

**Horner Park Advisory Council  
Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday May 3, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting conducted at the Horner Park Fieldhouse**

**Attendees:**

Erica Beutler  
Laura Bolesta  
John Friedmann  
Amy Jahnke  
Jay Lyon  
John O'Connell  
Ben Ranney  
Peter Schlossman  
Kirsten Southwell  
Diane Sutliff  
Alan Mueller (RMIA)  
Kerrie Rovito (CPS)  
David Post (HPNWLL)  
Lola Post (HPNWLL)  
Carlton Jones (HPNWLL)

**Peter called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m.**

**Review of April 2023 Minutes:**

- Jay motioned to approve April minutes. Amy seconded. All were in favor. Minutes were approved. John O. mentioned that the last three months of minutes say 2022 at the top.

**Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Form 990 remains outstanding, while we wait for tax season to subside.
- We have a 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.
- Fifth Third account is still open and will remain so until the end of the summer in case of remnant transactions.
- April Treasurer's Reports and financial statements were sent under separate cover.

**Park Briefs:**

- **Horner Park:**
  - **Exercise Equipment Progress:**
    - Final equipment has been ordered, no update on timing
  - **Walking Path Repair/Replacement and Parking Lot Progress:**

- The construction crews are cruising right along. They believe that they will be done with the concrete work in 2-3 weeks. They encountered issues with the parking lot. The drainage system that is in place is not good. They must address the drainage before they are able to resurface. There is no timetable for this yet.
  - **Bottle Filler:**
    - This is on order; we hope to have it installed by July 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Elevator Repair:**
    - Still waiting for parts. They did already do some work to the elevator.
  - **Gym Floors Repair:** No update
  - **Mound:**
    - On Tuesday June 6th, 10am-11:30am, there is a public event sponsored by Earthworks Chicago with CPAC.
    - The fence will stay up until the plantings are done, likely in the fall.
  - **Tree and Grass Replacement:**
    - HPAC observed additional damage to the grass in front of the fieldhouse due to the new concrete sidewalk being poured.
  - **Nature Play Space:**
    - There are native plants planned for the triangle areas, these should be ready to plant mid- to late May.
    - Diane requests signage which states that HPAC funded the Nature Play Space, with a QR code for donating/ learning more.
    - Diane would like to request that Sean put us back in line for a smaller Nature Play Space southeast of the playground.
- **Ravenswood Manor Park:**
  - **Kiosk Maintenance:**
    - A request was submitted to stain the kiosk.
- **Jacob Playlot Park:**
  - Eric and Deb went to Jacob. They have an idea of where they want the garage to go. It is along the fence where the pavement is. Eric will put together a design of something fun that will encourage the kids to put their ride-ons in there. Still would like to have a small deck box for sand box toys.
- **Sunken Gardens**
  - Waters kids have been weeding the gardens. Waters got a grant from the Awesome Foundation for more gardening supplies and will be planting native plants. Requests more mulch for the gardening beds – same size as before.
- **Buffalo Park:**
  - Diane, Deb, Peter, and Sarah met with Bogdan to discuss fixing the northern part of the park and the area around the sign. Bogdan is going to provide a plan for HPAC to review.

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

- Our 9th season in our 10th year! The market starts 4 weeks from Saturday!
- **Dates:**
  - We are going to stick with a 20-market season this year. June 3 to October 14.
  - **Kids Day:** Set for September 16.

- **Coffee:**
  - Everyone's priority... YES, Backlot Coffee is back with us this season!
- **Farms:**
  - Avrom Farms is coming back this year and will sell meat and eggs.
  - Also returning are Vangies Farm (flowers and produce), Los Rodrigues Farm (veggies, fruit, and preserves), Global Gardens (hyper local veggies), and Six Generations Farm (veggies and fruit).
  - Kaleido Greens will be with us too (microgreens, herbs, edible flowers, and market sandwiches!)
  - **Returning vendors:**
    - Stamper Cheese, La Boulangerie, Soothsayer Hot Sauce, Dilly Dally Provisions, Hilary's Cookies, Señorita Cupcake, Top Notch Bake Shop, Bartleby's Ice Cream Cakes, Tamales Express, Original Empanoli, Blaqué BÉl Catering.
  - **New vendors:**
    - Lunch Money Macaron: Macarons!
    - FLOUSE Mixes: Spice mixes!
    - Farm to Pet Treats: dog treats!
- **Music:**
  - We will be offering our musicians a stipend again this season. And we have so many musicians interested in playing that many market days will have multiple acts. Thank you to Jason Sperling for coordinating this!
- **Yoga:**
  - We will continue to be responsible for Yoga this season. A neighbor Yogi, Megan Backes, will be our yoga coordinator this season. FREE yoga every week is the plan. We pay a stipend to the instructor each week.
- HPAC thanks Gretchen for continuing to spearhead the market efforts.

### **Signage Committee:**

- The committee had a walk-through with Matt Freer, Maggie Warren (CPD signage person), Lauren Umek and Mike Raczyla from CPD.
- Ball is in CPD's court for additions and changes to the signs in the riverfront nature area. They appeared to take some of Kirsten's suggestions into consideration.

### **Stewardship Committee:**

- Earth Day clean up and gardening activities were held at Ravenswood Manor, Buffalo, Sunken Gardens and Jacob Parks on April 22. All except Buffalo had tree mulching. Thanks to Trim-Tex associates for coming out to Ravenswood Manor Park, where the branch fence was improved.
- John O'Connell's article in the RMIA (Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association) Newsletter, Ravenswood Manor Park: The Crown Jewel of the Manor, outlining the park's history and a call for volunteers, was recently published, and distributed in the neighborhood. It is also posted on their website.

- Michael Risella (CPD nature area manager) is looking into removing the plastic rails and replacing them with wooden rails on some of the paths.
- Sunken and Jacob will not have River Day activities as there is still no clarity between MWRD and the CPD on riverbank engagement. Ben Ranney sent an email regarding riverbank property control and has requested HPAC formally reach out to CPD now to determine how to initiate the process for entering into leases with the MWRD, same as the other parks with riverfront in the area. John F. has volunteered to research this.
- **Upcoming events:**
  - **River Day:** Saturday, May 13 – volunteer slots have been filled, but 10 additional spots have been opened (Email John F. to sign up). Mulching trails around the river with a semi-load of mulch.
  - **It's Your Park Day:** June 3

#### **Concerts Committee:**

- The Concert Committee continues its fundraising efforts, with the deadline approaching. We will make a final push for sponsors and subscribers, as we still have not reached our goal.
- The first show is on June 16<sup>th</sup>. The shows are every other week.

#### **312 RiverRun Committee:**

- They are currently in the last push for getting sponsors and are looking for volunteers. There are more than 100 signups so far; last year the race was filled at the last minute.

**Nominating Committee:** No report

#### **Horner BrewFest Committee:**

- This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year - July 21; Daniel has lined up 30 breweries; it is going to be the biggest event ever.
- Tickets went on sale May 15.
- Glasses have been donated by Hound Custom Screen Printing.
- John F. makes a motion for \$10,000 for expenses for the BrewFest, to be offset by income as it has been in the past. Motion passes, none were opposed.

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

- **Fundraising:**
  - MOJO DOGCO is starting a quarterly pack walk, proceeds will go to the DFA.
  - Spring cleanup has been completed, and water is on for the season.
  - Mulch will be delivered at the end of May; the dog park will be closed for a few days while mulch is distributed throughout the space.
  - The splash pad will need to have hard-wired electricity, which will be incorporated as part of redoing the nearby sidewalk (responsibility of CPD). There is currently no timeline for completion.

- Erica has asked if there is a space somewhere in the park to keep a wheelbarrow. Diane moves to spend up to \$300 on a wheelbarrow for the DFA for when we can find space; Erica seconds. Alan opposed. The motion passed.

#### **Communications Committee:**

- Question from Amy about how to handle incoming emails to stewardship, to avoid duplicate replies. Brief discussion resolved in:
  - Daniel can forward questions to Deb, with others filling in as needed.
  - Peter will handle all other issues, delegating to others as appropriate.
- Erica's access to the stewardship@ email has been fixed.
- Amy is working on getting HPAC's Google Workspace for Nonprofits set up so we can transition email to that space. We are currently waiting for HPAC's profile to be verified, which can take up to a week.

**Website Committee:** No report

#### **New Business:**

- **Ceriale memorial:** the flag is not lit; Deb is going to ask the electricians if a solar-mounted light can be put on the flag.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Arboretum Designation:**
  - No updates.
- **Elevator Speech:**
  - John O. asks everyone in the subcommittee to look at this and review.

#### **Announcements:**

- **Events:**
  - **May 13:** River Day.
  - **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. More details to come.

#### **Motion to Adjourn:**

Peter motioned to adjourn at 8:14pm; Diane seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

#### **Next Monthly Meeting:**

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