

CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
June 9, 2022

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

Absent:        Peter Falcone, Assistant City Administrator

NOTE:        Meeting held virtually via Zoom. Meeting ID: 811 4502 6417

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 May 12, 2022

The minutes of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission Board Meeting of May 12, 2022, were reviewed. No changes or corrections were noted. Therefore, the meeting minutes of May 12, 2022 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteer Workdays

Our volunteer workday of May 15 was conducted at The Nature Preserve at the Morava Center for spring clean-up tasks in several areas. Downed snags were cut up, trash was picked up, garlic mustard was eliminated, trails were trimmed of overgrowth and wood chips were spread on the trails.

Our volunteer workday of May 29 was to assist the Tully Park Stewards and Eagle Scout Candidate, Hans Milaniak and his crew. Hans is creating and installing a Meditation Garden as his Eagle Scout project at Tully Park. Han's plan is to create a secluded garden in the northeast corner of Tully Park under a majestic cottonwood tree. This was the first organized workday of his Project, and Hans recruited fellow Boy Scouts and their families together to clear the area of invasives, remove heavy debris and lay out the concept of the meditation garden.

Our volunteer workdays have been very well attended with strong interest from the community to volunteer. Starting with June, volunteer hours are 1,090. We concluded the year 2021 with 2,067 volunteer hours.

While Dana and Agnes were picking up trash and herbicide signs, a guy walked by stating he was looking for them. The Park District directed him to where Dana and Agnes live. He inquired of the workday and how to subscribe to volunteer.

Transplanting Wednesdays are also well attended, including new volunteers. One of the students from the MacArthur Junior High School Science Fair brought his parents with him to the Transplanting Wednesday activity.

Our volunteer workday for Sunday, June 12 will be conducted at the ComEd Seeded Prairie for Callery Pear eradication particularly the outliers on the west side of the prairie and portions of the east prairie. Stantec from Madison, Wisconsin could not effectively mow the entire Prairie high enough, so we targeted the Callery Pear trees, and our interns followed up with herbiciding.

Dana said many exciting native plants are growing on the east side of the prairie. A walk to view the prairie may be scheduled after the workday.

Seth inquired of Stantec covering the Remnant Prairie and Remnant Sedge Meadow when they are scheduled to mow the ComEd Seeded Prairie. Seth reasoned that they are coming a distance, and all three locations are managed by them. Dana said they were on target to do so but encountered complications on their end.

Dana spoke with Alex ~~of~~ Linton when he mowed the prairie and stated the importance of mowing the Remnant Sedge Meadow. Alex said if we are unable to conduct a prescribed burn in the fall, Stantec will mow the entire Remnant Sedge Meadow when the temperatures are cold, and the ground is frozen solid.

ComEd has hundreds of properties. More a case of timing rather than proximity. Seth said that the woody species at the Remnant Prairie were mowed, but they are coming back quite strong. Seth felt for efficiency purposes for next year, it would be great if all three sites were mowed.

Agnes said mowing requires follow-up with herbiciding. Unfortunately, we do not have the appropriate number of people to accomplish the follow-up. Therefore, it is a waste of money to mow and not herbicide afterwards. Dana offered that Seth and he could obtain an herbicide license.

Dana said that everything is on target in Stantec's scheduling process for next year starting with the fall season.

Prospect Heights Public Library/Park District Events

Nature Speaks Program

Dana confirmed that Dr. Robert Lee Zarr, Founder of Park Rx America, will be the Nature Speaks Program presenter for the June 23, 2022 Nature Speaks Program. To date, 34 participants are registered. Dana will provide all the public relations information to Ed Madden for managing.

Tree Planting Day – May 27, 2022

The Tree Planting Day of May 27, 2022 was a collaborative effort amongst the Prospect Heights Park District, Chicago Region Trees Initiative, and the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission. It was conducted at the Prospect Heights Slough at the Izaak Walton Pavilion.

Twenty (20) trees were delivered. A special thanks to Peter Hahn and Seth Marcus for their assistance. The trees weighed 70 pounds and measured 18" x 18". Six Hackberries, seven Swamp White Oaks, and One Bald Cypress were planted. Most of the trees were planted between the Boardwalk and Elmhurst Road with the remaining six trees planted by the creek.

The trees are doing well. New buds have already appeared indicating new growth.

This event was made possible by financial support from the Morton Arboretum and their Centennial Year Celebration. The native trees will help reduce heat islands and create essential oak ecosystems for the species to thrive.

District 214: Buffalo Grove High School

Ari has reported that the native plants, such as Spider Wort and Penstemon, are flowering, and volunteers are consistently watering the installed prairie every day. Dana and Jill visited the Buffalo Grove High School Prairie and noted that the plants are thriving. Not a single plant is struggling.

Dana said that Ari is doing a spectacular job of staying on top of this project, scheduling of tasks, and watering, which is especially important.

Land Sale on Elmhurst Road

Seth reported that the City of Prospect Heights and the Prospect Heights Park District did not want to pursue the purchase of the property located at 196 North Elmhurst Road, Prospect Heights at this time. They felt it was an interesting parcel of land, but they have other priorities to meet, such as the Park District renovating the Gary Morava Recreation Center.

Dana received a message in May from Joe Wade that the city was not interested, and Christina communicated with Seth on June 1 indicating disinterest.

Jill offered investigating a Land/Lease Sale Agreement or purchase the land to donate it for a write-off.

Seth contacted The Nature Conservancy and Trust for Public Land, but it does not seem hopeful. John mentioned Openlands of Lake Forest as a receptive resource and a widespread network and an organization that could be helpful.

Ed said regardless of who owns the land, the parcel of land is useless for development because of flooding. We could reach out to the property owner and offer to naturalize the property. Perhaps Grant money is available for flood mitigation efforts.

Would the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District be interested? The MWRD may only be interested if an existing structure were present on the property.

The current owner no longer lives in the State of Illinois but is an interested seller. The land is on a flood plain, but the Realtor said you can build on the land.

Seth raised the suggestion to start a 501.3c or Friends of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission. Agnes had previously researched a 501.3c non-profit organization, but it is time consuming. One must stay consistently current, and it involves a lot of accounting.

Ed will investigate the possibility of enlisting FEMA's assistance. The land is on a flood plain that directly impacts the Slough and McDonald Creek.

#### Agrivoltaics: Producing Solar Energy While Protecting Farmland – Seth Marcus

Seth contacted Sara Race at ComEd on May 19 and received a positive response with a request for more information. Sara said if it goes forward, it will involve many different branches of her organization. Sara will reach out to her colleagues, and Seth will follow up with Sara mid-June.

Dana cautioned that many people are on vacation.

#### Slough Boardwalk Project

Dana reported that three-fourths of an acre of cattails were cleared last year. The area was then herbicided followed by planting of 8,000 warrior sedges. The cattails are returning, but not in the same density.

Our former intern, Jeremy, hand-wicked the entire area over four hours. His efforts are showing signs of effectiveness.–There is hopeful progress, so we are keen to keep this area in shape because of what we have gained in eradicating cattails.

Exciting news: Seth found a Tufted Blue Strife growing in the cattails. This plant is listed as a Conservation 7. There appears to be a large colony of this plant in the center of the boardwalk. Agnes thought of transplanting it to keep it growing. However, we do not want to disturb the colony.

Our express appreciation to Pete Hahn for continually herbiciding Canada Thistle by the Board Walk, the Slough, and the ComEd Seeded Prairie. Pete has made tremendous progress in keeping this invasive at bay. The interns have made tremendous progress in eradicating Reed Canary Grass.

The walking trails maintenance were briefly addressed by the summer interns; however, we need to widen the paths a bit.

The status of the Board Walk Grant is to install pollinator plants, benches and signage. ComEd wishes to conduct a Grand Opening of the Board Walk and/or Pollinator Park in late summer or middle of August.

Seth inquired of the status of building a box to contain brochures about Pollinator Park. No one is opposed to it.

Ed Madden shared his computer screen to show a photo of the Board Walk utilized in the Journal Topic's annual edition of Progress 2022 and highlights all the different municipalities of the northwest suburbs and their services. The one-page article on the City of Prospect Heights featured the Board Walk to represent our town.

The PHNRC is deeply appreciative of our volunteers, the city, the Park District and collaborating associations for their support to make the Board Walk a showcase of our town.

Agnes apologized to Seth and John about wanting to make the Board Walk take a different shorter path. The Board Walk is beautiful just the way it is.

#### Pollinator Park – Landscaping Design

Dana stated the creative that produces the signage forgot to sign the release form for the round ones, so sign printing is two weeks delayed.

Dana has finished the Welcome Sign, and it is ready for production. Also, Dana is near completion of the last remaining sign.

Dana reported that seven (7) round signs specific to a species have been delivered. Posts, post caps and mounts are ready to be installed to display the signs. We must decide on the height of the posts for displaying the signs and location of the signs. We hope to accomplish these tasks by mid-August. Agnes said we must delineate the site to ensure shoreline stabilization.

#### Shoreline Restoration Project 2022

Dana spoke with John.

We have a pending Grant with ComEd/Openlands for the continued shoreline restoration, but we also have the city budget for the work. We do not want to begin before receipt of the Grants; however, purchasing materials in preparation to start the project is prudent. Ordering materials normally used for the first year of the six- year project will be ordered with an estimated delivery date of July 1. The materials can be stored on the shoreline.

If we receive Grant funding, we will add on to that boarder because it expands depending on the linear feet. The Grant is for two years; therefore, it is a bit more. Currently, all is in flux.

Seth said that Pollinator Park was funded by the ComEd Green Regions Grant, which is administered through Openlands. Is there more to that name?

Openlands is an organization based in Chicago, and they manage the Grant process and accounting on how to expend the money. ComEd provides the money, and Openlands provides the administration and oversight.

#### Hillcrest Lake and Herbiciding

Dana provided an Update on Hillcrest Lake, Herbiciding and aquatic plants arrived for Pollinator Plant.

Dana received a call from Jennifer stating that Hillcrest Lake would be herbicided on Tuesday, May 10. Two diverse types of herbicides were utilized because Jennifer said what they must manage was not particularly bad. This sped up the timeline for planting; therefore, the aquatic plants that have been delivered may be installed as early as Friday. However, we have elected to wait until Monday, May 16 or Wednesday, May 18 when more people are available. The plants are resting in water in the sled and will survive until planted.

Agnes strongly believes that excluding the carp enclosure in Hillcrest Lake contributed to the overgrowth of the plants in the Lake. It has been three years since the Lake was last herbicided. Dana said this is empirical evidence that the turbulence generated from carp activity prevents regrowth of elodea. Keeping the carp enclosure in Hillcrest Lake during the fawning season decreases the need to herbicide. Carp are active from early spring until the middle of May.

Agnes feels the carp enclosure is important, but the installation is tedious. John offered the suggestion to install a sliding gate on either side of the culvert drains instead of replanting posts each year then either slide or attach a screen to it. This helps to make the installation of the carp enclosure less cumbersome every spring and when removing the carp enclosure in the fall.

#### Path Maintenance at Worksite

Walking paths at all our sites are overgrown and need to be cleared. The walking paths are getting narrow. The interns have string-trimmed the paths as much as possible. However, they are a bit timid of hurting the good plants.

John said it will grow back even if chopped. The growth on either side of the Board Walk and through the Board Walk slats is getting back. The interns trimmed it three days' ago. How about a six inch to one foot buffer along the Board Walk. Dana instructed the interns on vertical trimming. Dana will review with the interns daily. Dana will mow the paths.

Dana and Seth made a pass at Heron Pond in the upper section beyond the pond and creek. Seth mowed between the Pond and the Creek. Dana string trimmed the walk/path by the actual Pond.

Agnes said observed that since the paths have not been mowed at Heron Pond, all the sedges are growing. The Gene Sedge is six inches in height. Agnes suggested that if the grass is eliminated and the Sedge is kept, mowing becomes unnecessary because six inches of Sedges would be present and allow for a path.

Dana said that the entire south side of Walnut Woods that butts up to the Creek is completely two feet under with Butter Weed. Agnes said that Butter Weed is a native annual or weak biannual plant to South Illinois. The plant takes advantage of an open space. Grows in the flooded regions. No one is concerned that it is invasive.

Seth inquired why the Park District is not mowing. Dana will ask Dino.

Seth string trimmed the Native Preserve at Morava in the upper section, which is heavily overgrown. Agnes will try to string trim every evening because it is crucial to eliminate or control the growth of Reed Canary Grass.

Seth stated that path maintenance should be the responsibility of others and not the interns.

#### Seed/Greenhouse Program

Agnes reported that our plants are booming! We have over 40,000 plants and expect 10% die off. Most of the plants are sedges and grasses that will be utilized to outline Pollinator Park, the Shoreline Restoration Project, and the Board Walk Project.

Two more transplanting Wednesdays will be held. People have been great. On average, we have two to five participants in the morning to two to six participants in the evening. It is on par with the attendance at Seed Collection Wednesdays.

#### Prospect Heights Community Days – June 4, 2022

Dana and Jill represented the PHNRC at Community Days on Saturday, June 4, 2022. We utilized our new standing banners and our PHNRC banner. Dana and Jill observed that the standing banners attracted the attention of attendees.

The PHNRC table was visited by many residents most of whom are participants in the Grow It, Don't Mow It Program. Jill observed that attendees were aware of the importance of naturalizing our community's green space.

Dana reported that the PHNRC added 30 new people to the roster for receipt of The Journal and e:mail volunteer workday notices.

#### Prospect Heights Public Library Seed Giveaway – June 4, 2022

Dana and Jill participated in the Seed Giveaway at the Public Library. Due to weather, Terri Campbell arranged a table near the Registration Desk. Interest and receipt of a packet of prairie seeds was good.

Terri commented to Dana: How do you do all of this? It's incredible!

### Prospect Heights Block Party

Participating in Community Days provided us with a preview of how we will set up our booth at the PHPD Block Park on Saturday, June 18, 2022. The Block Party is advertised as occurring from 4:00 – 11:00 p.m. However, Dana received notice that our participation will be from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

The summer interns are creating the six pack of native plants giveaways. The native plants are Spider Wort, Golden Alexander, and Common Milkweed. We will limit our native plant giveaway to 100 people. If we run out, Jill said we could suggest attendance at an upcoming workday to receive a six-pack of native plants.

### 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 reported that a variety of individuals are making larger than life puppets. Jill is creating a Purple Coneflower. Seth has created a Bald Eagle. Kate Tully designed large cutouts of native fish, such as Blue Gill, from 4' x 8' sheets of paneling for our float.

John said that a variety of people have indicated they are making things for the Parade, such as a large hummingbird feeding off a flower; however, attendance at the Workshops has been limited. Therefore, John is unsure of what will be presented.

Lewis is providing the trailer and will have it present two weeks before the parade date. We must decorate the trailer to represent our float. One side will be fish and the opposite side will be a landscape of mushrooms. This will help advertise the upcoming Art in the Park Shroom Show.

How will the life-size puppets be displayed? Our original intention was to have one or two poles attached to the design and a holster to the person carrying the puppet and walking down the street. The fish sculptures will be attached to the float. The bottom of the float boarder will be decorated to represent water. Kate will repurpose the fish somewhere in Izaak Walton Park.

Our new PHNRC banner will be at the front of our float with two people holding it.

We will be providing bags of candy with our PHNRC informational sheet. We must recruit our volunteers.

Dana proposed to Mary Lou Mellon to join our parade.

We must choreograph our participation three to seven days ahead of time. We need participants to carry things.

We are also hopeful that drivers will be cognizant of the walkers and drive at a much-reduced pace. A conversation with Karen Shultheis would be beneficial.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 2022 Summer Interns

Dana and Agnes stated that our two summer interns, Eric and Evie, are simply wonderful! They are interested in their work so much so that they never look at their iPhones! They are inquisitive, vigilant, bright, and simply hard workers. After each workday, they clean up.

Agnes observed that Eric and Evie converse easily with each other and are interested in each other's lives. We hit the jackpot!

### Promotional Materials Update

The remaining \$1,000 from the Gift Donation made it possible for us to produce a PHNRC banner and two pop-up banners measuring 48" x 81". It is always two tables and two canopies when we participate. All three banners were utilized at Community Days on June 4 and looked great! It also assists us to provide a visual on our work and mission.

### Prospect Heights Park District Summer Camp – August 2022

Currently, no information to report.

### Treasurer's Report

John Kamysz provided Commissioners with a current copy the City of Prospect Heights FY2022-23 NRC Budget, which was supplied by Peter Falcone.

Request for money is early in the season. The current budget information is self-explanatory.

Our current Net Revenue is \$17,650.50.

The PHNRC remains deeply grateful for the funding and donations.

### Commissioners' Site Monitoring Reports

#### ComEd Seeded Prairie (Dana Sievertson)

On Thursday, June 2, Dana went to the ComEd Prairie with Eric and Evie to meet the Stantec Mowing operator, Alex Linton. As we had missed the boat on a prescribed burn and early mowing, this was an attempt to try to salvage some form of management for this year. What I did not know was the specs of Alex's mower in terms of how high he could mow. The concern was that most of the natives were now pushing 24-30", and we did not want to punish them. The fall-back plan was to just go after the Callery pears, which had taken over the east Prairie and made inroads in the west prairie.

While we waited for Stantec, we started cutting and herbiciding Callery Pears that would be out of the reach for the mower. Talking with Alex, he said 16" was the best highpoint, and while he could mow higher, the effect on the Callery Pears would be just bending them over and not cutting them. I made the decision to just go for the Callery Pears, the Elmhurst triangle and raise it to cut back a few patches of overly aggressive Canada Goldenrod. Evie and Eric immediately started wand herbiciding the mowed stumps and returned after lunch to finish.

Mowing was not performed in the west prairie for fear of creating problems. The Callery Pears in the west prairie are sparse and will be the target of the workday on May 15. We will also look to bushwhack the Canada Goldenrod in that area.

The far west end of the west prairie remains the most interesting due to the dryness, shortness of all species and the lack of true invasives. Overall, I think it will be another good year for the ComEd Prairie, but a lot of management will need to happen. This is where we genuinely appreciate Interns!

#### Heron Pond (John Kamysz)

Heron Pond is incredibly overgrown with turf grass from the cul de sac throughout.

The Park District has not cut the grass at all this year. This has allowed a huge crop of butterweed to grow to a large amount, something of which John has not observed before.

The shoreline has Blue Flag Irises. Everything is coming in strong, including Wild Rose. However, it is difficult to walk back there because of the turf grass overgrowth.

#### Hillcrest Lake/Pollinator Park Project

John reported that all is looking good. The area initially planted is flush with Penstemon, spiderwort, and lots of other great stuff that we planted.

Peter Hahn herbicided a few patches of thistle. Thank you very much, Peter!

The north end is also looking good with similar flowering. The restored shoreline is coming to life. There are a few bare areas in the coconut rolls near the water line. No appreciable aquatics are sprouting.

John observed loads of elodea and algae in Hillcrest Lake.

#### Nature Preserve (Gary Morava) (Pete Hahn)

Pete toured the Nature Preserve on June 8 and was amazed at all the growth. The paths are overgrown and need attention. Most trees look fine; however, a White Oak that we planted years ago needs help as it is suffering from severe chlorosis; perhaps iron chlorosis.

The stepping stones are in bad shape and are unevenly sloped, not a pretty sight, getting a bit dangerous to walk on. The Creek was running low, but one can see the erosion by the steps and stones.

A worker was edging and cleaning up around some trees and bushes. It gives a nice clean appearance.

Much work needs to be done, at the Preserve and all our sites. Pete feels we could use an army of volunteers.

During the June 9 PHNRC Meeting, Dana said we must focus on repairs for the stepping stones. When an obstruction is present in the creek, erosion occurs. Dana raised the idea of building a bridge, which was the original thought. However, the construction would involve pillars in the ground and getting heavy equipment to the site. A bridge would be expensive.

The bridge that is due north of the stepping stones is privately owned and a culvert covered with concrete.

#### Remnant Prairie (Seth Marcus)

Seth provided his Report before the meeting date but also read his Report at the meeting.

Poison Hemlock – could be herbicided.

Seth stated that, unfortunately, the news from the Remnant Prairie is unfavorable. Seth said the designation of the word “remnant” implies it has been there for an exceptionally long time. Therefore, it is shocking how quickly it can degrade.

When one first enters the area, you are greeted by a surprise of white daisies. The first section is, unfortunately, filled with sizable resprouts of woody species, including buckthorn, dogwood, and apple. The middle section does not have too many woody species but primarily comprised of two species: Crown Vetch and Canada Goldenrod.

Walking further to the north, smaller specimens of woody species return. To note: There is one large and one small area of poison hemlock. The good news is that it could easily be herbicided. In the past, ComEd and we have pursued the woody species on this property with what seemed like satisfactory results. That really needs to be done again.

#### Remnant Sedge Meadow (Jill Moskal)

Common Milkweed is starting to show.

Dudley’s Rush and Spike Rush are present.

Invasive woody species, like Dogwood, have leafed and are growing.

Callery Pear (Pyrus Calleryana) is present at the Remnant Sedge Meadow and is an invasive species.

A more detailed report on the Remnant Sedge Meadow will be provided soon after an extensive review with Agnes.

Saint Alphonsus (Ed Madden)

The native prairie at St. Alphonsus is doing well. The growth was not as high as I expected especially given all the spring precipitation; however, it looks good overall. Not much more to report otherwise.

Slough (Agnes Wojnarski)

Agnes reported that the Slough looks great except for the invasive reed canary and cattails. The Summer Interns are doing great and are extremely hard workers. Therefore, we are hopeful that the reed canary will be fully controlled by the end of next week. Eighty-percent (80%) of regrowth Cattails have been wicked and show signs of die-off.

Agnes said the trails need to be string-trimmed and the paths mowed. The Interns will complete this work tomorrow, but Agnes does not favor the Interns continually removing their backpacks because that is what we really require right now.

Agnes said it is delightful to see people are using the trails ALL the time. Sometimes 15 minutes does not pass between visitors, especially in the evenings and on weekends.

Tully Park (Wendy Dewar)

Per Wendy Dewar, an NRC workday was held at Tully Park on May 29, 2022. Eagle Scout, Hans Milaniak, was present with other Scout members to clear the northeast corner of the park of debris and buckthorn. This is the area where a Meditation Garden is planned. During the workday, many grasses were transplanted by NRC volunteers. Prior to the workday, Hans, his family, and Wendy planted 15 wild plum trees that were donated for the park.

Currently, spiderwort and golden Alexander are in bloom. Reed canary grass is also flowering so Tully Park volunteers have been gathering the seed and spreading it in the recently herbicided area. Tully Park volunteers have been slowly working to remove buckthorn and the vines that were choking out the elderberry trees. Upcoming work that needs to be done is to pull the Canadian thistle, which is best done after a good rain.

Also, a large cottonwood branch has fallen along the right of way and is mostly in the creek. Wendy contacted the park district regarding removal and potential chipping of it so mulch could be used to make walking paths. The Park District will investigate. Wendy is concerned because the fallen tree is partially blocking the water flow in the creek.

City Civic Meetings and PHNRC Representation

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

**Special City Council Meeting – May 2, 2022**

The City Council held a Special City Council Meeting on May 2, 2022 to conduct an Executive Session regarding a Litigation matter concerning the city.

Executive Sessions are closed to the public, and meeting minutes are confidential.

#### City Council Regular Hybrid Workshop Meeting – May 9, 2022

Acting Mayor Dolick noted that the open position for Alderman for Ward 2 was posted on the city website.

Acting Mayor/Alderman Ward 5 Andrew Dolick bestowed the honor of Fourth of July Parade Marshal on Chief Jim Zawlocki. The mayor will have the honor of driving Chief Zawlocki in the Police Humvee.

Deputy Clerk Shultheis said the Independence Day parade will be held on July 2, 2022 at 9:30 am starting in the parking lot of St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish and travel to Betsy Ross Elementary School. Deputy Clerk Shultheis also added that the school district Music teacher was putting together a bucket band for the parade.

#### Regular City Council Hybrid Meeting – May 23, 2022

#### **4. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Chicago Executive Airport Monthly Update Presented, by Director Jim Kiefer**

**B. Municipal Electric Vehicle Charging Station and Community Solar Presentations by Mollie Vanderlaan of Satori Energy**

Satori Energy: Per Peter Falcone:

The City's electricity broker, Mollie of Satori Energy, asked to present the city with an opportunity to save the city money on our electricity bill with a rebate from the use of solar. No solar infrastructure would be constructed on City property, rather the City would tap into existing solar panels in other parts of Illinois to receive the rebate. The savings are not exact, and we have questions about the length of the contract required so the City is currently weighing our options. This is just for our municipal electrical expenses, not for businesses or residents and I want to stress that this does not involve local solar panel infrastructure as the city has no plans to construct solar panel infrastructure anywhere within the city.

The second proposal from Mollie was Vanderlaan for electric vehicle charging stations. These would be owned and operated by a private company in the City's parking lots. We control the City Hall and Police parking lots but would need approval from ComEd for the Metra parking lot as the City leases the land for the parking lot from ComEd. Users of the charging stations would pay for the service directly to the company through their phone app. This would also be a long-term commitment so again the city is weighing our options.

NOTE: These proposals are in the discussion phase. The City Council must make a final determination whether it is in the best interest for the city to move forward with either proposal. Therefore, Peter Falcone requests that the NRC not discuss these topics in greater detail until Peter could be present at our meeting. Peter will not be present at the June 9 PHRNC Meeting. Therefore, Peter requests that the NRC not discuss these topics in greater detail until Peter could be present at our meeting. Peter is also happy to provide additional information when it becomes available.

**5. APPOINTMENTS/CONFIRMATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

- A.** Proclamation in Honor of the Exceptional Public Service Contributions by Former Ward 2 Council Member Kathleen Quinn to the City of Prospect Heights
- B.** Mayoral Appointment of Patrick Ludvigsen as Alderman of Ward 2  
*Action Requested: (Motion, Second, Roll Call Vote)*
- C.** Reappointment of Joe Fiorito to the Police and Fire Commissioner Effective 5-31-2022  
*Action Requested: (Motion, Second, Roll Call Vote)*

Patrick Ludvigsen was appointed as Alderman of Ward 2.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. R-22-26** Staff Memo and Resolution Authorizing a Civil Engineering Services Agreement with Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc., for Phase II Design Engineering Services, for the Combined North and South Sidewalk Project, on the East Side of Wolf Road, From Palatine Frontage Road to Prospect Heights Metra Station  
*Action Requested: (Motion, Second, Roll Call Vote)*
- B. R-22-27** Staff Memo and Resolution Authorizing Three-Year Services Agreement with Administrative Consulting Specialists for Grant Submission and Management Services  
*Action Requested: (Motion, Second, Roll Call Vote)*

A resolution authorizing a three-year services agreement with Administrative Consulting Specialists for Grant Submission and Management Services was proposed. The cost is \$20,000 per year then \$18,000 per year thereafter.

Discussion of a City Water Study and New Water survey was postponed to the next Workshop Meeting.

The Arlington Countryside Storm Water Sewer Project will hold a groundbreaking ceremony at the Lion's Park parking lot on June 10, 2022.

Next Meetings: The City Council Workshop Meeting will be held on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. The City Council Regular Meeting will be held Monday, June 27 at 6:30 p.m.

**Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of May 24, 2022**

- IV. Presentation: Tom Poulos, Vice President / Managing Principal, Williams Architects**  
Final draft conceptual design to renovate or replace the Gary Morava Recreation Center and/or Lions Pool

**FEASIBILITY STUDY: REC CENTER POOL RENOVATION UPDATE**

The refined designs from Williams Architects will be available at June Park District and community events (Swim team parents' meetings, Community Day, Block Party, etc.) 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](http://www.phparks.org/future-planning) will continuously be updated with the concepts, etc.

The bulk of the Park District Board Meeting time of May 24 was spent on the presentation of the first draft conceptual design to renovate or replace the Gary Morava Recreation Center and/or Lions Pool and to field and answer questions from residents in the audience and via Chat.

Christina Ferraro, Executive Director, mentioned the Tree Planting Day on Friday, May 27, 2022, at the Izaak Walton Pavilion and managed by the Morton Arboretum and the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission.

Christina mentioned the Block Party scheduled for Saturday, June 18 from 4:00 to 11:00 p.m. Food trucks will be available and two big named bands will be providing entertainment. Christina is expecting good attendance.

**XII. New Business**

- A. Approval of appointments for advisory positions to the Board: June 2022-May 2023
- B. Approval of Resolution #05.24.2022 Designating an authorized agent to IMRF
- C. Discussion: land acquisition of Prospect Heights undeveloped property currently for sale

The Board President introduced the property currently for sale on the west side of Route 83 or Elmhurst Road and described the parcel of vacant land as a low spot with the creek draining into it and flowing to the culvert on Route 83. The land is for sale at a reasonable price. The Board President also mentioned that the NRC is interested in naturalizing the land.

The Park Board was interested in discussing this topic. Therefore, the Board moved to Executive Session.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled PHPD Board Meeting is Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gary Morava Recreation Center on Camp McDonald Road in Prospect Heights, IL.

**Announcements to the Public**

John said that every day, he walks around Hillcrest Lake and the Slough and with a fishing net to collect softballs, baseballs, and golf balls. The amount collected is in the hundreds. If hitting them out of the park at Morava would be nice to retrieve the ball because it ends up in the Slough or Hillcrest Lake and then downstream. Also, John picks up tons of plastic bottles. In total, it is a continual situation to keep the Slough and Hillcrest Lake clear of debris.

Seth said he finds many softballs in the Creek in the Nature Preserve. Dana said the softball field is near the Creek, so the softballs landing in the Creek may be foul balls. Perhaps speaking with a Contact at the Recreation Center may be helpful and to discourage people from tossing softballs in the Creek, too.

Visitors' Comments

No visitors were present.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission is July 14, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the meeting. Therefore, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS  
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary