

McDonald Creek Commission

Meeting Minutes for Aug. 29, 2017

Present: Commissioners Harold Kargenian, Jan Fuller, Rick Hartke, Cathy Brady;
volunteer Nancy Lutton; Alderman Larry Rosenthal; Jon Kamish, PHNRC;
Conrad Blocher, resident, 33 W. Stonegate

Absent: Jon Kindseth

I. OPENING ITEMS

Meeting held in conference room at City Hall; designated a Special Meeting because it was rescheduled due to failure to submit agenda 48 hours in advance of regular meeting date of Aug. 22.

Minutes of July 25th meeting approved as submitted by Jon K.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Education and outreach efforts:

1. Article for city's fall newsletter - Jan drafted an article describing the history of creek advocacy in Prospect Heights and the new Commission's mission statement and goals. Alderman Rosenthal thought our submission might need to be quite short in order to be included in the city's newsletter so we should focus on our current mission and goals rather than the past. Jan feels strongly that what was done in the past is important and residents need to know the history of the creek. (Sept. 1 is deadline for submissions for the fall newsletter.)

2. Printed materials to distribute to homeowners - We will use the Stream Maintenance brochure available from the city along with an updated "Water and You" (published by previous creek committee). Commissioners will recruit neighborhood volunteers to join them in distributing brochures to creekside homeowners. Goal is to provide information and discuss creek maintenance issues with homeowners, and also to collect names and email addresses. Any printed materials for distribution must be approved first by Joe Wade.

B. Presentation at City Council Workshop Meeting -- 2nd Monday of ?? month

TBD

C. Report on meeting with new Public Works Superintendent - Hart and Jon met with Mark Roscoe. He grew up in the area, is familiar with local issues and was enthusiastic about working with this Commission, but would like to get settled in his new role before we plan any clean-up days that require Public Works assistance. Public Works has maps of all sewers, aerial views of the city, and knows locations of drainage problems.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Flooding issues from 7/12 storms** - Street closures on Elmhurst near Isaak Walton Park, on Willow at the slough, and on N. Owen at Hillcrest Lake. On East Clarendon, water filled the street, then broke basement windows and flooded basements. Otherwise, flooding was minor and had little impact on public or private properties.

As part of our educational efforts, we should encourage residents to report any sewer back-ups or flooding problems to Public Works so they are aware of problem areas.

Other causes of flooding problems:

- In some developments, old farm drain tile was not removed, so it might direct water toward new foundations instead of away from them.
- Some people empty their pools into the creek.
- Dumping of yard waste, tree trimmings, etc. along creek banks by homeowners and/or their landscape maintenance providers. Offenders may also include PH Park District (Country Gardens Park). Jon Kamish of PHNRC agreed; they have had discussions with the Park District about dumping at their Morava restoration site.
Alderman Rosenthal was not aware of any city/park district dumping; if we can collect any evidence of such dumping, please forward to him.

- B. Coordination with PHNRC** - PHNRC can provide advice, and possibly plants, for creekside plantings to prevent erosion. We might also be able to add information about the creek to the PHNRC newsletter (MailChimp). PHNRC intends to send a representative to our meetings; usually Jill Moskal.
- C. Fall clean-up workdays** - None planned. New Public Works Superintendent Mark Roscoe wants to settle in before he participates in volunteer events.

IV. CLOSING ITEMS

Adjourned 7:30 pm.

Next meeting - Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017