

Dana supplied the Prospect Heights Public Library with the PHNRC logo, a map depicting the nature trail and the creek in the site plus a two-paragraph informational. Dana will receive edits from the PHPL. The storyboards will then be redrafted and shared with the Commissioners for review and approval.

Interpretative Signage and Features – Status on Production and Costs

Dana has received the final numbers from Blue Raven Creative. We learned of Blue Raven Creative from Volo Bog. They do good, quality work.

We will proceed with six of the small-shaped signs and two of the larger or 24" x 36" signs. Prices include the mounting components, as well as wrapping, crating and shipping costs. The price also includes the posts for the larger units. The small signs have galvanized posts. We need to purchase six galvanized posts, which are under \$75.

The total quotation is \$3,801. This amount is much less than other companies.

Dana will receive proofs of all six of the small signs and two large ones, which will be provided to Commissioners for review. Once approved, we will turn it over to Blue Raven. We will provide the quotation to Christina Ferraro for her to order the signs.

Comprehensive Equipment List and Budget.

Of our original budget amount of \$20,000 budget for the Morava Nature Center, we currently have \$9,046.50. With the purchase of the Interpretative Signs of \$3,801, the budget stands at \$5,245.50. Of this amount, we plan to purchase a string trimmer, a new chain saw (16" and 18" bar) and purchased chains (10 of the 16" and four of the 18"). This left a balance of \$1,093.50, of which we purchased three trees (red, white and burr oaks and muscle wood trees) and five shrubs (hazelnut and ninebark). Therefore, our budget balance is \$2,914.62.

The trees and shrubs were planted at the Nature Center at the PHNRC Volunteer Workday of November 5, 2017. It was a great workday, just rained a little, and good volunteer participation.

Blue Raven is trying to find a temporal board so we can write things in weekly and placed in a case to protect against the elements and vandalism. Purchase of metallic signs (permanent fixtures) to identify plants, shrubs and trees will be no more than \$200. The metallic signs will be laser engraved by Creative in Buffalo Grove.

The remaining budget amount will be spent to purchase seed.

Emerald Landscaping needs to look at the stepping stones to provide an estimate to prop them up perhaps by placing heavy river rock underneath them. The stepping stones are currently functional – they have settled six to eight inches - but the recent rains have caused them to dip toward the water.

Peter said the problem is a constant flow of the creek plus consideration of heavy rains raising the water level. Maybe a bigger rock could hold them. Sometimes one or two whole bags of cement are placed underneath, and in time, it hardens. This might be an option.

We have not expended all our remaining funds, but are close to doing so.

Balance:		\$		9,046.50
Purchases:	Interpretative Signs	\$	3,801.00	
	Chain Saws, Blades and String Trimmers		1,093.50	
	Trees (3) and Shrubs (5)		1,236.38	
Subtotal:		\$		(6,130.88)
TOTAL:		\$		<u>2,915.62</u>

ComEd Grant Luncheon and Presentation – October 13, 2017

Agnes provided a five-minute presentation on our successes at the ComEd Grant Luncheon for new grant recipients on Friday, October 13, 2017 at Cantigny Park, Wheaton. ComEd chooses one or two very special projects that they deem superb. Twenty to thirty grant recipients and ComEd Staff were present, and 300 people were in attendance, including Congressmen.

Dana said it was a tremendous opportunity with a great audience. We were the only speakers as a former recipient.

Dana said Openlands is the administrative body that reviews the applications and disburses the funds. The loan manager, who we have been in contact with, scooped us right away. Dana and Agnes sat with him at his table. He said that we were the gold standard that everyone is measured by. He said there is a checklist when everyone gets a Grant. We superseded every point on what we did with the Grant, how much more we put into the Grant and how much we accomplished.

After the event, their media group reached out to us about our grants. They expanded their conversation to both of our Grants. We have an ongoing conversation with them for a few weeks. They have 22 media outlets that they will give this information to. PHPD papers videos stories

ComEd is a stellar citizen. Great to do anything with them. We shared our story, and it was nice to do so.

MacArthur Grade 6 Workday – October 27, 2017

The MacArthur Junior High Grade 6 students' workday was great. The weather was very cold and very windy, but the children were enthusiastic. The workday started with seed collection of the Compass Plant, but the children became excited about the Milkweed. They were running down the trail looking for it. Seed collection was followed by an educational piece.

The teacher asked if we have anything in February for their Make a Difference Day. We could arrange something outdoors, like cutting buckthorn and have a bonfire or maybe something indoors, like planting seeds. Then the children could return in the spring or summer and plant where they cleared. This is a great opportunity to get children involved and interested in their environment.

NEW BUSINESS

Garden Clubs

We received a request to speak on January 4, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. and present our Slough Presentation. We are unclear if it is the Arlington Park District or the Prospect Heights Garden Club Meeting at the Arlington Park District and will verify.

Also, the Northtown Garden Society, Rodgers Park, Illinois, meets the first Thursday of the month and, also, requested us to present our Slough Presentation. This is a broader audience. We talk about what a citizen can do, and we can be inspirational to others.

Seed Collection Update

We lost a lot of days for seed collection due to rainy weather, but we still collected a lot of seed for the season. Agnes does not have a weight measurement for the total amount of seed collected yet. After our Seed Processing Workday, Agnes will produce a spreadsheet identifying species collected and a weight count.

Agnes went to Fermilab on November 8, and all of the Penstemon has been processed through their mill. It is all perfectly processed. It used to take us weeks to process. Fermilab processes hundreds of pounds of seeds.

Poplar Creek Prairie Stewards (PCPS) Seed Processing

This Sunday, November 12, PCPS will host their Seed Processing Workday at the Crabtree Nature Center. Will be sending an e:mail message to all volunteers and welcome those who are interested in attending.

Typically, 50 people attend the PCPS Seed Processing Workday with a great lunch afterward. After the workday, we will borrow a few of their seed collection boxes. It's nice to share our resources, they gave us hazelnuts last year, and it's a wonderful opportunity to connect with a similar-focused environmental group.

Progress Reports from Work Sites

Heron Pond: Nothing new to report.

Morava Nature Center: The Morava Nature Center officially changed their name to simply Nature Preserve per a conversation Dana recently had with Christina Ferraro.

Our workday of November 5 at the Nature Preserve was attended by 12 or 13 volunteers. Trees and shrubs were planted, and Agnes watered the new plantings on November 8. We expect a rain/snow event this weekend. It's in good shape.

All of the Nature Trail markers have been installed.

Prairie Restoration (ComEd Prairie): ComEd will be conducting a fall burn. We will know the date within the next week or two.

Remnant Prairie: A lot of work will have to be accomplished in the Spring to control invasives at the Remnant Prairie. Agnes has noted a native species at the Remnant Prairie never seen before: the obedient plant. The Obedient Plant is growing in the area where we mowed the teasel. We have Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Switch Grass and Side Oats Grandma just popping up. When you remove the invasives, the native plants lying dormant in the ground simply emerge.

Sedge Meadow: There is nothing to currently report on the Sedge Meadow.

Slough: We are getting ready for a fall burn, and it will occur near when the ComEd Prairie is scheduled for their fall burn.

Tully Park: Dana spoke with Wendy Dewar. Wendy was asking if we have been to Tully Park to look at it. The retention basin of the new church guaranteed not hold water has been flooded over two weeks. The system set up is not working. Wendy asked us to speak with Dan Peterson and talk about placing naturalized plants in the basin to absorb the water. It has turf grass and is not draining. Also, the spill they created is crumbling. It is all a mess and needs attention. We gave them a list of phytoremediation plants to consider planting in the retention area to help with water absorption, but it did not go anywhere. Missed a huge opportunity to do something good there.

Seed Processing and Volunteer Appreciation Day – November 19, 2017

The PHNRC will conduct our annual seed processing workday and Volunteer Appreciation Day on Sunday, November 19, 2017 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at 9 Marion in the heated garage.

The nameplate for the Golden Loppers award for the Volunteer has been completed. Dana just has to mount it.

Like last year, Christina will provide beverages and antipasto trays. The rest of our meal will be potluck and a Kielbasa roast.

A regular workday notice will be issued for volunteers to help us process the bounty of seed we have collected this year. Children, spouses and friends are welcome. Attendees are requested to respond at info@phnrc, so that we may get an idea of headcount and provisions.

Fall Burns

The Cook County Forest Preserves may conduct their burns end of next week. They are waiting for a good frost. Rain is in the forecast for this weekend. If it dries out, then they will burn end of next week.

We will follow the week of November 19 to burn the tiny section in the woodland area by the Slough (from Elmhurst Road to Terry's house). We will start low and burn up the hill with a strong back wind. It will not take more than one hour. We will not require Rick McAndless' assistance. Dana and Agnes are present. Ed is open that week. Peter is available on November 20 and 23.

Journal Articles

The November 2017 issue is our Thanksgiving issue stating our appreciation to our volunteers and colleagues. The November 2017 issue will be published after the Volunteer Appreciation Day or before Thanksgiving.

Nature Speaks

As a reminder, Rachel Goad of Plants of Concern will be speaking at the Library on November 30, 2017. This is an excellent presentation on climate change and migrating species, and registration already shows a healthy attendance.

McDonald Creek Commission Meeting – October 24, 2017

John Kamysz attended the October 24 MCC Meeting and provided his report via e:mail.

John said there was a discussion of whether MacDonald Creek was considered a "public waterway" for reasons of who has jurisdiction of it. Being that it is not navigable, it is a "nonpublic stream".

A discussion followed as to whether there is an easement which allows public access to the creek. The answer was unclear, with some thinking there might be an easement drawn in some of the property deeds, and others not. One of the members of the commission was going to look into this with the city.

Discussion then turned to which areas are the most critical for potential river bank restoration and stabilization. Mention was made of Somerset Park as there is much erosion there. Other areas will need to be identified.

What can the PHNRC do to help the MCC? Things we can do is mention the McDonald Creek Commission and its mission in our newsletter. Compile and provide a list of native species that residents can plant to help with bank stabilization. We can potentially include this in our newsletter as a resource for resident education. We can also be a resource for residents in guiding them in what invasive plants should be removed.

We can refer those who have interest and questions in the Creek Commission to their city website link: <http://www.prospect-heights.il.us/303/McDonald-Creek-Commission>

The next monthly meeting of the McDonald Creek Commission is scheduled for Tuesday evening, November 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall Chambers. PHNRC will be represented.

John will write an article on the McDonald Creek Commission for the Journal. Agnes can prepare a list of species – prairie cord grass, water, dry, tall grasses.

2018 Meeting Schedule

Commissioners had reviewed the proposed 2018 Meeting Schedule and found no conflicts. Therefore, the PHNRC 2018 Meeting Schedule was approved.

As a reminder, PHNRC will not meet in December 2017. If anything of importance arises during this timeframe, communication will be via e:mail messages.

Visitor's Comments

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the meeting. Therefore, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary