

**Horner Park Advisory Council  
Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday April 5, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting conducted at the Horner Park Fieldhouse**

**Attendees:**

Erica Beutler  
Larry Hodak  
Daniel Honigman  
Amy Jahnke  
Alan Mueller (RMIA)  
John O'Connell  
Peter Schlossman  
Kirsten Southwell  
Diane Sutliff  
Max Umansky (Sen. Feigenholtz)  
Manny Vega (Save Winnemac Park)  
David Post (HPNWLL)  
Lola Post (HPNWLL)

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

**Review of March 2023 Minutes:**

- John O. motioned to approve the minutes. Diane seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The minutes were approved.

**Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Contributions for the Concert Series continue to roll in, as well as money for new mulch at the DFA (Dog Friendly Area).
- Vendors are submitting fees for the upcoming Farmer's Market season.
- Large expenditures were a deposit for the new mulch, and payment for the new water bottle refill station for the main fieldhouse.
- Form 990 remains outstanding, while we wait for tax season to subside.
- We have a healthy surplus on hand and are always looking for community input on ways to make our parks better. Please email [treasurer@hornerpark.org](mailto:treasurer@hornerpark.org) with questions or suggestions.
- March Treasurer's Reports and financial statements were sent under separate cover.

## **Park Briefs:**

- **Horner Park:**
  - **Exercise Equipment Progress:**
    - The color selection was submitted to the Chicago Park District.
    - The flags marking the utility lines are still there, but there is no indication the project manager has examined the site.
  - **Walking Path Repair/Replacement and Parking Lot Progress:**
    - Some work has been done, but it will likely not be completed before the 312 RiverRun event.
  - **Bottle Filler:**
    - The deposit has been sent in, and now it just needs to be installed.
  - **Elevator Repair:**
    - No report.
  - **Gym Floors Repair:**
    - A temporary fix was made, with different finishes for the indoor sports season. The plan is to start work again in August 2023.
  - **Mound:**
    - Planting will start in late June.
  - **Tree and Grass Replacement:**
    - Some grass and the tree were torn up near the Fieldhouse; HPAC would like to see it replaced before the start of the Farmer's Market season.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
  - **Kiosk Maintenance:**
    - The light was fixed.
- **Jacob Playlot Park:**
  - Most toys were removed; some remain on the playground.
- **Sunken Gardens**
  - HPAC would like to thank Luke Ross for all his recent efforts.
- **Buffalo Park:**
  - No report.

## **Signage Committee:**

- There was a committee meeting in late March to gather feedback on the proposed signage designs documented by Kirsten.
- There will be a meeting tomorrow (April 6) with Matt Freer, Maggie Warren, Lauren Umek and Mike Raczyla from CPD to exchange ideas and learn more about the signage creation/approval process.
- Kirsten suggested we document the current state of the path to show a “before and after” to show the impact of new signage.
- Manny Vega (Save Winnemac Park) discussed what is being done in Winnemac to address the off-leash dog issue.

### **Stewardship Committee:**

- A Zoom meeting was held for Stewardship on March 8, 2023, draft minutes were sent under separate cover and are available on the HPAC Microsoft Teams site.
- Thanks to Larry Hodak and Susan O'Connell for helping to clean up Ravenswood Manor Park in mid-March.
- Earth Day cleanup events will be in Ravenswood Manor, Buffalo, Sunken Gardens and Jacob Parks on Saturday April 22, from 9-11am. The committee will not be cleaning Horner Park that day.
- River Day will be at Horner, Jacob, and Sunken Gardens on Saturday May 13 from 9-11am. The committee plans to mulch the river paths and remove litter.
- John O. has submitted an article for the RMIA News ("[The Manor News](#)") on the history of Ravenswood Manor Park as a method of recruiting new stewards. The article was sent under separate cover.
- John O. made a motion to provide \$250 for plant material to be used at Sunken Gardens along the riverbank.
  - Daniel seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed. The motion passed.
- John O. made a motion to provide \$300 for plant material to be used at Ravenswood Manor Park and Buffalo Park.
  - Diane moved to amend the motion to cover up to \$400 in costs.
- John made a motion to provide up to \$400 for plant material at Ravenswood Manor Park and Buffalo Park.
  - Diane seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed. The motion passed.
- John O. would like to thank Larry Hodak and Susan O'Connell for recent efforts in cleaning up Manor Park.
- **Upcoming events:**
  - **Earth Day:** April 22
  - **River Day:** May 13
  - **It's Your Park Day:** June 3

### **Concerts Committee:**

- The committee is continuing to raise money and still needs volunteers for shows. Please reach out to Jay Lyon ([jay@lyoncommunications.com](mailto:jay@lyoncommunications.com)) for details.
- This season's shows are as follows:
  - **Friday, June 16:** RMIA show (to be determined)
  - **Friday, June 30:** Frank Catalano
  - **Friday, July 14:** Delmark Records: Blues in the Park (Horner Park)
  - **Sunday, July 16:** Narloch Piano Recital
  - **Friday, July 28:** Nathan Graham
  - **Friday, August 11:** Le Ballet Petit Performance
  - **Sunday, August 13:** Horner Park Jazz Band (Sunday Jazz in the park)
  - **Friday, August 25:** Red Roses
  - **Friday, September 8:** Luciano Antonio (Jacob Park)

### **312 RiverRun Committee:**

- Banners are up, and materials have been purchased.
- Waste Not will return as the event's primary sponsor; more sponsors are being added.
- The volunteer signup is on the HPAC website at [hornerpark.org](http://hornerpark.org).

### **Farmer's Market Committee:**

- No report.

### **Nominating Committee:**

- John drafted an initial HPAC "elevator speech" and requests feedback and/or suggested edits. The draft document is available in the HPAC Microsoft Teams site for review.

### **Horner BrewFest Committee:**

- Nearly 20 breweries have been confirmed to date for the event.
- The committee is still looking for a sponsor for the BrewFest glasses.
- There will likely be a committee meeting the week of April 9.

### **Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:**

- **Fundraising:**
  - The Mulch Madness campaign is ongoing.
  - The Doggie Egg Hunt was held on April 1. 92 dogs and their people braved the cold to attend. Attendance was lower than usual due to the weather and a new business model incurred more costs, but most can be rolled forward to next year or re-used. The Committee made roughly \$1650 profit from the event.
- **Build and Maintenance:**
  - The next cleanup event will be April 15 at 9:00am.
  - Christy Webber will deliver 240 cubic yards (about twice the volume of a one car garage) of fibar on May 29. Installation is expected to take three days, weather permitting. The DFA will be closed while they are working.
  - CPD has requested payment for the build; Peter replied that payment will be remitted when the work is complete. The splash pad is still not operational due to an electrical issue that the supplier has not been able to fix. CPD is looking into what it would take to bring electricity to the location.
- **Other:**
  - Laura has created a Teams-based DFAC SharePoint site with links to documents housed on the committee's Google Drive. The committee is posting committee meeting minutes to the Dog-Friendly Area channel on the HPAC Teams site.

### **Communications Committee:**

- Amy will begin to investigate the recent [stewardship@hornerpark.org](mailto:stewardship@hornerpark.org) address issues.

### **Website Committee:**

- The committee recognizes that the website redesign project has stalled. It proposes to form a small subcommittee to revisit progress and develop a timeline.
- Minutes through March 2023 have been posted to the HPAC website ([hornerpark.org](http://hornerpark.org)).

### **New Business:**

- **Monarch Butterfly Habitat**
  - Kirsten suggested the creation of a monarch butterfly habitat in the park. Erica suggested Kristen reach out to Spark Montessori for potential collaboration.
- **Sara Feingenholtz Introduction:**
  - Max Umansky from Sen. Feingenholtz's office presented an overview of her current efforts, and upcoming events.
  - HPAC thanks Sen. Feingenholtz for her support of this year's Concerts Series.

### **Old Business:**

- **Strategic Planning Follow-Up**
  - Diane motioned to make a \$300 donation to Wounded Warriors to thank Joshua Christensen for his efforts facilitating the strategic planning session.
    - Amy seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.
- **HPAC Internship idea:**
  - The board concluded this is not practical; the topic was tabled indefinitely.
- **Valentine's Day Dance:**
  - The event was an enormous success and was well attended.
- **Arboretum Designation:**
  - No updates.

### **Announcements:**

- **Events:**
  - **April 22:** Earth Day
  - **May 13:** River Day There will be a mulching event at Horner Park.
  - July 23: Friends of the River is discussing a float event, during which attendees jump into the river by the River Park boat launch, and float down to Horner Park.

### **Motion to Adjourn:**

Erica motioned to adjourn at 8:19pm; Diane seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

### **Next Monthly Meeting:**

The next HPAC meeting will be Wednesday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the Horner Park Fieldhouse