

CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 7, 2022

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

Absent: John Kamysz
Attendees: Peter Falcone, Assistant City Administrator

NOTE: Meeting held virtually via Zoom. Meeting ID: 820 6920 0995

OPENING ITEMS

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Roll Call proceeded. All Commissioners were present. A quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 10, 2022

The minutes of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission Board Meeting of March 10, 2022, were reviewed. No changes or corrections were noted. Therefore, the meeting minutes of March 10, 2022 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteer Workdays

The volunteer workdays of March 20 and April 3, 2022 have been awesome. Many volunteers attended, and a lot of work has been accomplished. We are all incredibly pleased.

Dana noted that Chris Wood contacted him, saying the Rotary Club has a new drive for volunteerism; therefore, Chris asked for a list of our events and made a presentation this afternoon about volunteering with the PHNRC at the Rotary Club meeting. Chris encouraged members to attend PHNRC volunteer workdays. There was interest.

Dana mentioned the Plum Tree planting effort, the Tree Planting Day of May 27, our regular workdays and transplanting on Wednesdays. Dana will send Chris a document with specific event details for Chris to distribute to Rotary Club members.

Prospect Heights Public Library/Park District Events

Nature Speaks Program

Dana stated that Dr. David Schwaegler will present “Lake in the Hills Fen” on April 21, which will be conducted both in person and via Zoom. Dana, Agnes and Jill plan to attend in person.

It is currently unknown if Dr. Schwaegler will participate in an in-person dinner prior to the presentation date.

Dana said that Dr. Robert Lee Zarr, Founder of Park Rx America, will be the Nature Speaks Program presenter for the June Nature Speaks Program.

Dana stated that Dr. Zaar is the number one proponent of writing a prescription for nature for the benefits of health. The Park Rx America website is great and holds a compelling message.

Dana is working on a speaker for the Fall, who is a Chicago Botanist that does a dialogue with a Chicago-comedy spin on it. Dana said it is priceless. The speaker is Joey Santore.

John knows a colleague that is a hydrologist and dam engineer for the Federal Government. He understands water flow very well. Would our audience be interested in hydrology in the area? Ed said McDonald Creek has a tributary that flows through the Nature Preserve, which impacts the Slough and Hillcrest Lake, and with the City’s flood issues, Ed felt it would be a great benefit.

Spring Fling – Prospect Heights Park District

The event will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2022 from 9:00am – 12 Noon at the Gary Morava Recreation Center by the Lions Park baseball diamond. The Lions Club will host a Pancake Breakfast from 9:00am – 12 Noon. A \$5.00 donation per person is suggested. At 10:00am, an Egg Hunt will begin.

Following the Egg Hunt, the Dana, Peter, and Jill will conduct tours of the Nature Preserve, and Seth and John will present “Skins and Skulls,” material of which was obtained from The Grove. Commissioners will also assist with kite distribution.

Schwake is expected to deliver the boulders for the Solstice Garden on Saturday morning, April 16. Do not have a time and will not know until Friday, April 15. John will direct them if delivery is before 12 Noon.

Spring Bird Walks

The PHNRC and the Prospect Heights Park District invite residents to join expert birder, Mary Lou Mellon from the Bird Conservation Network, and PHNRC Commissioners on a walk around the Slough to experience the wonder of birds and learn how to spot birds and identify them. Participants will learn where to look for birds in our community and how to adjust binoculars for viewing. PHNRC Commissioners will also discuss restoration efforts.

Spring Bird Walks are scheduled for Saturday, May 14 and Saturday, May 28, 2022. Registration to attend is required through the Park District at: [Prospect Heights Park District – Explore Fun with Us! \(phparks.org\)](https://www.phparks.org/). Park and meet at the Isaak Walton Park on Elmhurst Road at 7:30 a.m. and leave directly from there. Bus service will not be provided.

Tree Planting Day

Izaak Walton Park is a unique treasure of wetlands and forest. This public event is a collaborative effort between the Prospect Heights Park District, Chicago Region Trees Initiative, and the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission with volunteers from the local TreeKeeper Chapter.

The financial support from the Morton Arboretum and their Centennial Year Celebration has made the planting of 20 trees possible. These native trees will help reduce heat islands and create essential oak ecosystems for species to thrive.

Volunteers and participants will meet at the Pavilion in the Park on Elmhurst Road on Friday, May 27, 2022. A table with PHPD Staff will be present to sign in. Volunteers and participants will dig holes, plant trees, mulch, and water the trees.

