

McDonald Creek Commission

Meeting Minutes for Sept. 26, 2017

Present: Commissioners Hart Kargenian, Jan Fuller, Rick Hartke, Jon Kindseth, Cathy Brady; volunteer Nancy Lutton; Jill Moskal, PHNRC; Mark Roscoe, PH public works director

Absent:

I. OPENING ITEMS

Meeting called to order at 6 pm in City Hall Council Chambers. All members present.

This was the first meeting to be videotaped and available for public viewing on the city's website and cable channel.

Minutes of Aug. 29th meeting approved as submitted by Cathy B.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Education and outreach efforts:

1. City's fall newsletter - An article about the McDonald Creek Commission was submitted and accepted for the newsletter, which is due out any day.

2. Creek Commission email address. The city has created an official email address for us -- McDonaldCreekCommission@prospect-heights.org -- which will be included in the fall newsletter article as the place to Contact Us. Any emails sent to that address will be forwarded to all commissioners' personal email addresses as well as to Peter Falcone and Mark Roscoe.

Be careful not to discuss commission business using this email address as that would violate Open Meetings Act. We can use it to remind everyone of a meeting date/time, for example, but not to have any back-and-forth dialogue about anything.

3. Creek Commission webpage -- MCC now has a page under the Government tab on the city's website -- prospect-heights.org. Currently, that page just has our mission statement and meeting schedule. Submissions (pdf, Word doc, jpeg) can be sent to Jon K., who has been our liaison to webmaster Peter Falcone, or directly to Peter. We can add links to various resources, such as MWRD. Per Jon K., we won't need to get permission to use such links; we can attribute sources on a Resources page. (See the Water Committee webpage as an example.)

4. Printed materials to distribute to homeowners - Hart and others prefer the simple graphics in the "Water and You" brochure published by the previous creek committee to the more cluttered-looking Stream Maintenance brochure available from the city. Cathy edited the "Water and You" copy and will keep the graphics in the final updated brochure. Funds to print these brochures will be

requested from City Council. Any printed materials for distribution must be approved by Joe Wade. They should also be posted on our webpage for residents to print themselves.

B. Presentation at City Council Workshop Meeting -- 2nd Monday of Nov or Dec?

This should happen before we plan any door-to-door engagement. We should also get some sort of ID before going door-to-door.

C. New Public Works superintendent - Mark Roscoe joined the meeting to introduce himself. Public Works has maps of all sewers, aerial views of the city, and knows locations of drainage problems. The commission could help Public Works by monitoring problem areas, identifying projects offering the most bang-for-the-buck, researching grants available.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Creek easements on private property - Who has authority over the creek, who regulates access to it, who owns it? If there are easements, to whom are they granted? Legal clarification needed.

B. Dumping by landscapers and others - This should be mentioned in our brochure. Several residents have complained that Park District maintenance staff is responsible for tree/brush trimmings dumped along the creek.

C. Brochure distribution and Clean-up Workdays - Plan both for spring.

Hart recommended we focus on the website and getting brochures printed and posted online for now.

D. Beyond brochures: Primary concerns are clearing blockages, trimming overgrowth and controlling erosion. Will the Commission address these concerns other than through education and outreach? To be discussed.

IV. CLOSING ITEMS

Adjourned 7:30 pm.

Next meeting - Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2017