

**Horner Park Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday March 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting conducted at the Horner Park Fieldhouse**

Attendees:

Erica Beutler
Laura Bolesta
Athene Carras
Daniel Honigman
Nathan Hunter
Jay Lyon
Alan Mueller (RMIA)
John O'Connell
Ben Ranney
Peter Schlossman
Kirsten Southwell
Bea Tersch
Carlton Jones (HPNWLL)
David Post (HPNWLL)
Lola Post (HPNWLL)
Deb Groh (Chicago Parks District)

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Review of February 2023 Minutes:

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

Annual Report Review:

- The annual report has been distributed. All officers and committee leaders should provide feedback as soon as possible, ideally before February 15.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

- Funds were safely sequestered for the Dog Friendly Area and Nature Play Space when those bills are due next.
- There was little activity this month, but contributions for the Summer Concert Series are coming in.
- We continue to have a healthy balance of unallocated money and look forward to great ideas from the community on how to improve our parks.

- The full HPAC transition to Chase Bank is still to be completed.
- HPAC has retained the services of an accountant; HPAC has filed an extension request for Form 990, and we now have five more months to submit the form.
- Treasurer's Reports and financial statements will follow under separate cover.
- Peter to deposit checks while Diane is out of town.
- Please email treasurer@hornerpark.org with questions or suggestions.

Park Briefs:

- **Horner Park:**
 - **Exercise Equipment Progress:**
 - Deb sent the Stewardship committee information about the possible color scheme; the Park District is waiting on final approval for it to go out to bid.
 - Erica suggested we encourage the project manager to look at the site while the utility lines are flagged for the path project to determine if there is conflict with using the site.
 - **Walking Path Repair:**
 - Hoping to get an early start to the repair, due to the mild weather.
 - **Bottle Filler:**
 - No report.
 - **Elevator Repair:**
 - No report.
 - **Gym Floors Repair:**
 - The gym floors are still being repaired.
 - **Mound:**
 - Planting is tentatively scheduled to start April 15, weather permitting. The mound could be open to the public in fall.
 - **Other:**
 - There will be no kids' egg hunt in the gym this year.
 - John met with Lauren from the Chicago Park District about getting CPD-approved signage for the nature path.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
 - **Kiosk Maintenance:**
 - No report.
- **Jacob Playlot Park:**
 - There is an abundance of toys (e.g., plastic cars and wagons) at the park, which must be cleaned up.
 - John O. suggested that HPAC post a notice advising owners to pick up their items before the Earth Day stewardship event.
 - Bea requested wood chips between the sidewalk and the wall, and some soil and grass seed on the hill. Deb will put in a request if possible.
- **Sunken Gardens**
 - No report.
- **Buffalo Park:**
 - No report.

Stewardship Committee:

- **Waters School partnership:**
 - John O'Connell and Ben Ranney recently met with Kerrie Rovito, a teacher at Waters Elementary School, who proposes to take classes to Sunken Gardens Park for environmental education. She contacted Deb Groh and will follow the CPD approval process.
 - Kerrie showed John work on the riverbank at Sunken Gardens Park completed by her and other local volunteers. The bank was terraced, and much invasive buckthorn was felled and laid out.
 - They propose to continue restoration efforts this spring and plan to plant natives for erosion control. They have been advised to clear any further work with the CPD and the MWRD and engage us in committee stewardship activities. (Photos sent under separate cover.)
- **Other:**
 - A Stewardship Committee Zoom meeting will be held on March 8 at 7 PM to discuss goals in all 5 parks for 2023.

Concerts Committee:

- The Concerts Committee held a meeting on February 6 and discussed its season. This year's shows will include:
 - **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)
- The Committee Chair put forth two goals for this season, and as a guideline for future seasons:
 - **Better balance.** We want to get away from being so cover band-heavy and involve more original artists. At least a couple of shows ought to be aimed at original music because those artists need support the most.
 - **Have artists who are representative of the community today.** We can and will do a better job of being more inclusive.
- Sponsorship and subscription information went out in February. We have received about \$400 in subscriptions to date and need to raise about \$16,000 to fund the season.
- Apart from fundraising assistance, the committee needs volunteers to run shows. If we are unable to secure volunteers to help at shows, we will be forced to examine the number of shows in the future.

312 RiverRun Committee:

- The Eventbrite page went live today. Sign-ups are now being accepted.
- The next committee meeting will be Wednesday, March 8.
- The committee still needs volunteers. Everyone interested should email Peter.

Farmer's Market Committee:

- No report.

Nominating Committee:

- The Board, along with several Committee chairs, participated in a retreat meeting on February 25, hosted by Jay Lyon, and facilitated pro bono by Joshua Christiansen. Participants included Peter Schlossman, Amy Jahnke, John Friedman, Erica Beutler, Jay Lyon, Gretchen Helmreich, Daniel Honigman, John O'Connell, and Diane Sutliff.
 - The committee – and HPAC – thank Joshua Christiansen for his efforts in facilitating the session.
- The primary goal was to initiate an outline of strategies to help convey our message and recruit new volunteers, all working towards volunteer development and succession planning. Some session highlights:
 - After initial thoughts on “How can we?” questions, we identified Categories from which to address the various needs. Categories included:
 - A. Black Holes (items over which we have no control)
 - B. Communications
 - C. Community Interest/Volunteering
 - D. Council Growth
 - E. Diversity
 - F. Fundraising and Sponsorship
 - G. Meetings
 - H. Other Organizations and Partners
 - I. Younger Generations/Families/Children
 - The group was divided into 2 teams, and after focused deliberations, defined 2 Items on which to initially address:
 - Item A) Category E: Diversity. Start by defining our inclusivity needs and retain an experienced Diversity Advisor (DEI Expert) to help manage that effort.
 - Item A) should be assigned to a new Inclusivity Committee.
 - Item B) Category C: Communications. Start by writing our “Elevator Speech;” Prepare a short, unified message of our mission we all can mantra, that also encourages involvement by the addressee.
 - Item B) should be assigned to the Communications Committee.
Peter volunteered to create the first draft of the Elevator Speech.
 - Initial timeline of progress on each item was targeted to May 1.

- It was agreed that from these two initial objectives, we can make progress on many of the other ideas that were derived from the exercises. Amy Jahnke captured all the effort in a prepared outline and has shared it with the participants. (Attached)
- It was agreed that we should continue this exercise within several weeks, as we define goals, make assignments, set timelines, and measure progress.

Horner BrewFest Committee:

- The date will be July 21, from 6-10pm.
- The committee will be meeting Thursday, March 9 at 7pm at John's F. house.

Dog Friendly Area (DFA) Committee:

- **Fundraising:**
 - The committee will begin its Mulch Madness campaign to raise \$15k for mulch and grade, stone for erosion mediation, and drainpipe installation near the water feature (quote received from Christy Webber).
 - The annual Doggie Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 1 from 1pm-3pm. 250 dogs (and their families) will hunt for treat-filled eggs and participate in activities such as a photo area, paw print flower painting, paw impressions. Volunteers are needed!
- **Build and Maintenance:**
 - The committee will push a campaign to make monthly cleanups more popular and to recruit additional volunteers.
 - Mulch and build improvement to begin once money is raised.
 - There has been no update on plan/costs to bring electricity for fountain operation.
- **Other:**
 - Laura has created a Teams-based SharePoint site for the DFAC 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:

- The committee would like to send an email with dates for all upcoming events. All committee chairs should provide dates as soon as possible.
- The stewardship@hornerpark.org email distribution list has been acting funky of late.
 - Peter to reach out to Kevin Anderson to explore further.
- **Dog signs subcommittee:**
 - Kristen did put together some findings. Key findings:
 - Recommendations were to be more authoritative in message and visuals
 - Develop a campaign (akin to "Bark Rangers" for the National Parks)
 - Kristen to share report with Daniel to post on Teams for internal distribution

Website Committee:

- The committee recognizes that the website redesign project has stalled, and we need to get moving. It proposes to form a small subcommittee to revisit progress and get a timeline together.
- Minutes through December 2022 have been posted to the HPAC website (hornerpark.org).

New Business:

- None.

Old Business:

- **HPAC Internship Idea:**
 - This may not be practical now but will be explored further.
- **Valentine's Day Dance:**
 - The event was an enormous success and was well attended.
- **Arboretum Designation:**
 - No updates.

Announcements:

- **Events:**
 - 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 8:13pm; Jay seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting:

The next HPAC meeting will be Wednesday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Horner Park Fieldhouse