The PHPD Summer Brochure lists an EventBrite registration link on page 4 of their brochure. Also, an event waiver form must be completed online with the PHPD:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScN7w6M7ctms4k0nv8u7p7EUsL5T-hCHkdVpQTiZ2RNRZGqbQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

The Plum trees will be delivered on Friday, April 22. The PHNRC will locate the trees and rent the auger to drill holes for the Plum trees on Saturday, April 23, 2022. The auger is a heavy tool; therefore, at least two people are needed. If drilling the holes is not possible on Saturday, we will do so during our volunteer workday on Sunday, April 24.

If the Plum trees are quickly planted, we will have other work, such as transplanting, available for volunteers. We can also plant sedges up and down the Creek.

Slough Boardwalk Project

Dana and Agnes have observed that the Slough Boardwalk is in continuous use by residents and visitors. Installing more benches may be a good thing for more viewing possibilities. Another idea is having an outdoor classroom or lecture area to have an area to sit, collect specimens, write information in a journal, etc. People could choose the area they want to sit in, observe and/or learn.

Ed strongly advocates conducting an official Grand Opening of the Slough Boardwalk at the Pavilion. It would be a great media event and a wonderful way to show our appreciation to all who have been involved with the project. Our elected officials would be interested, especially Deborah Shore from the Federal, ComEd and the Park District who have always been supportive of our efforts.

Ed suggested placing the Grand Opening on the City Hall marquee for exposure and conducting the Grand Opening over the summer when the ground will be dry, and vegetation will be present. Ed felt the Slough Boardwalk is one of our signature projects. The Grand Opening should be a stand-alone event and time it to when the Slough is looking its best, like late June/early July.

Shawn Clisham of Journal & Topics, Des Plaines, came out yesterday, April 6, 2022 and tailed Agnes and Seth when we the Wheeling High School environmental club was present. Shawn is writing a series entitled “A Story in Your Community.” Shawn has always been receptive to our work and mission, took photos, etc. Joe Wade directed Shawn to us.

Pollinator Park – Landscaping Design

Dana sent signage context and designs to Commissioners for review. The signage reflects the scale of animals, insects, birds, and turtles in our area and is aimed to engage children’s interests. Five small and two large signs will be developed and carry the themes of: What Can You See Here? Can You Find Me? The signs are eight inches in diameter with a bracket to attach them to a post. The post will be painted and has a cap on it.

The five small signs will be strategically located throughout the entire area. The signs are changeable.

Ed felt the signs should contain bullet points with facts of what one may visually identify. You can add a sign on Dragonflies or something similar that lives close to the shoreline. Also, add a Swallowtail Butterfly, Bumble Bee and Sweat Bee or Dragonfly. John suggested adding a scale so that one is aware of how large the insect is, etc.

A Welcome Sign will be developed and installed at Solstice Park.

Aquatic plants for Pollinator Park will be delivered end of April and will be planted in the water inside the carp enclosure at the existing area. What we purchased with the grant but safe enough to deliver. would exist. Planting of the aquatic plants will occur during a volunteer workday.

Shoreline Restoration Project 2022

Dana said we have submitted another Grant request to ComEd. We will know the results in July 2022. Whether or not we receive the Grant, we still have the project intact with the city. The Project is in six increments at \$35,000 each year. Ordering of cord logs, erosion blankets and equipment is necessary. This is a big project to begin in August 2022.

John inquired if we may start sooner, like in June. There is a lot of heavy work, digging and installing the logs, etc. It would be nice to spread out the work. We would also have the summer interns’ participation. We could begin in June and wait for the plants. However, Dana cautioned that you do not want to jump over the Grant.

What of the City funds? We have it in hand. Therefore, we could purchase the core logs and get them slated for delivery. This is a good point because of the supply change. Therefore, Dana will inquire about delivery. It would be nice to have it stored and on hand.

John said the shoreline continues to erode. It is making him nervous.

Earth Week – April 18-22, 2022

Commissioners planned Earth Week, April 18 – 22, 2022 as follows:

April 20, 2022: Wheeling High School Environmental Science Class and pulling or eradicating garlic mustard at the Slough and/or transplanting.

April 21, 2022: Nature Speaks Program presentation by David Schwaegler on “Lake in the Hills Fen” via Zoom Meeting at 7:00 p.m. CT.

April 24, 2022: Sunday, April 17, is Easter Sunday. Therefore, Commissioners decided to reschedule the April 17 volunteer workday to Sunday, April 24.

Path Maintenance at Worksite

Dana provided a huge shout out to Seth for his work on the path and boardwalk at the Slough! Substantial progress was made to make the paths walkable and passable thanks to Seth's efforts. Our volunteers have also provided quality labor and efforts.

Spring Prescribed Burns

Agnes reported that our spring prescribed burns' results were mixed. We only had two or three days where burns could be accomplished, and other attempts were patchy. Some areas we did not get to burn. It was a close call with weather conditions. Many thanks to Peter and Seth for their availability.

Agnes noted a large stretch at the Slough at Hillside where she wishes it would burn. Agnes took a brush cutter to the buckthorn and resprouts then Eva and Agnes performed a 50% burn. The rest of that area is overgrown, so utilizing a brush cutter before it starts to leaf out is targeted.

Seed/Greenhouse Program

Agnes reported that over 10,000 plants are residing in the Greenhouse. Seed Transplanting activities are now being held on Wednesdays from 9:00am to 12 Noon and in the evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Having just a few more people assisting with transplanting has made a huge difference. Our first Greenhouse is full!

The holding Greenhouse was installed at the last workday and is currently a quarter of the way done because about 2,000 seed transplants were accomplished. The trails have also been enhanced with wood chips. Agnes estimated that by May 15, we could reach 40,000 plants!

NEW BUSINESS

District 214: Wheeling High School: Seth reported that the Wheeling High School Environmental Science Class (STEM) and their teacher/sponsor, Mediha Abat, came out on April 6 and are expected, again, on April 20 and May 4, 2022. An educational experience is provided at the Slough. The students' project is Native and Invasive Plants, so the students have a list, and Agnes and Seth review what are native and invasive plants, what is the downside of invasive plants, the plus side of native plants, etc.

Agnes developed a fantastic idea of giving the students Journals, so they can tape in an actual piece of the plant with information next to it. We provided the supplies to the students.

Twenty-two students were expected, and between 15 to 18 students were present. John said it is nice that they are receptive to what we offer.

It is wonderful that Mediha Abat, the Teacher, is supportive of her students' desire to learn about the environment, natural area management, etc.

District 214: Buffalo Grove High School: Dana, Agnes and Seth visited Ari and her teacher who supports the Buffalo Grove High School Environmental Club to review the site where they are proposing to plant a prairie. Ari has been a volunteer with use for over one year and is President of the Environmental Club. The Club did a presentation to the Administration to develop a native prairie garden in front of the school at the main entrance. Dana estimated it is 500 square feet.

We are providing advice and plants (seeds and plus) to start the project. The teacher is a good guy and supportive of and engaged with the students to develop their interests. Further, the teacher wants to come to our workdays to learn more. We have invited the students, and a few already volunteer with us.

Seth said the students have also chosen a second site on their campus for another prairie garden. Therefore, we spoke with them about creating a sustainable program where they could construct a simple 6' x 8' Greenhouse to collect their own seeds and germinate the seeds for their own plants. This could become a multi-year project and provide the students with a sense of ownership. We are available to guide them and provide assistance.

Wheeling High School will make another presentation to the administration to learn if Wheeling is ready to start their prairie project. This is part of District 214. Once they see the prairie at BGHS and all the benefits, we feel it would be influential in Hersey and Wheeling High Schools collaborating with us.

MacArthur Junior High School Science Fair

The MacArthur Junior High School Science Fair is scheduled on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 starting at 6:00 p.m. A lot of fun, a lot of great questions, and anyone available, we would appreciate your presence and assistance. We have tables and props from when we participated about three years' ago, before Covid.

Also, the MacArthur Junior High School Science Teacher contacted Agnes about the students planting a small planting area at the Junior High School. John said we are going to need those 40,000 plants!

Osprey Pole

Dana provided a photo of the mounting system and the nest for the Osprey Pole. Agnes researched the best osprey nest designs and perches. Lewis provided the bark cladding and manufactured the steel support struts. Lewis has been simply amazing and has worked every evening on this project.

Lewis clad the nest with bark stripped from Siberian Elm trees on all four sides. Lewis detailed the log to accept the base that the nest sits on and fabricated struts out of angle iron to securely attach the nest to the post.

Every existing idea has been thoughtfully considered to create the nest and perches.

The pole is 45 feet in length and will be planted 10 feet into the ground.

Currently, conditions are too wet to plant the pole, but we are looking to install it within the next two to three weeks before time is past nesting season.

The pole will be installed past the cattails due southeast of the Izaak Walton Pavilion where conditions are not always soggy.

John asked if we need to inform the residents that the osprey pole has been installed. John said residents around Hillcrest Lake were surprised to learn of the osprey pole and asked why it could not be installed by the Lake, the area where the osprey fish?

Dana said that communication was provided through a recent article in the PHNRC Resources Journal. However, not everyone reads the Journal. Installation of the osprey pole is weather-dependent. Therefore, Ed suggested a post-release after the osprey pole is installed. We could also pitch the idea to Shawn Clisham of Journal & Topics, Des Plaines. However, Dana said that Shawn has been informed.

The Osprey pole is located in the Slough per recommendation by Mary Lou Mellon of the Bird Conservation Network. The pole is situated away from homes and in a more secluded area.

Harper College Presentation – Earth Week Environmental Affair

Seth and Dana will be at Harper College on April 19, 2022 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Colin, one of our volunteers and former summer interns, requested a table at Harper for Earth Week to highlight the work that PHNRC does. Dana and Seth will be present to represent the PHNRC. About 100 students are anticipated.

Seth said just in the last few weeks, we have had two high schools, a middle school and one college reach out to us. This reflects that we are really satisfying our mission of education.

John inquired if our table at Harper College will have a banner. Dana said the giant sign we utilized at the Wild Things Conference entitled Come Volunteer with Us will be utilized. Also, Dana has reprinted our trifold and will have cards and props.

John felt our organization still needs a banner that simply says PHNRC, our logo and our website address.

Ed felt that a lateral banner is good for a parade, but a vertical, retractable banner is inexpensive and can be branded to be a visual attraction to a table and any other different effect. By keeping it simple, the vertical, retractable banner will have a long life. John stated he has four display stands for this type of banner. Dana said we also have easel stands.

2022 Budget and Gift Donation

The amount left of the Gift Donation of \$720 will cover the purchase of PHNRC hats and shirts and signage issue.

Dana said Joe at TOK Sports was Dana's contact from his former company. Joe has provided us decent prices on hats and shirts. Dana provided this information plus samples and colors to Commissioners for consideration.

Do we do this? If so, how much? Or do we split the amount for other signage or a combination of both? We must decide by end of April.

Ed suggested if we opt for the hats and t-shirts to select a light color. Wearing a lighter color when working outdoors keeps you cooler. A lot of people do not like white because they could be a bit see-through. Earth-foam green or grey are nice colors.

Seth said a banner has multiple uses – educational, parade, promotional. Therefore, we should have a banner that is substantial to use for many years. Ed said Banners need support, so it works in a parade but could be an issue as a backdrop.

A banner used in a parade has metal grommets on top of the banner. Therefore, the same banner would be attached by string to a display table.

John said that a vertical banner could be an added option and used in the background and during our workdays.

How long? How tall? What content? The content should be our identifier, our logo and our website address. The width of the banner should match the width of a standard folding table, which is 8 feet.

Dana will research both a horizontal and vertical banner with Vista Prints (inexpensive) and Fast Signs. Dana will provide context and pricing to Commissioners for consideration.

Treasurer's Report

John Kamysz provided Commissioners with the City of Prospect Heights FY2021-22 NRC Budget numbers as of March 9, 2022.

Nothing new to report as the numbers remain the same. Our current net revenue is \$1,181.55. Of the \$3,000 donation from the Hyndman Family, \$720 must be spent by the end of April.

Prospect Heights Community Days

Prospect Heights Community Days will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon at the Prospect Heights Fire Station.

The Prospect Heights Lions Club will host their annual pancake breakfast at the main fire and police stations at Camp McDonald and Elmhurst Roads. This event this year will include every community organization within Prospect Heights along with expanded activities for children.

The firefighters and police officers will be available for equipment and station tours. The Park District and Public Library will have children's games.

This event is an opportunity for residents to learn about all the amazing community groups in Prospect Heights.

The event is free of charge, and parking is available along Maple Avenue next to the Police Station.

PHNRC has two of their own tables, a banner and two pop-ups.

Seed Giveaways

Agnes reported that Jill and she have sorted and distilled the seeds to be placed in the prairie seed packets for upcoming seed giveaway events: The Prospect Heights Public Library on June 4 during the Community Days Event and the River Trails Park District in August 2022. Dana prepared appropriate packet labels. The seed packet (coin) pouch measures 2 inches by 4 inches.

The quantity of seed packets provided will be 100 to River Trails and 50 to the Public Library. The seed packet pouch measures 2 inches by 4 inches.

Jill and Dana will proceed to the Public Library after the Community Days on June 4 for the seed packet giveaway.

Prospect Heights Block Party

The Prospect Heights Block Party will be held on Saturday, June 18, 2022 from 4:00 – 11:00 p.m. Admission is free.

Food trucks, beer and wine garden, Kidz Zone inflatables and Games, a dance competition team showcase, pet pageant, corn hole games, and Lions Club Duck Race Fundraiser are the activities and events planned. Live Music is provided by Focal Point from 7:00-9:30 p.m., and Modern Day Romeos from 9:30 – 11:00 p.m.

Dana has registered the PHNRC as a participant. We will have two tables and two pop-ups and provide four-pack plant giveaways.

Independence Day Parade – July 2, 2022

The City of Prospect Heights will host a parade on Saturday, July 2, 2022 instead of on Monday, July 4, 2022 or the 4th of July Holiday and will identify it as an Independence Day Parade. The PHNRC plans to participate.

John Kamysz shared his visions of our participation this year. John contacted the Sunflower Project Artists for input and assistance and apologized if he did not inform all Commissioners before starting the process.

John thought it would be great if we could do something that would be a spectacle and advertise our Commission and mission concurrently. His ideas will be shared during two public workshops and via e:mail to both Commissioners and volunteers.

Commissioners' Site Monitoring Reports

Jill announced that Commissioners' Monitoring Site Reports will begin for the season. Commissioners will check the site of their responsibility and provide a report before each meeting from May to October 2022. The monitoring reports will be part of the meeting minutes.

Following is a listing of our sites and the Commissioner who is responsible for providing or reporting an update on each site:

<u>PHNRC Site</u>	<u>Reporting Commissioner</u>
ComEd Seeded Prairie	Dana Sievertsen
Heron Pond	John Kamysz
Hillcrest Lake	John Kamysz
Nature Preserve (Gary Morava)	Pete Hahn
Remnant Prairie	Seth Marcus
Remnant Sedge Meadow	Jill Moskal
Saint Alphonsus	Ed Madden
Slough	Agnes Wojnarski

City Civic Meetings and PHNRC Representation

Jill highlighted notes from the following March 2022 City Council and PHPD Board meetings:

City Council Special Time Regular Hybrid Workshop – March 14, 2022

PRESENTATION

A.FY2022-2023 City of Prospect Heights Budget Presentation (*Overview, Revenues, Council, Administration, Finance and Legal, Building, Public Works, and Police*)

City Administrator Wade said that the Budget was stable from last year. He noted that whether or not we had a balanced budget would depend on how much funding was allotted to the Police Pension Fund.

City Administrator Wade said that no department heads had asked for increased personnel nor were they asking for new services. He said that there was a position open in Public Works.

Finance Director Graefen said that the FY23 Budget is anticipating local economic recovery. She said that there were many grants that were not included in the budget – she noted that the policy

of the City is to wait until those grants are realized; but she added that if the grants are not rewarded, the City will need to look for additional revenue sources. Those other revenue sources might include bond referendum and Fund transfers.

She said that the police pension contribution had a substantial difference in amount from the actuary recommended of \$1.4 million from the required amount of \$700,000. She said that the City has recommended splitting the difference.

She said that the General Fund in the Budget plan is showing a **\$37,000**. For Fiscal Year 22, Revenue was \$8.9 million; while \$8.3 was budgeted. Actual expenditures were \$8.4 million, but was budgeted for \$9.2 million. She said that the City had a very strong year, and did not dip into its \$3 million reserve.

The \$9.2 million is budgeted for the General Fund in FY 23. Sales tax is almost back to pre-pandemic levels.

ADMINISTRATION BUDGET - Assistant City Administrator Falcone said that the **Natural Resources Commission was asking for \$6000 for an intern**. Treasurer Tibbits was asking that the Digital Communications Technician position be moved from Part-Time to Full-Time for a total cost for the position over \$6,000.

He said that special events budget was increased from \$35,000 to \$43,000, mostly because of the money that would be needed to participate in Rock the Runway. The \$10,000 for the Block Party contribution and the \$5000 for City events is consistent with previous years.

Assistant City Administrator Falcone said that **the NRC requested budget is \$12,485**. The cost of hiring an intern has appreciated from \$4500 to \$6000.

Dana, Agnes, Jill, and John were present in City Hall Chambers for the budget review. No questions from the City Council were asked of the PHNRC regarding their proposed 2022-2023 budget request.

Treasurer Tibbits said that PEG fees can only be used for equipment. Last year, the A/V Department spent \$20,000 on equipment from PEG fees to get High Definition equipment. In the FY23 budget, he would like to build a server.

In order to convert analog, coax cables to fiber optic. He said that it would cost about \$7000.

He said that the capacity to store data now is based on individual hard drives. He wants to consolidate that information to one computer. Alderman Dash asked why the City was not storing data on the Cloud.

Treasurer Tibbits replied that he was not a fan of the Cloud, and that the City has an IT Room for its internet needs. He noted that the City's information belongs to the City and not the Cloud.

Alderman Quinn said that the City needed offsite servers in case of a disaster at City Hall. She wanted to know the cost of the Cloud and offsite servers. She added that cyber liability costs were reduced when data was stored offsite.

Treasurer Tibbits said that he would defer to DeKind for a response.

Alderman Dash said that she did not want to see money allocated to outdated A/V infrastructure. She stated that the City should invest in updated technology.

Treasurer Tibbits said that he had an IT background and has built some of the servers in the room. Acting Mayor Dolick said that he was also concerned about the lack of offsite back up. He liked the idea of cloud-based storage.

He noted that Comcast should share some of the expenses for the \$7000 of fiber optics technology. Treasurer Tibbits noted that since we already get PEG fees through Comcast, they did not feel the need to help pay for fiber optics.

Alderman Morgan-Adams said that Council was confusing the server with the Cloud. She said the server was antiquated and needed to be replaced. She said a new fiber optic was needed because of all media the City has produced.

Treasurer Tibbits said that he was asking for \$27,000 but it did not mean that he would spend all \$27,000.

Treasurer Tibbits said that he was requesting to have the Digital Communications Technician position be upgraded from P/T to F/T. He stated that the Patrick Colvin had volunteered for five years, and then was paid for 20 hours, and as of last year, his hours were increased to 28 hours per week.

Alderman Morgan-Adams agreed that the position required a full time employee and commended Patrick Colvin for his work and work habits.

Acting Mayor Dolick agreed that Mr. Colvin was an excellent city worker, but said that the City would incur a cost increase in salary and benefits.

Alderman Quinn said that Patrick Colvin is a great worker but that the Council had to separate the employee from the position. She asked what other cities were doing. She also commented on the increased costs to the City of a full time position.

The Assistant City Administrator said that the total package would be about \$68,000.

Treasurer Tibbits said that it is about the employee, and that even though it is the last thing the Council thinks about, "A/V is the first point of contact."

There were questions as to whether the City budget could sustain a full time communications director.

Alderman Morgan-Adams said that Treasurer Tibbits was devoting his own time to A/V, and that he might not be available long term. She said that A/V was important to the City.

Assistant City Administrator Falcone said that the current P/T salary is \$40,500.

Alderman Morgan-Adams said that it was worth the additional \$28,000 for a full time A/V person.

Alderman Dash asked if the Council could increase or decrease the budget by line items? City Administrator Wade said "yes" as long as the City maintained a balanced budget.

Assistant City Administrator Falcone continued with the ADMINISTRATION budget – He said that there was a \$43,000 decrease in expenses, primarily because 80% of IT services are due to Police needs, because the PD has the most amount of equipment and the most amount of personnel. That expense will be allocated to the various Departments.

He said that there would be a slight increase in Finance costs because of an audit fee and their Caselle cost.

The Legal expenses have decreased \$67,000.

Staff, Elected Officials, and Commission Reports: City Administrator Wade stated that Chief Zawlocki would be retiring.

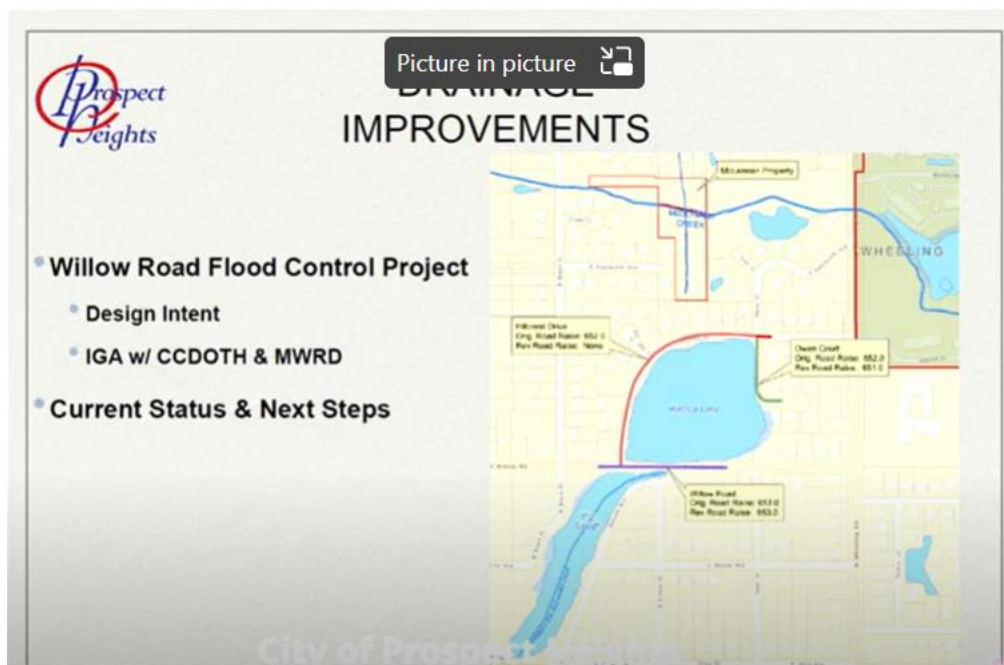
City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting of March 25, 2022

Capital Project Plans Summary for the next five years as part of the second part of the Budget presentation were provided by Bob Tannehill and Dan Strahane, the new City Engineer. Two of the Capital Project Plans were Drainage Improvements and Stormwater Management.

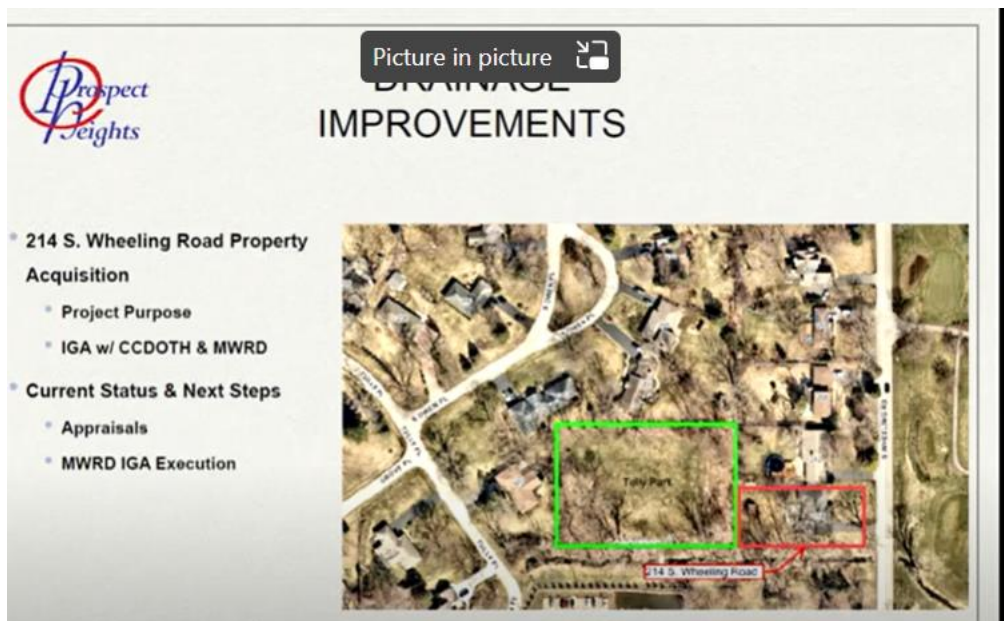
Willow Road Flood Control Project: Hillcrest Drive has been removed from the Project. The current project involves raising Willow Road to an elevation of 653.0 or two feet above the flood plain elevation and raising Owens Court to an elevation of 652.0 or one foot above flood plain elevation.

A draft IGA from MWRD has been received and includes funding commitment of \$1.8 million from the Cook County Division of Transportation and Highways and \$817,000 from MWRD. Includes off ramp provisions.

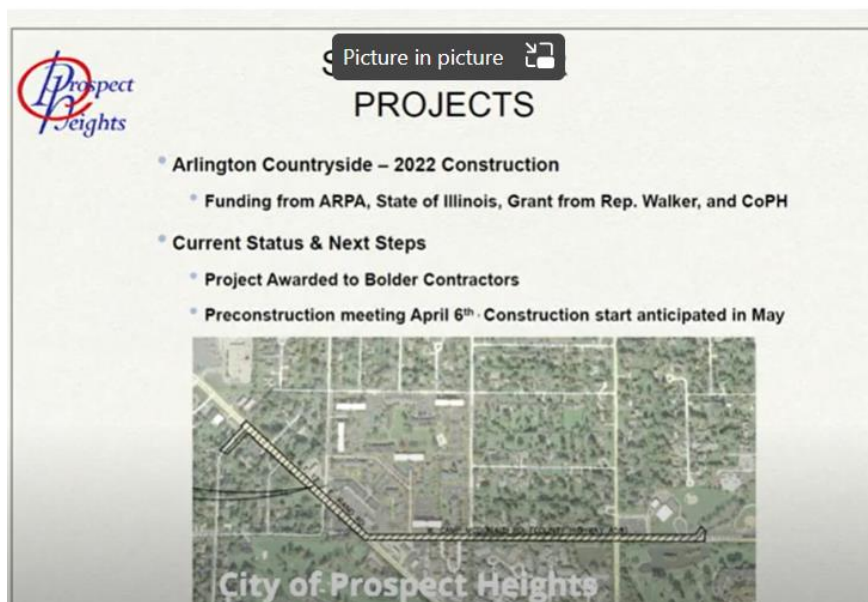
Currently looking to identify compensatory storage requirements.



Property at 214 South Wheeling Road Property Acquisition: Another MWRD-funded project to purchase flood-prone properties damaged by floods. Currently, received three proposals from appraisers and submitted to MWRD for review with their Legal team to ensure funding requirements are met. Also, received a draft IGA from the MWRD and will be reviewing it and bring before the Council in the near future.



Arlington Countryside Storm Sewer Project: A stormwater listation proposed on Forest Avenue to discharge through a forced main down Rand Road to Camp McDonald Road to McDonald Creek. The Project was bid in February and awarded to Bolder Contractors. Contracts have been signed. Construction is dependent on of PCB pipe and not be available until early to mid-May. Coordinating with the contactor and have a pre-consonstruction meeting on April 6, 2022. Looking forward to move forward with this Project his calendar year.



Joanna Prisiajniouk, City Clerk, has been named to the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce as an Associate Director. Joanna is looking forward to working with this Committee stating Prospect Heights is part of their neighborhood.

The Water Study Discussion has been tabled until the City Council Workshop Meeting of April 11, 2022.

Next Meetings: The City Council Workshop Meeting will be held on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. The City Council Regular Meeting will be held on April 25, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of March 25, 2022

Feasibility Study: Rec Center Pool Renovation Update

The feedback from the Survey is assisting Williams Architects in preparing a conceptual design option along with the gathered input from the interviews, focus groups and community meeting. A Community Meeting will be conducted on Wednesday, April 27 for Williams Architects to share and explain the preliminary designs and gather more feedback to refine the designs. Another presentation with the Park Board and the public is planned at the PHPD Board Meeting of May 24, 2022. The final refined design will be presented to the Park Board and the public at the July 26 Board Meeting.

Urban Forestry Management Plan Update

Drafts of the Tree Inventory and Management Plan with Steve Lane of Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management have been reviewed. The tree inventory is based in an Excel spreadsheet and provides X and Y coordinates for each tree to be used with GIS Software. The Park District Staff purchased the GIS software and posted all the necessary data for future tree management.

The Grant required the adoption of a tree ordinance, which was adopted by the Board at the February Board Meeting. The plan will be ready for the Board to review next month; it needs to be completed by July 1 to apply for a reimbursement. The final report is due August 1, 2022.

Osprey Nest Platform

Ospreys are listed as an Illinois state-endangered bird species. Ospreys winter in Florida and return to Northern Illinois in April. Similar to action by the Cook County Forest Preserve, a pole with an osprey nest platform will be installed near Izaak Walton Park in the middle of the Slough on Park District property.

ComEd agreed to install the pole and allow the PHNRC to create and place a 40-inch platform at the top of the pole. This platform will have wire mesh on the bottom so that water may pass through the sticks and stems that the osprey will bring to construct the nest.

The pole will be 10 feet into the ground and 70 feet high.

The pole has been delivered and is waiting at the entrance to be installed.

Tree Planting Event

A tree plant event, organized by the Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI) is scheduled for volunteers to help dig holes, plant trees, mulch and water on Friday, May 24, 2022 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. This date is the Friday afternoon of Memorial Day holiday weekend.

The financial support for this Event is from the Morton Arboretum for 20 native trees to be planted at Izaak Walton Park.

The Park District is working with the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission on placement and planting of the trees.

This is a three-hour event. The Park District is hoping for supplemental activities for the volunteers to do in the event they finish planting the trees early.

TreeKeepers and the PHNRC have been invited to host informational tables at the event with information.

CRTI has a link to register, and this information is located on page 4 of the PHPD Summer Brochure. The link is: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tree-planting-at-Isaac-Walton-Park-Tickets-259640470637>.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled PHPD Board Meeting is Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gary Morava Recreation Center on Camp McDonald Road in Prospect Heights, IL.

Announcements to the Public

Seth made a formal proposal that our webpage list the PHNRC Commissioners by having a drop-down menu entitled “Who are the Commissioners?” and then have our photos and a brief statement.

Dana said he is looking at revising our website. Incorporating a page like this would be fine. However, when this was previously discussed, Commissioners were reluctant to do so due to invasion of privacy. However, we are an established Commission.

Seth said if concerned about privacy, it can be minimal.

Ed said we are public officials in the true definition. There is transparency with this role.

Dana would appreciate a statement from each Commissioner to be placed with the group photograph.

Visitors’ Comments

Any visitors present did not comment.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission is May 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the meeting. Therefore, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary