

CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 12, 2022

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

Absent: Ed Madden
Attendees: Peter Falcone, Assistant City Administrator

NOTE: Meeting held virtually via Zoom. Meeting ID: 884 3610 6024

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 except Ed Madden. However, a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 7, 2022

The minutes of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission Board Meeting of April 7, 2022, were reviewed. No changes or corrections were noted. Therefore, the meeting minutes of April 7, 2022 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteer Workdays

The volunteer workday of April 17, 2022 was rescheduled due to the Easter holiday to Sunday, April 24, 2022. However, due to the weather forecast of thunderstorms, the work planned for the April 24 workday changed to PHNRC Headquarters garage where volunteers transplanted plugs for the Greenhouse Program. The weather was rain showers, so several volunteers began planting the Plum Trees by Izaak Walton pavilion and Elmhurst Road.

The volunteer workday of Sunday, May 1, 2022 was held at PHNRC Headquarters by the Slough to conduct spring cleanup tasks in several areas, such as removal of invasives, such as garlic mustard, mulch and water the newly planted Plum Trees, cut-up downed snags, freshen up and place wood chips on the trails, and general trash pick-up.

It is the Spring Season, so all our sites require attention and would benefit from a workday; therefore, we must decide the work schedule over the next few weeks.

We have observed many new people volunteering with us and volunteers that keep returning. Transplanting Wednesdays have also garnered interest where 29,000 plugs have already been transplanted for the Greenhouse Program.

Prospect Heights Public Library/Park District Events

Nature Speaks Program

Dana reported that the presentation on “Lake in the Hills Fed” by Dr. David Schwaegler on April 21, 2022 was well-received and attended by interested parties both in person and via Zoom Meeting. Further, Dr. Schwaegler donated his stipend to the PHNRC.

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

Dana had hoped to engage a Chicago Botanist that does a dialogue with a Chicago comedy spin for the Fall Nature Speaks Program. However, Terri Campbell did not feel this type of presentation would be appropriate.

Dana must follow-up with the colleague of John Kamysz that is a hydrologist and dam engineer for the Federal Government for a presentation on hydrology in our area.

Spring Bird Walks

The first PHNRC and Prospect Heights Park District Bird Walk for the season will be conducted this Saturday, May 14 from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. by expert birder, Mary Lou Mellon from the Bird Conservation Network. Dana commented that the quantity and type of birds available for viewing has been incredible, and he anticipates that the bird walk will be well-attended.

Dana must follow-up with Marci to review the document sent with names of registered attendees to determine an accurate headcount.

The second Spring Bird Walk is scheduled for 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://prospectheights.org/PHParks/ExploreFunWithUs). 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

Dana reiterated that the Tree Planting Day is scheduled for Friday, May 27, 2022 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. This is the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. 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-hCHkdVpQTiZ2RNRZGqhQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

The Morton Arboretum is managing this event with the Prospect Heights Park District and PHNRC. Aris from the Morton Arboretum anticipates that this Event will be well-attended; therefore, we will have additional tasks to accomplish, such as, invasives removal, trash pick-up, transplanting, etc. It was suggested to level the boardwalk, but John cautioned that this requires a special skill and should be accomplished by our Commission and qualified volunteers.

Dana mentioned that Chris Wood anticipates his fellow Rotary Club members will attend this Event.

The day will begin with the PHPD crew available in the morning to receive the 20 trees. If we know ahead of time where the trees will be planted, we can auger the holes and have the volunteers continue with a shovel.

Sixteen trees will be delivered at the Isaak Walton Pavilion location. Our trees are seven (7) Swamp White Oak, one Bald Cypress and six Hackberries. Most of our trees will be planted between the Boardwalk and Elmhurst Road with the other half planted by the creek. The tree measurements are 18" x 18".

Commissioners attending were encouraged to bring a two-wheel dolly, if available.

The Plum Trees look great. Dana said that Natural Communities provided great specimens. Pete Hahn encouraged us to mark our trees with a red/orange color so that they do not get lost.

MacArthur Junior High School Science Fair

The MacArthur Junior High School Science Fair was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 starting at 6:00 p.m. Dana, Agnes, and Seth managed the PHNRC display tables. Seth reported that the Fair was attended by students, parents, and teachers.

PHNRC Commissioners were asked great questions, and Seth felt the information presented on natural area management was well-received judging by the enthusiasm displayed by students. One student twice brought her parents with her to the Transplanting Wednesdays.

PHNRC received four new people who subscribed to receive the *Resources Journal*. A young girl has attended our Transplanting Wednesdays with her parents.

Agnes gave items from our educational inventory purchased with funds from the Hyndman Family Donation to the MacArthur Junior High Science Teachers. Items provided were key-chain flip cards and posters.

District 214: Wheeling High School: Seth reported that the Wheeling High School Environmental Science Class (STEM) and their teacher/sponsor, Mediha Abat, were present for the second of three educational experiences at the Slough on May 4, 2022. 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 providing the students with Journals, so they can tape in an actual piece of the plant with information next to it. We provided the supplies to the students. Returning students to the third session brought their notebooks with them.

The overall assessment of the educational experience at the Slough has been positive. Seth feels we are fulfilling our mission of being present in the community and education. The third session will be held on May 18, 2022.

District 214: Buffalo Grove High School: Dana and Agnes met with the Buffalo Grove High School Environmental Club on site to review their proposed project of planting a prairie and flag the areas. Agnes and Dana herbicided. On Saturday, May 28, holes will be drilled and planting the plot will occur on Sunday, May 29, 2022. The plan is for the students to attend our regularly scheduled workday on May 29, have lunch and then we will go to the high school and plant their prairie.

Dana ensured that the students had access to a water supply and hose as the new plantings will require watering three to four times per week.

Ari has done an incredible job working with the Administration to make this high school project possible. Environmental Club students have regularly attended our workdays.

Update: ComEd Osprey Pole

The Osprey Pole was installed on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, and it is simply spectacular! The installation was video recorded by Patrick Colvin, and Dana will provide a voice-over. It was an amazing process. Now all we need is an osprey to nest.

Our sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Sara Rice, Calandra and John of ComEd for their support, efforts and consideration. What they have done for us, and our community is amazing!

Tom Skilling, WGN Channel 9 Meteorologist, featured the Osprey Pole installation on the news, and it is all over Facebook.

Slough Boardwalk Project

Dana advised that this is our last year of the Grant. We need to finalize the flora part of the Project with the plants installed, reclaiming the land back from the cattails and interpretative signage.

Dana and Agnes have been looking for 1.5 months on how effective the process went through last summer with the interns cutting the cattails, raking the area of debris and placing herbicide down the cattail shafts then planting 8,000 warrior sedges. The process worked!

One area where the boardwalk takes the turn to the pavilion is heavily planted. The warrior sedges look great, but the cattails are coming in. We need to have a professional to whack the cattails. It is a nasty but necessary job!

Our former intern, Jeremy, has experience with whacking. Everything is in a balance now. If we do not manage it now, we could potentially lose the work that has been accomplished.

Agnes will try to do as much as she can. There are many things for us to do. For example, at the Slough, there is Canada Thistle and Garlic Mustard that must be removed. The ComEd Seeded Prairie does not have much Canada Thistle and Teasel, but the Callery Pear is a challenge.

Pollinator Park – Landscaping Design

John reported that the boulders installed for the solstice park are steady and holding their positions. Everything is starting to bloom. The erosion continues.

Dana reported that seven (7) round signs are scheduled to be delivered the week of May 16, 2022. We have the posts, so we are ready to install.

Dana continues to work on the two large signs; they are complex and time-consuming. There is a particular need to finish the artwork and send out to production.

John noticed that the large Willow Tree cracked and fell into the lake. It is acting as a buffer for that piece of shoreline and an animal habitat for turtles, etc.

Shoreline Restoration Project 2022

John said the shoreline is looking rough and taking a beating. The shoreline is eroding in chunks. Shall we do more planting? When may we start the first section of the shoreline project?

Dana contacted Spence and learned the aquatic plants will be delivered soon. The plants will be placed in the carp enclosure installed at the old shoreline that we restored. The plants must be installed immediately and then plant the actual shoreline plants which are not ready.

Dana said we were requested to apply for another Grant, which we did, the results of which we will learn in June. The lead time is two weeks then we place our orders for coconut rolls. This is a city project, so we could place orders at any point in time.

Are the city funds tied into the Grant? Yes, if we receive the Grant. If so, ComEd would match the city funding. The city funding is secure. Either way, the project is covered but would be really covered if we receive the Grant.

Peter Falcone said that \$6,000 was placed in the capital improvement plan for the shoreline stabilization and restoration. The project amortization is \$6,000 each year over the next six years.

John said installing the coconut rolls and backfilling is challenging work and will take several days to complete. Agnes said the interns start June 1 but there is so much work to complete. Perhaps we could start the shoreline project toward the end of June or after the first two weeks of June.

Some trees fell backwards into the shoreline. Should we flip them into the lake? They could act as a buffer. Shall we arrange a meeting with Mark Roscoe to discuss all these things? We will need dirt, equipment and manpower once the coconut rolls are delivered. We could also discuss the fallen trees, debris and picking up of debris. Also, we need to talk with the residents.

We can order the coconut rolls at the beginning of June for installation at the end of June. The interns will assist us. Plants will be ready to be planted between the rolls.

Dana confirmed with Peter that orders are placed with the city through Peter. Peter said we have different money streams – donations, our normal budget, the \$6,000 capital plan. Therefore, when we submit an invoice, Peter will double-check what it pertains to and will code it properly.

Path Maintenance at Worksite

The paths are growing! We need to expand the width of the paths specifically close to Dana and Agnes' property by 1.5 feet.

The amount of traffic on the paths keeps the walking paths in good order.

Path maintenance is needed at Herod Pond. The path needs to be mowed, and garlic mustard needs to be removed. The best method is to clip garlic mustard at the base of the plant to not disturb the soil. Garlic Mustard should be bagged. Dana and Seth will work together to tackle the path maintenance at Heron Pond and the Slough.

Tully Park needs a workday, too, and they have the Eagle Scout Project.

Seed/Greenhouse Program

Agnes reported that over 29,000 plants are residing in the Greenhouse. Dana said it takes Agnes 2.5 hours to water all the plantings, sometimes twice a day.

Agnes said it is exciting to know we will have so many wonderful plants for our projects, such as, the Shoreline Restoration Project, the Slough, Cattails, Morava will have woodland grasses, and plantings at the culverts. We are going all out this year!

The cover has been removed from the holding Greenhouse. There is only so much floor space in the yard. The holding Greenhouse contained 25,000 plants and another 20,000 plants are available, but no place to put them. We removed the covering, removed shelving from both Greenhouses, put them together, mulched everything and tied the shelving to the structure of the holding Greenhouse. We are stacking everything vertically, which is working well.

Status: Gift Donation

The amount remaining of the Gift Donation is \$1,000. Dana provided Commissioners with a photo of the banner that measures 8' x 2' and was purchased prior to the \$1,000, so we have one. Dana is currently working on two pop up banners measuring 48" x 81" each and which will be purchased using the remaining funds or \$1,000.

Any other promotional items should be decided upon. With Vista Prints conducting a sale, the pop-up banner is \$132; therefore, we have a nice sum of money to complete the project.

Pop-up banners are used in Trade Shows. It is a commercial item measuring 45” in width and 48” in height. It is retractable and sits on the floor where you pull up the banner and attach it to a pole. It is a permanent item that we may use anywhere and will replace the storyboards.

Prospect Heights Community Days – June 4, 2022

Jill reported that she contacted Marcia Jendres, Police Volunteer, and Tim Jones, Deputy Fire Chief, on April 25, 2022 and expressed our interest to participate in Community Days on June 4, 2022 (Saturday).

Marcia indicated that she spoke with Dana a few weeks ago where he advised we had canopies. We will receive a few tables and chairs from the Community Days’ organizers for our use.

The event will be held from 9:00 am to 12 Noon. Most participants arrive between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. to set up their display tables and booths.

At the conclusion of Community Days, Dana and Jill will proceed to the Prospect Heights Public Library to participate in the Seed Giveaway Program. Labels for the seed packets have been designed, approved and produced by the Library and River Trails. If there is time available from the May 27 Tree Planting, volunteers could assist in creating the seed packets.

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.

We will arrange two tables with two canopies, our banner and pop-ups and provide plant giveaways. We need to design the pop-up.

Independence Day Parade – July 2, 2022

The City of Prospect Heights will host an Independence Day Parade on Saturday, July 2, 2022. The PHNRC plans to participate.

John Kamysz shared his visions of our participation this year. John’s desire is for the PHNRC to leave a presence at the parade; therefore, his idea is to create and produce giant walking animals and large wildlife, such as the Great Blue Heron, Eagles, Egrets, Turtles etc., as well as a representation of Buckthorn and schools of fish floating own the street. John will be producing many things himself.

John with Kate Tully have been conducting workshops for all interested participations. However, the workshops have been poorly attended. John encouraged all who are participating to not wait until the last minute. The creations take time to produce.

John said if anyone has questions or requires assistance, let John know. Projects should be well underway by now.

Dana and Agnes' idea for the Parade is a float, and they are still working out the specific details.

Jill will contact Karen at City Hall to learn of where the PHNRC may be positioned in the Parade.

NEW BUSINESS

Land Sale on Elmhurst Road

Seth reported on the property located on Elmhurst Road directly across from the creek entrance at the Slough. The proposed acquisition is located at 196 North Elmhurst Road and lies between the two sites of the Slough and the Nature Preserve. The land is currently for sale. Acquiring the parcel and restoring it would be a logical and crucial step in expanding the natural areas of Prospect Heights.

Seth cited a contiguous natural/undeveloped area stretching from the Nature Preserve to the Slough. Following the creek that runs through these properties is a helpful guide. A creek runs through the Nature Preserve then goes under Pine Street and enters three undeveloped lots (two of which are reportedly owned by 106 North Elmhurst Road and 196 North Elmhurst Road) and then the creek proceeds under Elmhurst Road and enters the Slough.

Seth wrote a proposal and approached the City and PHPD, who are currently reviewing the proposal. In the proposal, Seth reiterated that the work of the PHNRC has led to substantial restorations of our natural areas, improving biodiversity, migration corridors, habitat for wildlife and the ecosystems, which significantly increasing public education, use and enjoyment of these natural areas.

There are many benefits to acquiring the .71-acre parcel of undeveloped land. The parcel would be naturalized with deep-rooted native species, which will assist in retaining storm runoff and creek overflow. Also, the area would sequester an estimated four tons of carbon, the equivalent of three cars driving for one year or 4.6 tons of waste added to the landfill. Converting the useless turf grass to native species would create premium habitat for pollinators, insects and wildlife while linking of green corridors to assist with wildlife habitats and migrations.

The area could very easily become a logical extension of the Nature Preserve, especially when associated with the other contiguous properties that might be available. Mowed paths and informational signage would certainly enhance the human experience.

Our former contact with the MWRD, Alfred, is now with the EPA. Alfred provided us contacts at the MWRD about the possible purchase of the property. We can pass it on to Joe Wade and Christine Ferraro. The Nature Conservancy is a contact, along with Commonwealth Edison and Openlands.

The owner of the adjacent property that links to Pine Street might be interested in selling a few parcels. We could make that area a continuous potential! You could exit the Nature Preserve, cross Pine Street, walk on the vacant parcel of land, cross Elmhurst Road and arrive at the Slough.

Agrivoltaics: Producing Solar Energy While Protecting Farmland – Seth Marcus

Seth offered another possible project. Currently, he is at the information gathering stage to understand the feasibility of Agrivoltaics is a solar market subsegment that co-locates solar energy production and agricultural operations. Combining these practices into one space creates an efficient and sustainable land use system that benefits farmers, solar developers, rural communities and the earth itself. This emerging form of renewable energy blends complementary land uses and eliminates the false “food or energy” dichotomy that has traditionally dominated discussions about solar-agricultural land use. People often feel forced to choose between fuel or farming, climate or conservation, energy or rural economies. However, with thoughtful planning, communities can simultaneously expand and strengthen solar infrastructure while conserving farmland, generating ecological benefits, and supporting rural places.

Opportunities for solar projects to help restore natural ecosystems include supporting pollinator populations, utilizing local, drought-resistant vegetation, and incorporating wildlife-friendly designs.

Solar projects can support critical biological processes by utilizing native grasses and vegetation in addition to pollinator-friendly plantings. Soil is the foundation of most ecosystems. Native grasses with deep root systems can revitalize soils while providing beneficial ecosystem services. Grasses with deep root systems sequester significantly more carbon dioxide than turfgrass and function as an important nature-based climate solution. Native grasses can also increase soil organic matter, which improves soil health and helps to build topsoil.

Also, native grasses provide superior on-site water management, which reduces irrigation requirements and soil erosion. Since these grasses are adapted to local conditions, they often require fewer pesticides and fertilizers – particularly if they are being grazed by livestock, who return nutrients to the soil via waste – and do not need to be mowed as frequently as turfgrass. Incorporating native grasses into Agrivoltaics and conventional solar projects can minimize negative ecosystem impacts by reducing water consumption, stormwater runoff, pesticide and fertilizer use, and mowing activities.

Another term is dual use is using the land for solar panels and something growing under the solar panels. When install solar panels on the ground, you install them a bit higher off the ground. It is high enough to graze animals.

Dana and Seth met with a gentleman whose organization has been involved with Agrivoltaics to learn about feasibility, possible sites and how it would work.

Dana shared his screen to show a map depicting the ComEd Seeded Prairie, the Remnant Prairie, and the Remnant Sedge Meadow. These are our existing sites. This exists a stretch between the ComEd Seeded Prairie and the Remnant Prairie, and a stretch between the Remnant Prairie and the Remnant Sedge Meadow. All of this is under or near transmission towers.

If we conduct this type of project, one thought is to do it in one of these areas. If so, the better area is the one that exists to the right of the ComEd Seeded Prairie because it has southern exposure. The solar panels would be located to the right of the ComEd Seeded Prairie and have native plants planted under them that are shade tolerant. We could do a small section leaving the rest to turf grass. What section we would utilize and how that section relates to the transmission towers must be considered.

John likes the idea. Running it through that section, you need resident feedback. Do they want a solar panel field within their yards? If that is an issue, the next section is warehouse and factories between the lines, which may be more acceptable. We need public opinion, too.

How much energy do you get using the solar panels? The expansion site just to the right of the ComEd Seeded Prairie is residential. Using this land between the Remnant Prairie and Remnant Sedge Meadow has fewer private homes. The panels in these sections could orientate facing south instead of east and west.

Using the land between the Remnant Prairie and Remnant Sedge Meadow is 0.5 or 0.6 miles, which would house a lot of solar panels and thereby generate a significant amount of electricity if you did a half mile of solar panels. You could do a proof of context model.

Both of those sites are in Wheeling except for a small area of the Remnant Sedge Meadows is in Prospect Heights, so it is important to speak with Wheeling city government. The ComEd Seeded Prairie is in Prospect Heights.

Seth has crafted a letter to Sara Race at ComEd.

Does ComEd have an offset for these types of things? Is there a spatial limit that must be respected? For example, X amount of distance from their power lines? Is it feasible? Does it make sense? Does it work with the high-tension power lines?

The world is changing, and something must happen. These types of projects are going to move things forward. You must receive good solid data, the benefits to the public, etc. it would be a good model city for this project.

Dana and Seth will finalize the proposal and keep us advised. We need good solid data and benefits to provide to the public.

2022 Summer Interns

Dana reported that the PHNRC posted the summer internship job description on our website's homepage today with a link at the bottom of the page for summer intern information. Also, the job description is posted on the Chicago Environmental Network website to garner the best candidates. We typically receive 15 applications; however, this year, we received three.

In addition, we have contacted Izabella Redlinski of the Cook County Forest Preserves. It is not unique to us; they are having difficulty locating interns. Izabella placed our posting on their Facebook page and related our link to various universities and social media.

We have received three applications and conducted two interviews. A third interview is scheduled this Saturday, May 14 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. We must decide next week.

We have good prospects and are hopeful.

District 214: Micro-Internship Program

Agnes reported that we do not have applicants for the District 214 Micro-Internship Program. However, we will keep the Program open.

Dana and Agnes will be attending the District 214 Breakfast on Friday, May 20 being held for people who make the internships possible. It is a networking opportunity to know the people and teachers and see how we may further education in the District.

Treasurer's Report

John Kamysz provided Commissioners with the City of Prospect Heights FY2022-23 NRC Budget, our new budget, which was supplied by Peter Falcone.

The new budget reflects funding from the City of Prospect Heights of \$12,485.00 and the Prospect Heights Park District of \$5,000. The new budget currently shows Donation Funding of \$500 from Dr. Chris Wood and \$200 from the Prospect Heights Library District, which is Dr. Schwaegler's stipend donation. This amount of \$700 is earmarked toward the deficit of the Park District internship. Our total working budget is \$19,185.00 for 2022-2023.

The PHNRC is deeply grateful for the funding and donations.

Location of Board Meetings/Return to In-Person Meetings

Members discussed the method of conducting our future monthly meetings . Meeting outdoors is an option, but it is difficult to record the meeting.

Peter Falcone said the City Council is still conducting their meetings as a hybrid meeting. Once the situation is back to normal, it is up to the City Council to allow a Commission or Board to remain on Zoom. All other commissions and Boards are back to meeting in City Council Chambers.

After a brief discussion, Commissioners decided to continue meeting via Zoom and will await City Council's guidance on when we may return to City Hall Chambers to conduct an in-person meeting.

Commissioners' Site Monitoring Reports

ComEd Seeded Prairie (Dana Sievertson)

Dana expressed sincere appreciation to Pete Hahn for herbiciding Thistle at the ComEd Seeded Prairie and during an extremely hot and humid day. This is not a lot, but Peter did not miss a one! Makes an enormous difference.

Everything is starting to grow and emerge. Stan Tec was going to mow the prairie in lieu of burning; however, the ground is very wet. In the process, they brought in the mower, but the ground was so wet. We did a trial swipe on one side of the west prairie, which proved soil disturbance would occur; therefore, we cancelled.

East Prairie is a Callery Pear forest. It deems another two full workdays to conquer or if ComEd returns to mow the prairie then we would immediately herbicide. Amy from Stan Tec advised that they are booked for the next two weeks but may be able to accommodate us. The ComEd Seeded Prairie is a high priority for ComEd. The StanTec crew utilizes a top-down mower, so they can set the machine at any height and mulches. We would prefer 12 inches from the ground and would clear all of the Callery Pear and then we would herbicide.

Dana expressed appreciation to the Public Works Department for mowing the path.

Heron Pond (John Kamysz)

Path maintenance is needed at Herod Pond. The path needs to be mowed, and garlic mustard needs to be removed. The best method is to clip garlic mustard at the base of the plant to not disturb the soil. Garlic Mustard should be bagged. Dana and Seth will work together to tackle the path maintenance at Heron Pond and the Slough.

Hillcrest Lake

John Kamysz's comments were provided under the discussions on the Pollinator Park Project and Shoreline Restoration Program on pages 5 and 6 of these minutes.

Nature Preserve (Gary Morava) (Pete Hahn)

Pete Hahn visited the Nature Preserve twice within the past 10 days and observed what a difference in growth and weather during that timeframe.

Pete said every plant is breaking dormancy with the hot, humid weather. A few wildflowers that we planted and seeded are blooming. Pete provided photos of Virginia Bluebelly and Yellow Wildflower in bloom. Trees are opening their buds, and leaves are evident.

The walking paths require wood chips. The stepping stones need to be leveled and shored up.

Several large branches need to be cut up and removed from our plantings.

Peter estimates that one workday would enable the Nature Preserve to be in decent shape for the summer.

Remnant Prairie (Seth Marcus)

No report was provided.

Remnant Sedge Meadow (Jill Moskal)

Jill provided photos capturing the Remnant Sedge Meadows as of Sunday, May 8, 2022.

With all the rain our area has received, the Sedge Meadow was soggy/wet but very green with slow progression of any blooms. However, the beginnings of Reed Canary Grass and Teasel plants were present.

Jill wanted to venture into areas, especially by the Cattails; however, the heavy presence of Red-Winged Blackbirds prevented me from doing so in fear that I may be close to their nests.

While at the Sedge Meadow, Jill performed a trash pick-up.

Saint Alphonsus (Ed Madden)

No current report was provided.

Slough (Agnes Wojnarski)

Agnes provided various photos of the state of the Slough. Agnes said the site is gorgeous with beautiful plantings emerging.

Agnes reported that the frogs (American Toads) have reappeared, and Dana spotted a Monarch the other day! Dana also mentioned that he is observing a lot of garter snakes.

Tully Park (Wendy Dewar)

Per Wendy Dewar, the herbicided area near the bridge has been seeded over the winter and spring seasons with Milkweed, Sneezeweed, Monarda, Coneflowers and various grasses and sedges. To date, it is still flooded; therefore, we do not know what will sprout yet.

Wendy reported that work on buckthorn sprout removal has begun and 15% of the work has been completed.

The weekend of May 7 and 8, 2022, our Eagle Scout, Hans Milaniak, and his family assisted in planting the 15 donated Wild Plum trees along the fence line in the Meditation Garden.

City Civic Meetings and PHNRC Representation

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

City Council Hybrid Workshop Meeting – April 11, 2022

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AND PROCLAMATIONS

AAnnouncement of Retirement of Police Chief Jim Zawlocki, Effective May 13, 2022, and Appointment of William Caponigro as Police Chief, Effective May 13, 2022 – City Administrator Wade stated that Chief Zawlocki is retiring effective May 13. He is one of the original Prospect Heights Police officers. It was noted that Deputy Chief Caponigro had been appointed to replace him as Police Chief. **Alderman Quinn moved to approve the appointment of Deputy Chief Caponigro to Police Chief effective May 13, 2022; seconded by Alderman Morgan-Adams. There was unanimous approval.**

DISCUSSION TOPIC IDEAS FOR NEXT WORKSHOP MEETING:

A.Discussion of City Water Study and New Water Survey- Alderman Morgan-Adams said that it was her understanding that the council was going to get some kind of engineering review. City Administrator Wade replied that when he reached out to the Baxter and Woodman group that had done the original survey and they sent back a two-part quote. It is now up to the Council what approach they want to take – an update for \$7400 and a broader survey for \$43,800, the quotes are from December 20, 2021.

Treasurer Tibbits said that an in-depth analysis was not necessary. What is needed, he said, is to find out how much will be saved if the City uses PVC piping, not ductile iron. He added that the City was not close to implementing any type of plan. He said that there needed to be more “concrete” facts to disseminate to the public, changing the way money is collected to equal amounts not EAV, as well as education about city water benefits. Treasurer Tibbits suggested public discussion and informal meetings on the subject.

Alderman Morgan-Adams added that there needed to be another survey with the same questions, as residents had changed. She said that a new survey and a new committee was needed. She noted that Ward 3 and part of Ward 4 needed city water. She felt that it was important to ask the residents how they feel.

Alderman Dash did not think that a bond referendum would get passed. She added that the money cannot come out of the residents’ pockets.

Alderman Quinn asked Treasurer Tibbits if he had followed up with Congressman Schneider, who had said that he would look into the City’s well water situation and funding. Treasurer Tibbits replied that the City is entitled to get a low interest loan from the EPA, but that there was no money to be applied from the government. Treasurer Tibbits said that he had expected to coordinate with former Mayor Helmer, but that did not happen.

Alderman Quinn said that there needs to be more data and investigation regarding options.

Alderman Dash said that would be the goal of the informal meeting.

Alderman Morgan-Adams said that a bond would be needed to pay for the water system.

Acting Mayor Dolick stated that a bond issued currently would not pass. He said that more answers were needed, and that the issue would be addressed at the next workshop.

City Clerk Prisiajniouk said that the City needs to look at infrastructure. She said that the City might be able to get low interest rates and government subsidies. – **No action was taken**

D.Discussion of Agenda Items and Structure – Alderman Dash commented that the Council might want to look into reshuffling the order of the meeting. She did not think all of the elected officials needed to report at each meeting. It should be the Mayor and City Administrator. She commended the Mayor and Staff for the recent meetings being more streamlined and the shuffling of the order to keep the meetings flowing.

Alderman Morgan-Adams noted that the meetings have been going more smoothly and more quickly. She did not think that the aldermen were taking an inordinate amount of time in their reports, and she felt that they had pertinent information. – **No action was taken.**

City Council Budget Hybrid Meeting of April 25, 2022 (6:15 pm CT)

5. MAYOR'S STATEMENT:

- a. Purpose of the Public Hearing is receiving comments from the public on the proposed Budget
- b. Budget was prepared in tentative form and made conveniently available to the public for at least 10 days prior to tonight's hearing.
- c. Notice of the hearing was published in the Daily Herald on April 14th
- d. The tentative Budget includes information about the City's anticipated receipts and expenditures for this fiscal year.

The FY 2022-2023 City Budget was proposed. No questions were asked. No public comment was provided. Therefore, the Budget was approved.

City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting of April 25, 2022

8. OLD BUSINESS

- A. O-22-09** Staff Memo and Ordinance Amending Title 1 of City Code and Adopting the Pay Plan (Compensation of Officers, Employee Salaries and Pay Plan) (**2nd Reading**)
Action Requested: (Motion, Second, Roll Call Vote)
- B. O-22-10** Staff Memo and Ordinance Adopting the FY2022-23 Budget for the City of Prospect Heights (**2nd Reading**)
Action Requested: (Motion, Second, Roll Call Vote)

The FY 2022-2023 Budget for the City of Prospect Heights was unanimously approved.

DEPT 310 - CITY COUNCIL EXPENDITURES					
01-310-4000	WAGES	30,435	32,200	32,200	95,990
01-310-4100	HEALTH INSURANCE				30,200
01-310-4200	SOCIAL SECURITY	1,659	2,000	2,000	6,000
01-310-4210	MEDICARE	388	500	500	900
01-310-4220	IMRF				6,000
01-310-5100	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	76	200	-	-
01-310-5300	ALDERMANIC EXPENSES	2,667	1,000	3,500	3,500
01-310-5310	MEMBERSHIPS	10,791	12,000	12,000	12,000
01-310-5330	TRAINING	15	-	500	500
01-310-5950	SPECIAL EVENTS	21,508	38,000	35,000	43,000
01-310-5960	NRC OPERATIONS	3,150	10,000	4,120	6,485
01-310-7020	EQUIPMENT	19,567	20,000	20,300	27,500
DEPT 310	TOTAL CITY COUNCIL	90,255	115,900	110,120	232,075

Next Meetings: The City Council Workshop Meeting will be held on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. The City Council Regular Meeting will be held Monday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m. Further, a City Council Special Meeting will be held on Monday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. (Executive Session).

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

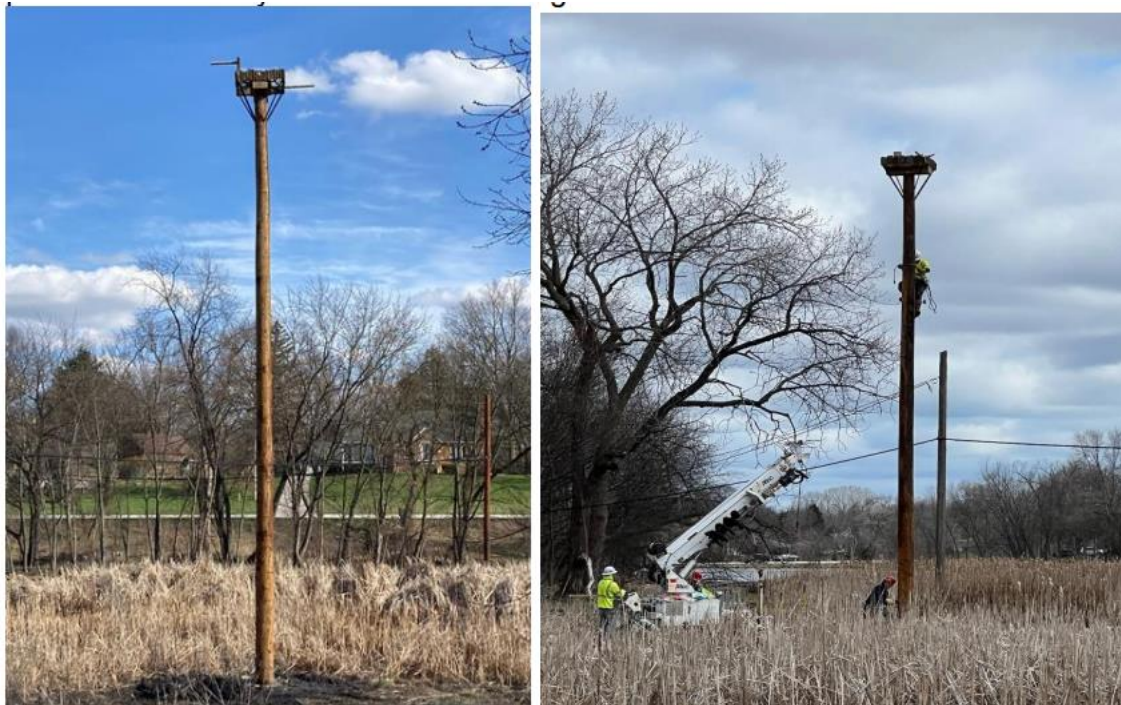
Report from Executive Director, Christina Ferraro:

FEASIBILITY STUDY: REC CENTER POOL RENOVATION UPDATE

Residents are invited to a Community Meeting on Wednesday, April 27th at 7pm in-person or virtually. Conceptual plans incorporating renovating or replacing both the pool and recreation center facilities will be shared at this meeting and will continue to be refined. Williams Architects will then refine the design and present to the Park Board at the May 24th board meeting. The refined designs will be available at June Park District events and will remain on display at GMRC through July to gather more feedback from the community. The final refined design will be presented to the Park Board and the public at the July 26th board meeting. The webpage www.phparks.org/future-planning will continuously be updated with the concepts, etc.

OSPREY NEST PLATFORM

Just in time for ospreys to return to northern Illinois, ComEd installed the pole and platform created by the NRC at the slough near Izaak Walton Park.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Spring Fling was held on a very sunny & beautiful Saturday. The day started out with the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast followed by an egg hunt with 2500 toy and candy filled eggs along with 30 golden eggs containing special prizes.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled PHPD Board Meeting is Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gary Morava Recreation Center on Camp McDonald Road in Prospect Heights, IL.

Announcements to the Public

Mary Lou Mellon, Bird Conservation Network and who leads our annual Spring and Fall Bird Walks, will be presenting “The Colorful Birds and Beauty of Guatemala” on Monday, June 6, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The description of the presentation is as follows: “Guatemala is a beautiful country that has stunning birds and friendly people. Mary Lou’s presentation will take viewers to the amazing Mayan ruins of Tikal, which was a city of 10,000 people that flourished between 200 and 850 AD and then mysteriously collapsed. From there, the charming city of Antigua and Lake Atitlan, which is surrounded by live volcanos, will be presented. Some of the most beautiful and captivating birds in the world will be shown!”

Do not miss this special adventure as our Global Butterfly takes to the Central American county of Guatemala.

This is a free event, but registration with the Public Library is required.

This program will be recorded and released as an encore recording available June 8 and 9, 2022.

Visitors’ Comments

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission is June 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the meeting. Therefore, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary