

CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 11, 2021

Present: Agnes Wojnarski, Chairperson Seth Marcus
 Peter Hahn Jill E. Moskal, Recording Secretary
 John Kamysz Dana Sievertson
 Ed Madden

Attendees: Peter Falcone, Assistant City Administrator

NOTE: Meeting held virtually via Zoom. Meeting ID: 892 6280 9098

OPENING ITEMS

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. CDT by Agnes Wojnarski.

Roll Call

Roll Call proceeded. All Commissioners were present, and a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 9, 2021

The minutes of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission Board Meeting of October 14, 2021, were approved. No corrections or additions were noted.

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteer Workdays and Special Seed Collection Wednesdays

Volunteer Workdays

Dana reported that the last few workdays have been incredible, and the work accomplished has been extraordinary.

The Slough Boardwalk Project has moved in light speed due to the Boy Scouts participation. Everyone is putting in extra time, especially, Jill, John Weinert, Seth and Agnes. Trimming the heads of the posts and cap placement, installation of benches and start of the leveling process and stabilization of the boardwalk are tasks to complete.

The volunteer workday of November 14 will be buckthorn resprout removal in the area that is by the inlet and parallels Elmhurst Road plus finishing the Boardwalk. Pollinator Park needs work, but not enough is present to conduct a full volunteer workday. Heron Pond requires attention, especially trail maintenance, buckthorn removal and removal of the Rosa Multiflora and blackberries. However, this is best suited to being burned instead of hours of labor.

Special Seed Collection Wednesdays

Dana reported Special Seed Collection Wednesdays have concluded for the season. Dana noted that seed was not ready for collection when expected and then there was none to collect. This occurred everywhere. The Poplar Creek Prairie Stewards experienced the same phenomena. We attribute this condition to the drought and climate change. It has been a strange year.

Poplar Creek Prairie Stewards Seed Collection Day

On November 7, Agnes, Dana and Seth and new volunteer, Amanda from Citizens for Conservation in Barrington, attended the PCPS Seed Collection Day. Unfortunately, there was very little Indian Grass to collect, so the day ended early. Next year, we will ensure to schedule this Day a bit earlier in the fall.

PCPS, especially Jenny, Diane, Rick and John, expressed appreciation to us and how they feel our commission is wonderful, especially Agnes. PHNRC feels the same way towards PCPS. It is a great relationship, and it is wonderful to work together.

The PCPS Seed Processing Day is Saturday, November 13, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon at Busse Woods. Dana and Seth will be attending after a visit to the Citizens of Conservation workday at 9:00 a.m. in Barrington. Our volunteer, Carl, came from this organization. Dana will retrieve the seed that PCPS requests us to propagate, as well as pick up the donations of seed from PCPS to NRC over the course of this year. It is a nice exchange.

Annual Seed Processing and Volunteer Appreciation Event

Dana reported that our Event of October 24, 2021 was well attended, and 90% of the collected seed for the season was processed. Dana expressed appreciation to Jill for organizing the majority of the event.

John Weirich received the 2021 Volunteer Appreciation Award. John was surprised.

The PHNRC is looking forward to another year. Dana reported that over 1,700 volunteer hours were recorded to date for 2021.

MacArthur Middle School 6th Grade Science Classes – Service Day

Seth reported that Agnes and he attended Service Day at MacArthur Middle School on Wednesday, October 27, 2021. The arrangement involved two classes of 6th Graders with 25 students per class and over four sessions for a total of 200 Sixth Graders who visited the ComEd Seeded Prairie where Agnes and Seth conducted a brief education class and then collected seed. The students were very enthusiastic about their work and the day. They returned to the classroom with feedback for fellow students. This was a whole day; a big investment of time but very appreciative because the outreach makes a difference. This is an ongoing process for students to learn about the prairie.

Prospect Heights Public Library/Park District Events

Nature Speaks Program

Dana reported that our next speaker is Dr. Alice Bell from England on January 20, 2022.

Dana is still working with David Schwaegler for a Bluff Spring Fen presentation on Earth Day, April 22, 2022.

Osprey Nesting Platform (Slough)

As recently mentioned, the sightings of osprey that are frequently fishing prompted Mary Lou Mellon to provide an idea for us to locate an osprey pole to house a nesting platform. Dana reported that Joe Wade is working on this and has had conversations with ComEd. ComEd is interested in making this happen. An Eagle Scout has contacted us about Projects, and Dana mentioned building an osprey nesting platform on top of a pole.

Seth viewed the PBS Nature Series Program on Osprey and wondered if the Slough was the right habitat. Was the Slough water depth adequate for osprey to dive into and retrieve fish? Link: <https://www.pbs.org/video/season-of-the-osprey-x3rygm/>

Mary Lou Mellon recommended that we pursue building an osprey nesting platform because of the many osprey sightings and osprey catching fish. The Slough was chosen as the location because it is isolated and remote, which osprey need for their habitat and placing the whole nest out of harms' way and residents' concerns for their small dogs. If located at the Lake, it is too close to pedestrians and difficult to know if it would be utilized. Both Joe Wade and Mark Roscoe noted these facts.

The Pole must be 30 feet high, have a bat hole to prevent raccoons from invading the nest, a perch, and must support 300 pounds, per Agnes. There are many incidents where osprey, who cannot find a high location for their nest, build their nest on the ground only to lose their nest.

Fly a Kite Day

Marci Glinski from the PHPD contacted Dana and Agnes and asked if the PHNRC was interested in supporting the PHPD Spring Fling 2022 by sponsoring the Fly a Kite Day on Saturday, April 16, 2022. The proposed structure for the day is:

9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon	Lions Club Pancake Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon	NRC Introduction to the Nature Trail
10:00 a.m.:	Egg Hunt and Pictures with the Bunny

The PHNRC has agreed to sponsor this event.

Slough Boardwalk Project and Funding

Project

Dana remarked that it is amazing what has been accomplished with the Boardwalk in a short period of time or five months. Any day one is out on the Board Walk, you will encounter five or six people who remark that the Board Walk is wonderful. It has positively changed the surrounding environment. Dana felt building the Slough Board Walk was one of our most impactful projects, and it will only get better.

Agnes said the last stretch of the Board Walk (from Izaak Walton to the Bridge) on Saturday, October 30 was accomplished by 23 volunteers, and up to 27 volunteers were present on Sunday October 31 to complete the Board Walk from the bridge to Hillside; therefore, over a period of two days, 50 volunteers created the Board Walk. The community involvement has been amazing.

John remarked that having the extra force of power from the men who volunteered was greatly appreciated. John is glad that the workday on November 14 will provide an opportunity to apply the finishing touches.

The plan for November 14 is to finish all the connecting corners, installing all the post caps, and installing four more benches, although Agnes would appreciate one or two more benches. The hardware to accomplish the leveling be available. The tricky part is being able to get down on the ground and put the bolt through the post. If the ground is underwater, it could be muddy. Izaak Walton pavilion will contain all the necessary equipment for the workday.

Seth mentioned that he pulled off the post labels, and there are 180 posts! Agnes said Seth spent hours and hours completing this tedious task. Thank you, Seth, for your patience and hard work!

Funding

Dana said the total Slough Boardwalk Project is \$12,000. To date, we have spent about \$8,000. Therefore, the remaining \$4,000 will be spent on plants, benches and signage. We have 1.5 years left of this Project and providing quality restoration will determine how the money is spent.

John was concerned that the Project numbers were not listed on the City Budget. Dana said the funding is from the Park District because the Park District manages the Program. Dana has invoices to scan and provide to Christina Ferraro; an update will then be provided.

Prospect Heights Park District and Budget/Funding Status

Agnes said we must start thinking of our budget for next year and formulate ideas on what is necessary for our operation. Today, we ordered soil at the cost of \$1,300 and must purchase aquatic plants.

One factor that will impact our funding request is the weight of the interns' salary. The current minimum hourly wage is between \$12 and \$15, and Healthcare pays \$18 per hour. Agnes noted that paying an intern \$12 per hour includes a bonus of an educational component with the internship.

Our budget ask was \$8,661. Internship payment was \$5,167. We received \$900 in donations. Our total budget amount was \$9,500 for the year minus roughly \$5,100. Therefore, we have spent \$4,500 in non-internship funds. The remaining \$3,000 from our budget this year will be utilized to purchase tools, two backpack sprayers, seed, and operational items, such as work gloves, loppers, herbicide, etc. We have restocked on pots and soil.

We cannot count on generous donations every year. Agnes is preparing spreadsheets to organize exactly how much we will need.

John cautioned that inflation will be a factor which will drive material costs higher and will be a factor in requesting a larger budget. Overall, everyone should think about a percent increase on budget funding.

Pollinator Park Project

Dana said the budget will be completely consumed by the end of December, per the Grant terms. The remaining funds will purchase interpretative signage and aquatic plants. The aquatic plants will be delivered in the spring.

At Pollinator Park, Agnes and Seth raked areas, herbicided and reseeded with seeds collected in the winter. For the future, we must outline the area and install coconut rolls.

Shoreline Restoration Project 2022

John announced that the PHNRC received approval from the City Council for the shoreline restoration project. This is huge! The PHNRC is very appreciative of the City's support.

The Commission was appreciative for the effective presentation made by John. A strong case was outlined in the presentation deck prepared by Dana. Jill noted that the last slides outlined what the PHNRC is contributing and not in dollars but labor and materials, the sum of which when counted in dollars is more than \$133,000. All of our projects are accomplished by volunteer labor.

Commissioners were very pleased and appreciative that the city sees the value of this Project and voted and approved it at their October 25, 2021 meeting.

John said that the shoreline is in desperate need, and the sooner we begin, the better. The drought this year helped because the shoreline is lower. However, John said we cannot count on this condition for the next year.

Again, the Commission wishes to express sincere gratitude to our partnership with the city, the Prospect Heights Park District and our PHNRC volunteers. Thank you!

NEW BUSINESS

Path Maintenance at Worksite

Dana expressed appreciation to Seth's hard work in getting the Nature Preserve paths into shape. Heron Pond's trails need trimming, and Seth volunteered to manage this task.

The Slough paths also need maintenance. However, Agnes noted that the season is turning down. Agnes also noted that path maintenance becomes difficult in the spring and fall when we do not have the interns present and working.

Dana expressed appreciation to the Park District and the City for keeping the mowed paths at the Pollinator Park and the ComEd Seeded Prairie open and in good shape.

Seth inquired about the path at the Slough as you walk to the Izaak Walton sign. Do we keep it? The path that traverses from the concrete path along the water down to the basin and over to the big path has a little leg that goes up to the sign. Agnes, Dana and John agreed to keep this short path.

Prescribed Burns and Permit Renewal

Dana reported we have the burn permit from the EPA.

Dana reviewed three places for a fall burn, and they are the King's residence on Camp McDonald Road; Lauren's prairie; and Bruce and Pam Hair's residence. All three places are still green.

Dana referenced the King's residence and the back of their prairie where the first grouping consisting of three sections with fire breaks, it appears that in between could be burned this fall. However, that would be only one-third of their burn area requirement, and everything is still green at the ground level.

Basically, if we burn, it may occur in early December pending weather, fuel and creatures to worry about. This may be the first year we need to wait until the Spring.

John stated that a patchy burn equals a frustrating result and involves a lot of time and energy for a suboptimal burn and ruining chances for a complete burn in the spring.

Treasurer's Report

John said every aspect of the budget and the numbers were discussed during this meeting. Therefore, there was nothing to add.

2022 PHNRC Meeting Schedule

Commissioners reviewed the draft 2022 PHNRC Meeting Schedule prepared by Jill. There were no questions or additions. Therefore, the 2022 PHNRC Meeting Schedule is:

2022 PHNRC Meeting Schedule

January 13, 2022	July 14, 2022
February 10, 2022	August 11, 2022
March 10, 2022	September 8, 2022
April 14, 2022	October 13, 2022
May 12, 2022	November 10, 2022
June 9, 2022	

City Civic Meetings and PHNRC Representation

Jill provided notes from the following October City Council and PHPD Board meetings:

City Council of Prospect Heights, Illinois – October 11, 2021 Workshop Meeting

Staff, Elected Officials and Commissions' Reports:

Assistant Finance Director Bob Tannehill: Mr. Tannehill reported that the auditors are completing the audit. The audit would be ready by November. Mr. Tannehill noted there would be an audit presentation to the City Council.

City Administrator, Joe Wade: Joe Wade said the city received notice of participation in opioid repayment. The State's Attorney contacted municipalities. Joe noted that the Prospect Heights Police Department had been the first in the northwestern suburbs to carry NARCAN for opioid overdoses.

Police Chief Jim Zawlocki: Mayor Helmer inquired when the peer jury would return. Chief Zawlocki said that the peer jury only occurs when juveniles have committed minor crimes. As soon as a case is presented, the peer jury will resume. Office Farina manages the peer jury process.

Building and Development Director Dan Peterson: Dan Peterson wanted to remind residents that fall maintenance is required to keep rodents from entering buildings. Also, take care of broken windows. During the time change, residents should change the battery on smoke alarms and Carbon monoxide detectors. Residents were encouraged to call City Hall, if they required assistance.

Public Works Director Mark Roscoe: Mark Roscoe reported that sewer repairs would begin this week and conducted by Ganziano Sewer and Repair. Also, Public Works seeks to solicit a quote from Schroeder Asphalt Services for asphalt patching in the city. Public Works assessed street surface locations that need repair before the winter season, and they are: 400 Block of Hillcrest Drive; Elaine Circle East Culvert crossing; Mars Place at Elmhurst Road; Mars Place at Elm Street; Compton Lane at Elm Street; and Hawthorne Place between Elmhurst and Elm Streets.

Discussion Topic for the Workshop Meeting: Request by City Treasurer Tibbits for Examination of Lake Michigan Water Service for the City.

Mr. Tibbits provided a summary of the water infrastructure in the City and requested the City Council to consider a plan for funding a city water system.

Treasurer Tibbits would like the city to buy-out Illinois American Water and make it a municipal system. He said we would inherit the water directly from Glenview and, as such, the price would be lower.

Treasurer Tibbits would like a two-track approach:

- Extend the existing city water system throughout the western portion of Prospect Heights.
- Get control of the source of our water by acquiring the Illinois American Water and sewer in the eastern portion of Prospect Heights and part of Mount Prospect.

Treasurer Tibbits said that Illinois American Water supplies wholesale water to Rob Roy.

There are several main reasons for accomplishing both goals:

1. It is better for fire protection.
2. It makes the cost of water inexpensive for the residents.
3. Provides domestic potable water

Next, Treasurer Tibbits showed a video made with former Fire District Chief, Don Gould, in which Chief Gould said that fire hydrants were a great safety and great cost saving tool.

Treasurer Tibbits also noted that the Public Works Department uses fire hydrants to flush their systems. He said that fire hydrants should be placed every 300 feet.

Treasurer Tibbits said that while residents still preferred their well water, there was a need for compromise and balance so that the homeowners did not take on the burden of the costs. He said that Prospect Heights allows people to keep their wells even if they hook-up to City water.

Treasurer Tibbits added that economic development in the city needs to be supported by a water system to attract businesses.

Alderwoman Morgan Adams asked: How would the city be able to buy Illinois American and keep the costs down? How is the city able to maintain the infrastructure? Treasurer Tibbits responded that Illinois American pays taxes and works for profit while the municipality does not pay taxes. Treasurer Tibbits said that the city already maintains the infrastructure and only get the water from Illinois American. American supplies the water wholesale from Glenview and resells to the city.

Treasurer Tibbits also maintained that there would need to be state legislation to make Illinois American sell to the city. A state mandate must be in place to allow the city to purchase them at a fair price.

Alderwoman Morgan Adams asked how the city would buy water? Treasurer Tibbits replied that the city would need to decide on an approach. He said that he did not have specifics and was simply providing a presentation.

Treasurer Tibbits was uncertain of the legal ramifications and believed that there would need to be work by the City Engineer and to institute an updated Water Committee, as well as discussions with state and federal officials.

Mayor Helmer felt Treasurer Tibbits presentation was well-thought out. Mayor Helmer said he had the representatives from Illinois American in his office three times this year, and there was no progress in the discussion. He also noted that there have been two or three referenda on water in the city, and each time they were voted down. The most recent Water Committee concluded that it would be a monumental task to do an engineering study. Years' ago, the price tag was quoted as \$40 million. Mayor Helmer stated that there would need to be an updated engineering study to get a cost evaluation.

Mayor Helmer requested Treasurer Tibbits to be the Commissioner for this project to investigate costs and feasibility. He added that he would like Treasurer Tibbits to attend a call with the Mayor and Illinois American to open discussions.

City Clerk Prisiajniouk said that the city should investigate federal assistance as this would be an infrastructure project.

City Council of Prospect Heights, Illinois – October 25, 2021 Meeting

Presentation: Natural Resources Commission Proposal for Hillcrest Lake Shoreline Plantings and Canoe/Kayak/Paddleboat Launch Area to be Considered by Prospect Heights City Council

The Prospect Heights City Council considered a proposal by the City's Natural Resources Commission to extend deep-rooted shoreline plants around Hillcrest Lake from Willow Road to Owen Street. This is the north and west ends of the Lake. The east and south ends of the Lake are considered with the MWRD road construction or raising of Willow Road. Therefore, the east side of the Lake is not considered for restoration because it is private property and part of the MWRD road construction.

The purpose of extending the plantings is to provide shoreline stabilization and mitigate erosion of the shoreline into the Lake. The Natural Resources Commission has established a trial restoration area, which is located near the intersection of Hillcrest Drive and Hill Court.

The prevention of shoreline erosion using deep-rooted plants was a recommendation of the Hey and Associates 2015 environmental engineering evaluation commissioned by the city in 2015. The Hey study recommended the use of shoreline plants to stem erosion, which is a contributing factor to the infill of Hillcrest Lake.

Additionally, the Natural Resources Commission is recommending the excavation of an area near Hill court to provide a launch area for individuals with canoes/kayaks or paddle boats. This is not a formalized boat launch, which would be ill-received by residents. It would simply be a graded access point for residents' canoes or kayaks.

HILLCREST LAKE SHORELINE RESTORATION PROPOSAL

FACTS:

There is severe erosion around the entire shoreline of Hillcrest Lake.
Over the years, the areas of grass between the water and Hillcrest Drive have become smaller due to the erosion. An island that once existed on the north side of the lake has disappeared. Mature willow trees are falling into the lake because of the lack of stable ground.

TRIAL RESTORATION:

As part of the Pollinator Park project around portions of the lake, a section of the shoreline was restored by placing biodegradable coconut rolls, soil backfill and deep rooted native plants in an effort to stabilize the shoreline.

RESULTS:

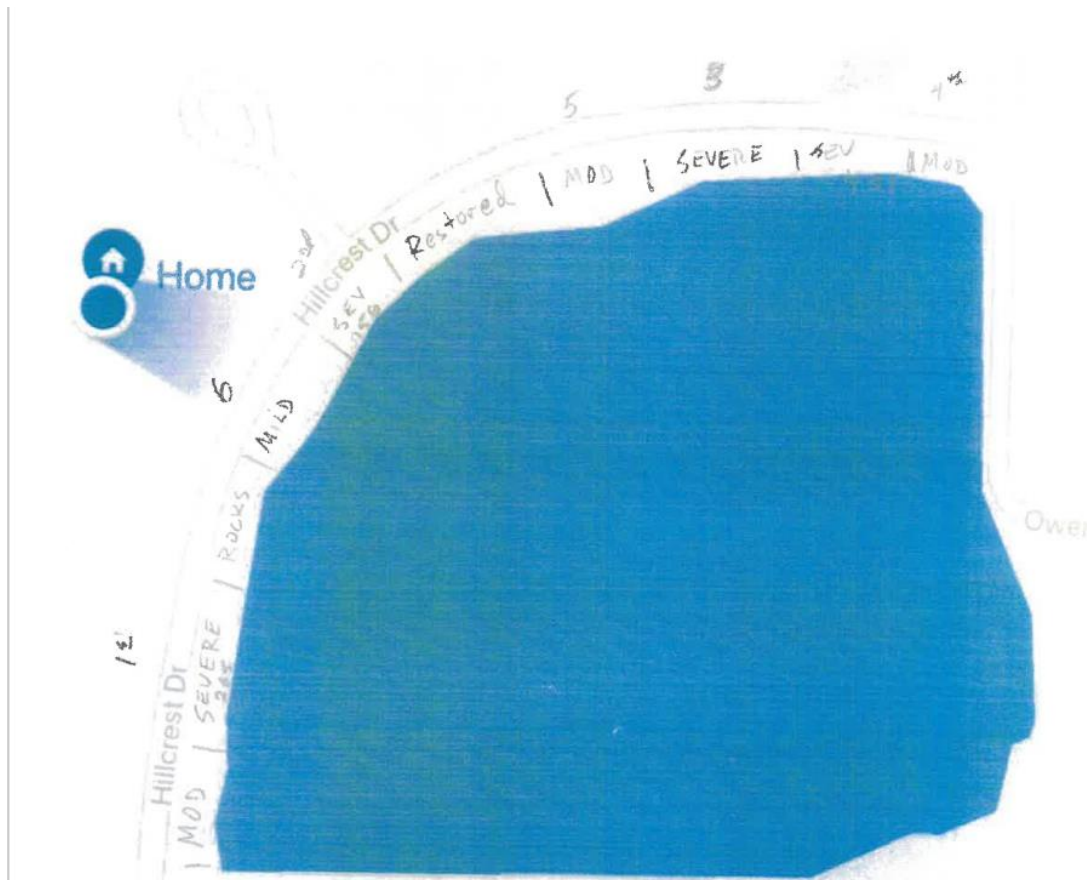
Although more time is needed for the plants to establish, there have already been very promising signs of shoreline stabilization with shore plants taking root and thriving, and aquatic plants establishing a rooted colony adding more protection to the would be eroding shoreline. At present after one year, the restored shoreline is the healthiest part of the lake.

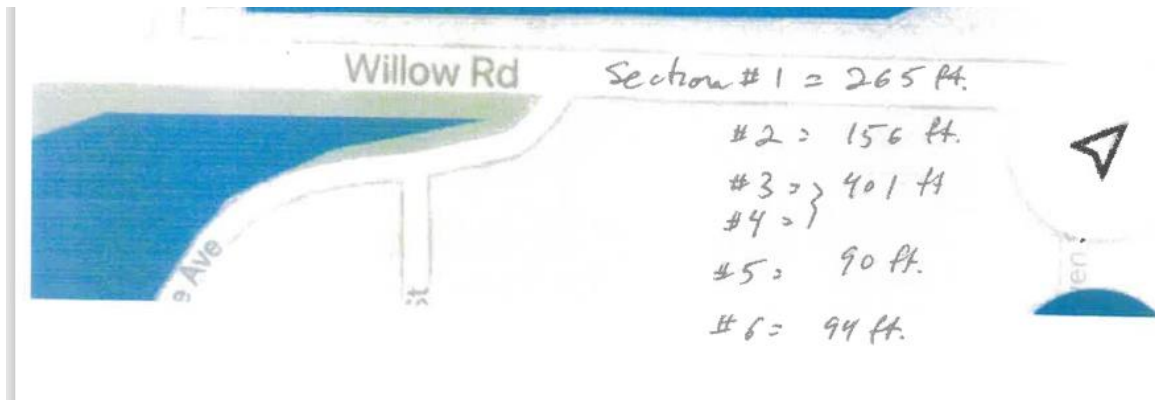
PLAN:

The remaining portions of the north and west end of the lake are severely eroding. The east and south sides are subject to the planned new road construction, and thus are not considered for restoration. Of the 1364 feet of restorable shoreline, it has been subdivided into six sections, labeled from most severe to least as 1 - 6. The PHNRC would like to restore the shoreline one section per year over the next six years in a similar manner as the trial portion described above. The most severe sections would be restored first. A map of the shoreline degradation is provided.

PROPOSAL:

The PHNRC is prepared to offer volunteer work and thousands of deep rooted shoreline plants for the project. What is needed is funding for the purchase of coconut rolls and support from city works and/or the park district for backfill soil and machinery to move it. This was already used in the trial portion, and was very successful. A budget for the project will be calculated and presented.





The total cost of the project is \$35,000-+ over six years at a cost of \$6,000 per year.

Mayor Helmer said we need to do this project, and he is looking to get it down and will help as much as possible.

The City Council approved the Project and funding of \$36,000.

Staff, Elected Officials and Commissioners' Reports:

Chicago Executive Airport Monthly Update by Director William Kearns: A new Executive Director has been hired, Jeff Miller, who will start on November 1, 2021.

The Joint Workshop Meeting will be held on November 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Attendees are the Chicago Executive Airport board of Directors, the City of Prospect Heights City Council and the Village of Wheeling Board of Trustees.

The meeting would be opened by CEA Board Chairman, Court Harris. The order of the meeting will be:

Welcome/Opening Remarks by Chairman Harris, City of Prospect Heights Mayor Nick Helmer, Village of Wheeling President, Patrick Horcher, and the Airport Board of Directors.

Citizens' comments and concerns will be stated.

A State of the Airport will be presented by Director of Economic Development & Strategic Planning, George Sales, and Director of Finance, Jason Griffith.

City Aldermen and Village Trustees will participate in a Question-and-Answer period.

Closing Comments will be provided by Chairman Harris, City of Prospect Heights Mayor Nick Helmer and Village of Wheeling President, Patrick Horcher.

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Customs Building was conducted on October 15, 2021.

Executives from the CEA and Alderman Dolick attended the national Business Aviation Conference. Vital, important contacts were made. Alderman Dolick said the Conference illustrated the value of having a general aviation airport in our community. Alderman Dolick also said a common theme was the desire to reduce noise levels for surrounding neighborhoods. Advances in this area by engineering firms and airport designers are continually made.

No economic update was made recently. Annual economic activity generated from the airport businesses totals roughly \$4.1 million in direct tax revenue that is paid through the grants and occupants of the airport. Operations are over \$10,500, the highest since September 2010. Fuel flowage is 7.7 million gallons annually.

Assistant Finance Director Bob Tannehill: Mr. Tannehill commented on the Treasurer's Report for five months ending September 30, 2021. With 42% of the year having passed, for all funds combined, the City's total revenues represent 38.6% of budget, and the total expenses reflect 20.28% of budget. Income from sales taxes are our strongest numbers. Tourism revenue is increasing, and F&B taxes are rebounding.

Public Works Director Mark Roscoe: Mark Roscoe said he looks forward to the NRC Hillcrest Lake Project. The pilot program worked well, and he is glad the Council sees it as a good step.

Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of October 26, 2021

Presentation: Joe Wade, City Administrator: MWRD Flood Prone Property Acquisition Program

Joe Wade said last week, the city held a conversation with the MWRD representative to move forward this year with the intergovernmental agreement. It is a revolving program with funding on a yearly basis. If we miss this opportunity, we do not know when it will come again. Therefore, the City is entering into an agreement with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) to purchase the 214 South Wheeling Road property. They will be reimbursed through a MWRD program for the property.

The city is responsible for obtaining an appraisal, closing costs and for the demolition of the home. MWRD's program funds acquisitions of flood-prone properties with the agreement that the property will remain public open space. A public open space is green space with public access.

The project is also contingent if the Park District has an interest in the property at 214 South Wheeling Road. This project could be accomplished jointly with the city as an agent or directly with the MWRD.

The planning process involves Tully Park and parking. The MWRD is hesitant but last week was more positive. The purpose of the program is to have unique structures and permeable pavement to allow water to flow through. Water would be absorbed into the ground, which reduces flooding. Joe Wade also mentioned a retention basin. If we move forward with the project, Tully Park could be a consideration next year and making it accessible especially for Park District motorized equipment.

Tim Jones said that safety of Park District employees/workers was a priority. Access to Tully Park and an opportunity for green space were favorable. Parking and development of the property would be a future consideration. Mowing of Tully Park is accomplished during the dry season. The truck comes once per week.

Financing: What are we looking at with MWRD, the city and the PHPD? The numbers are from last summer. The property value is \$341,000. MWRD pays most of the cost: \$45,000 which includes demolition of the home (\$20,000), legal fees (\$10,000), and restoration (\$10,000). The Park District would own the land.

The city is moving forward with the MWRD. Conditions can be transferred to the PHPD. The city can do it and budget for it. The city would move forward and pay and receive reimbursement from the Park District for costs associated with the project. Then the PHPD would accept ownership of 214 South Wheeling Road within a year with deed restrictions that it will remain as open space in perpetuity. The PD staff would use this to access Tully Park to maintain the park.

Pending any drastic changes or conditions, the Staff and PHPD Board agree to move forward. However, cannot take legal action until the next PHPD Board Meeting of November 16. The PHPD will perform their research and have a Letter of Intent submitted to the City Council indicating the Park District's interest in moving forward with the project of acquiring the property at 214 South Wheeling Road.

Administrative/Operational Summary

Boardwalk at the Slough:

Christina Ferraro reported that at the beginning of the year, an Eagle Scout, who is also a Hersey student and a PHNRC volunteer, proposed his project for construction of a floating boardwalk within the Slough. The Slough has both City and Park boundaries as "owning the property." This is part of Izaak Walton Park. The Park District and the City of Prospect heights approved the project.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources for a Statewide Permit No. 6 (Minor Floodway Construction Activities) was approved. The project budget is \$8,000 for materials, which includes a ComEd Green Region Grant and funding from the Park District, the city and donations. Labor is all volunteer hours.

The boardwalk is raised in the areas that are prone to fluctuation in water levels. This provides more access to another quiet, serene open space while it serves as an outlook for observing nature.

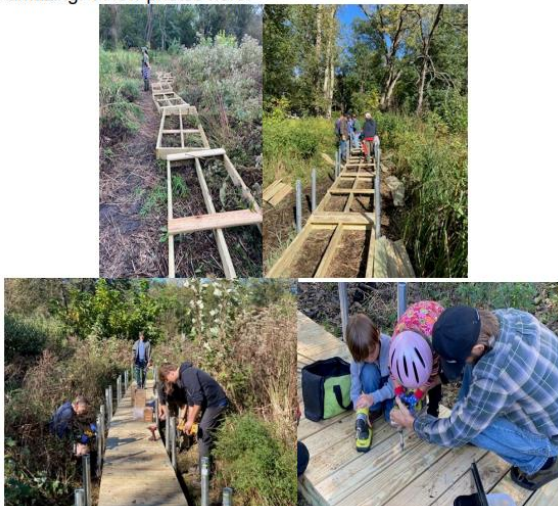
Signage will be installed, stating: Do Not Use Boardwalk if Under Water.

The Park District will include the boardwalk to its inspection list.

The PHNRC will maintain and repair the boardwalk.

Ten (10) months after it was approved, the boardwalk is installed! The amount of volunteer hours was amazing, per Christina, who also shared some photos.

Here are some photos of the boardwalk.





Christina Ferraro complimented the PHNRC and how amazing the Boardwalk looks!
Finance and Planning:

Budget Timeline:

2022 Budget

The 2022 Budget presentation and Finance Committee review will be held on
December 07, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Date	Time	Meeting
10/26/2021	7:00 pm	<i>Board Meeting- 2021 Bond Ordinance</i>
11/16/2021	7:00 pm	<i>Board Meeting Levy Truth in Taxation</i>
12/07/2021	6:00 pm	Finance Committee BUDGET review.
12/14/2021	7:00 pm	<i>Board Meeting FY 2022 Budget Presentation</i>
12/14/2021	7:00 pm	<i>Board Meeting to approve Annual Tax Levy Ordinance</i>
12/17/2021		FY 2022 BUDGET available for public inspection
01/25/2022	7:00 pm	Public Hearing on FY 2022 BUDGET
01/25/2022	7:00 pm	<i>Board Meeting to approve FY 2022 Budget</i>

Facilities and Parks Report:

Izaak Walton Park: The pole light by the raised garden was not working due to a bad ballast. The lift is required to access the fixture; therefore, both the bulb and capacitor were replaced along with the ballast.

Tully Park: A dump truck load of gravel was used on the bridge between the park and utility right of way. Over time, the surface settles, and this is the only access to the park.

Feasibility Study Update:

The community survey will be released the first week of November.

The Office of Recreation and Park Resources from the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is working with staff to prepare the survey. Each household (around 3,500 households) will receive a postcard with an invitation to take the survey. The postcard includes a QR Code and the URL link to the survey.

Expect to mail the postcards by November 3. Data collection concludes around November 22. Laura L. Payne, Ph.D., Professor and Director of the Office of Recreation and Park Resources, will present the results to the Board at the December board meeting.

Williams Architects will begin to prepare conceptual design options with the input they receive from the interviews, focus groups, open house and survey. The designs will be shared in the spring at another open house where the community can offer feedback for refinements to the plan.

Williams Architects will return to a board meeting in July 2022 for a final presentation on the feasibility study.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled PHPD Board Meeting is November 16, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Gary Morava Recreation Center on Camp McDonald Road in Prospect Heights, IL.

December Meeting: The PHPD Board Meeting of December 14, 2021, will be held at the Old Orchard Country Club with dinner for Board Members and Staff at 6:30 p.m. or before the Board Meeting. Budget presentations will be conducted at the December 14, 2021, meeting.

Proactive Nature Management Plans

Dana said has the typical forms utilized for Proactive Nature Management planning. We did not perform this function last year because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. It was an unusual year. However, Dana suggested getting back into the program, utilizing the form and a prescribed work program for each site for the year. Dana will prepare an update and provide to Commissioners.

Slough Board Walk Project: Seth said the Boardwalk has been spectacular and proves to all of us our capability. Therefore, Seth challenged all Commissioners to dream about where to go next. What do we want for the NRC for next several years? Seth provided a few ideas: (1) A staff paid position with the PHPD or City in the role of Nature Expert; (2) The Remnant Sedge Meadow is 0.5 miles from Camp McDonald Road to East Old Willow Road, and the Remnant Prairie is 0.4 miles from the Dynamax facility to the Power Station. In-between the two parcels of land are wasteland. Let's connect the two parcels of land. Over the next two or three meetings, let us discuss further what we can do.

Scout Projects: Dana said Seth discussed the possibility of incorporating more Scout projects into these dreams. We have received two inquiries for Eagle Scout projects and could relegate building of benches and the osprey nest platform. There is no shortage of Scouts looking at projects, and they are good at what they can do when they come to do it.

John asked if the City of Prospect Heights has the status of Tree City USA. What are the requirements? Pete Hahn has researched this and feels with the new Tree Program, we shall see what evolves.

Peter Falcone stated that Prospect Heights is a Tree City. Public Works annually monitors trees; however, the Tree Survey is conducted through the Park District. John said there are no signs posted in the city stating that Prospect Heights is a Tree City. Public Works orders our signs. Joe Kron is our City Arborist. Therefore, Peter will confirm with Mark Roscoe of Public Works that we are still a member of the Tree City. Pete Hahn said certain levels of participation to achieve.

Agnes said the PHPD Tree Survey is through the Morton Arboretum. The Park District has GPSd every single tree on park district property. Agnes reviewed the management plan around the Slough. The PHPD knows the location of every tree and its condition. They have a management plan for their tree maintenance. In the future whenever we do any type of work with trees, we must advise the PHPD. The PHPD has located certain trees to remove, those to be worked on, and those to be trimmed. It is a multi-year process.

In the natural area sites, Agnes addressed certain trees that fell or are invasive and mapped out ones to be removed, are dead or are dying.

Announcements to the Public

None.

Visitors' Comments

No visitors were present to comment.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission is January 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the meeting. Therefore, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary