



THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER

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HORNER PAC: CONTINUING TO DREAM BIG



Horner Park, 2741 W Montrose.

The Horner Park Advisory Council (HPAC) is in its 27th year of working with Chicago Park District and the community surrounding Horner Park. HPAC was chartered back in 1989 as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and they oversee activities at Horner Park as well as four of its satellite parks. HPAC has a history of working cordially with the CPD and the community to realize major capital improvements as well as promoting seasonal events and programs.

Some of HPAC's recent accomplishments include



The above photos are of Horner PAC events in Ravenswood Manor Park: a concert in the park and Earth Day.

helping to secure a transfer of land from CTA to CPD at Jacob Playlot, and finally realizing the restoration of a half mile stretch of riverfront on Horner Park's eastern edge. The two projects were the culmination of a long but gratifying effort to improve the parks

and the environment by effectively expanding park bounds, restoring underused and derelict land for natural habitat and allowing improved access, visibility and safety for all park users. HPAC advocated long and persistently for both of these projects, and they are finally seeing the outcome of their efforts.

In addition to those achievements, HPAC can boast about a wide variety of accomplishments. Two years ago, HPAC also began holding a farmers market on Saturday mornings during the summer, attracting thousands of people each year. HPAC helps maintain their parks annually through Earth Day and River Day cleanup activities, and they sponsored Horner Park's seasonal events such as the Valentine's Dance, Doggie Easter Egg Hunt, and Pumpkin Patch. Their concert committee produces several musical and theatrical performances in their satellite parks, which they've done for over twenty years. Finally, HPAC raised funds three years ago to inoculate 65 trees from the emerald ash borer. That effort successfully kept the invasive pests from destroying

some of the last remaining ash trees on the northwest side.

Presently, they are raising funds for the second round of treatments to their ash trees and have many other plans as well. A new bicycle and pedestrian trail that follows the river is expected. HPAC welcomes the enhanced access the river and a more sustainable form of transportation that this path promotes. HPAC has advocated for this new recreational opportunity for years and they look forward to another park improvement becoming a reality. Moreover, their energetic Dog Friendly Area (DFA) committee has been granted approval to proceed with the DFA process and they anxiously await an approved design. In the meantime, the DFA committee raised \$100,000 and social media awareness to establish a designated area for off-leash dogs to play.

For more information on Horner Park Advisory Council, visit their website at www.hornerpark.org. Article submitted by the Horner Park Advisory Council.

Want your PAC featured in the PAC Highlights section?

Please give us a little history about your PAC and the great work your PAC has done. Why did you start? Was there a hurdle that you overcame? Is there a great project you'd like to share? Please include 1-2 pictures and no more than 300 words. Send submissions to Nicole at machucan@fotp.org.

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

May 10th: On the Table

May 11th: Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting, Peggy Notebaert Museum @ 3:30pm (requests to speak due the day before by 4pm)

May 14th: Friends of the Chicago River's Chicago River Day Chicagoland event

May 14th and 15th: Kilbourn Park Organic Greenhouse and the Friends of KPOG's Annual Plant Sale

June 1st-4th: Historic Landscape Preservation 38th Annual Meeting. www.ahlp.org

June 8th: Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting, 541 N. Fairbanks 8th Floor @ 3:30pm (requests to speak due the day before by 4pm)

June 18th: Chicago Park Foundation's It's Your Park Day

June 28th: Summer PAC Quarterly Networking Meeting, FOTP office @ 5:30

August 13th-14th: Friends of the Parks' Late Ride fundraiser

September 27th: Fall PAC Quarterly Networking Meeting, FOTP office @ 5:30

STATE PROCEDURES: BECOMING AN NFP CORPORATION

Becoming a Not-for-profit Corporation in Illinois is a state-level process that establishes a nonprofit, corporate entity by the filing of Articles of Incorporation with the Illinois Secretary of State's office. Nonprofits organize as corporations for a variety of reasons, including to seek sales-tax exemption, to move towards becoming a 501(c)(3) organization recognized by Internal Revenue Service, etc. According to the Illinois Legal Aid website, "The main reason to create a nonprofit organization is to address a concern or issue or to provide a service without the goal of making a profit." There are dozens of park advisory councils that are already incorporated by the State of Illinois and are their own not-for-profit corporations – there are even PACs that are federal 501(c)(3)s, but that's a topic for another day.

- A. Create your Articles of Incorporation (different than by-laws; bylaws are like extensions of Articles). The articles must include basic information about your corporation. See the "Guide for Organizing Not-for-Profit Organizations" document (y hay uno en Español tambien) for the Articles of Incorporation requirements: http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/business_services/nfp.html
- B. File your Articles of Incorporation. Download the Illinois Secretary of State fillable not-for-profit articles of incorporation form [NFP 102.10 (rev. Dec. 2003) Articles Of Incorporation].
- C. Send form and \$50 payment to Secretary of State Department of Business Services 501 S. Second St., Rm. 350 Springfield, IL 62756 Remit payment in the form of a cashier's check, certified check, money order or Illinois attorney's or C.P.A.'s check payable to Secretary of State.

Once recognized as a Not-for-Profit Corporation, your organization must submit an Annual Report yearly.

Note: This information was compiled from the Illinois Legal Aid website (http://www.illinoislegalaid.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.dsp_content&contentID=7796) and from the State of Illinois website at www.cyberdriveillinois.com. If you have questions about this process call the State of Illinois' Department of Business Services at (217) 782-9522.

FOTP ARCHIVES: CHICAGO'S PLAYLOT SPRUCE-UP



In the spring of 1996, the 5th annual citywide Playlot Spruce-Up event was held. Years prior, Friends noticed that the Park District's 5-year playlot renovation plan did not include a maintenance program. Although soon rectified by park district, Friends of the Parks joined forces with Marc Schulman, president of Eli's Chicago's Finest, Inc., to involve communities in their playlot parks. Mayor Daley urged "all citizens to participate in this effort to improve their communities and help ensure long-lasting Park District facilities." More than 300 community activists and their families volunteered, removing litter and graffiti, sweeping sidewalks and painting playground equipment.

THE
FOTP
TREE
SAYS...



...put it in writing, like, on actual paper. This month's tid-bit comes from the many long-time park allies who have mentioned over the recent weeks the importance of formalizing requests, concerns and thoughts to Chicago Park District (CPD) staff in hard-copy form. At the spring PAC Quarterly Networking Meeting, many park partners spoke to this sentiment. Guest presenter, former FOTP executive director Erma Tranter, echoed the point. "Put it in writing," she said, "make up your own logo if you have to and put it on letterhead." A park advocate pushed the importance of CC'ing department Directors and higher-ups. Juanita Irizarry, Friends' executive director, mentioned the value of even CC'ing your alderperson. Oh, the possibilities of writing an old fashioned letter. And, speaking of putting it in writing, don't forget, when presenting testimony at CPD meetings put your specific request and testimony in writing, and distribute to the Board or staff panel.

