
 - **8/5:** The Mary Jane Breakdown (Tom Petty)
 - **8/19:** Le Ballet Petit Recital

- **9/9:** The Old Town School of Folk Music presents Jess McIntosh & Aaron Smith (Americana/bluegrass)
- We are excited to have shows back at Ravenswood Manor Park! The Waco Brothers will be at Horner as we expect a large crowd.
- For the first time, we will have a show at Jacob Park! The 9/9 show will be at Jacob, and we thank Dana Dougherty and the Greater Rockwell Organization for helping us with it. Still working on the power issue.
- We are about halfway to our goal for fundraising, and we need help getting the word out. Anyone who would like to help with fundraising, please contact Jay Lyon at jay@lyoncommunications.com.
- RMIA will put a subscriber letter in its newsletter.
- We will also need people to help on the day of the shows, with setting up lights and passing out program books.
- Permit application was sent in; HPAC need to do a CPD partnership application.
- Will apply for DCASE special event grant for shows between May and October.

Farmers Market Committee:

- No report.

Nominating Committee:

- Tali Gorovoy has resigned from her co-secretary position.
- Will be taking under advisement new candidates for co-secretary and treasurer. Preference for person familiar with QuickBooks and non-profits.

Communications Committee:

- No report.

Website Committee:

- Minutes through February 2022 are live on the HPAC website (hornerpark.org).

New Business:

- **Softball turf fields:**
 - Bob Brobson of Lane Tech Girls Softball Booster Club Rep presented their proposal to transform softball fields 7 and 8 into turf fields.
 - Challenged to find places to practice due to weather and competition from boys' baseball. Current fields in poor condition, benches buried.
 - Used Hale Park field renovation as an example. That cost \$750K and was covered by Cubs Care and the Cal Ripken Foundation.
 - The group recognizes that two fields would likely cost over \$1.5 million and feel confident about fundraising capabilities. Felt timeline could be

“accelerated.” HPAC reminded the group that the Chicago Park District does not allow advertising and naming rights must be approved by CPD.

- Deb mentioned and group familiar with a softball family who wants to make a large donation to honor the memory of their daughter that may be able to fold into funding for this project.
- Project would involve demolishing current fields, grading, and 18 inches of soil removal -- which HPAC explained is probably contaminated, making disposal more costly. Plan shows turf infield to grass outfield, chain link fencing for perimeter protection, concrete curb for bleachers, players, spectators. The project would not include lights at this time.
- HPAC advised that it would like to see public meetings held to gather community feedback and offered to help coordinate/host.
- A question was raised regarding the need for concrete; crushed limestone was discussed as a potential alternative.
- A question was raised regarding who would maintain the fields. Needs to be further researched and coordinated.
- It was noted that the current mode of scheduling fields would still be in effect.
- Recognition of the limited lifespan of turf fields and need for future replacement.
- HPAC members present were generally supportive of developing the idea further.
- **Ecuadorian Festival (August 13-14):**
 - Status is uncertain. Permit application has not been submitted to or approved by the Chicago Park District.

Old Business:

- **Horner BrewFest:**
 - Will be held July 15. Hoping for the front lawn again.
 - Diane motioned to approve request for up to \$3,000 for initial expenditures related to event planning, including but not limited to insurance and permitting costs. Erica seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.
 - Next BrewFest meeting will be held on April 11. The committee is looking for more volunteers/planning committee members.

Announcements:

- None.

Motion to Adjourn:

Jay motioned to adjourn; Diane seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting:

The next HPAC meeting will be May 4 @ 7:00 p.m. at the Horner Park Fieldhouse.