

CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 13, 2022

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

Absent: John Kamysz and Ed Madden

Guest: Peter Falcone, Assistant City Administrator

NOTE: Meeting held virtually via Zoom. Meeting ID: **897 0241 7438**

OPENING ITEMS

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Roll Call proceeded. All Commissioners were present except John Kamysz and Ed Madden. However, a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 8, 2022

The minutes of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission Board Meeting of September 8, 2022, were reviewed. No changes or corrections were noted. Therefore, the meeting minutes of September 8, 2022 were approved.

Prospect Heights Park District Presentation on November 8, 2022

Referendum – Christina Ferraro, Executive Director

Christina Ferraro, Executive Director of the Prospect Heights Park District, provided an informational presentation on the Bond Referendum for the Replacement of Gary Morava Center, New Aquatic Center and Sundry Improvements.

The ballot question on November 8 will be for a \$30 million bond. The money is sought to replace the current Gary Morava Center, a new aquatic center and sundry improvements. The Park District has faced a recurring them to update the recreation center, which was built in 1976 and only has lifespan of 50 years. The last pool update was in 1996, and the pool is at the ends of its lifespan. More amenities would be added.

The tennis courts experience subsurface cracking and were built on a high-water table. Residents have requested pickleball courts. If Lions Park is updated, the Park District can double the size of the current parking lot. The administrative house would be demolished, and Administration would be relocated to the new recreation center. This allows the playground to be moved and adjacent to the building.

A garage (2,000 sq. feet) for the Park Department staff, equipment and buses would be built on the property to the north of the Park. Dana expressed that the proposed location of the garage looks to be in the Nature Preserve. Christina said they may use new parking spaces. It is all currently conceptual. The Park District does not desire to place the garage in the Preserve, and it will not be at the 100 Elm Street location or what was formerly known as the Dundee House.

The current number of parking spaces is 97 at Lions Park with a proposed number of parking spaces as 202. Whether 202 parking spaces are needed is under discussion. The parking spaces would be planned to be only as far as the tennis courts with more green space.

The Access drive is only for the garage.

Seth noted that north of the parking spaces and continuing north into the Nature Preserve you will see a cliff that the stream is creating. The cliff is unstable, and the more pressure placed on it would cause it to collapse. Therefore, increasing parking spaces to 192 and shrink it from that area is preferred.

Agnes inquired if the parking lot surface will be pervious? It has been talked about, but it may come down to finances. Pervious surfaces allow the storm water to go through.

Regarding storm water and in terms of the flooding that happens, how does this impact this site? Any consideration for the impact of the pumping of water from Arlington Countryside into this flood plain? Yes. Working on it since 2018, and it has been under discussion.

The architects are articulate in explaining it. The water is a problem because flooding in the back parking lot and what it is doing to the Rec Center and the side of the gym. Water is a huge piece of this project to work on.

Dana said the water flows under Elm Street. The culvert is 30 inches and no modification to it for moving more water and faster. A lot is wait and see, but if you do not change the culvert size but the inflow to it is increased, it could be a recipe for a disaster.

Christina said conversations have been held, and she is happy to have the Architect provide more information.

Dana said in the conceiving of this plan, it is focused on the Morava Center. But still have all of the other natural areas, such as the Slough, Tully Park, etc. Do you see eventually increasing working in those areas and promoting them? . Absolutely.

Since the Board Walk installation, there has been a major increase in foot traffic. We would like to see it more of a feature for the Park District.

Christina said the Park District's budget is very small yet there are a lot of concerns, such as the erosion along the creek. Christina said the erosion is a definite priority to get a lot of people together and involving the Army Corps of Engineers to develop a plan.

Pete Hahn asked about the water from the Rec Center and pool, where does the extra water goes to? Christina said when the parking lot floods, they simply wait for the water to evaporate. However, Christina will investigate.

Our budget is very small yet there are a lot of concerns, such as the erosion along the creek.

If the Referendum is successful, the following is possible:

- A suspended walking track over the basketball court. Currently, only one gym with no air conditioning and foundation problems is present.
- A second gym could be built with two full-sized fitness rooms and family changing stations.
- The pool would have a second water slide, and a separate pool entry would be built.
- A picnic area would be located by the tennis courts, and a shelter by the playground.
- NOTE: Design ideas are still in the conceptual stage.

Are the tennis courts to be located further north or south of their current location? Christina said they would be moved south. The Access Drive is only for the garage and will be located where the tennis courts are presently located. The Access Drive will not be placed in the Nature Preserve.

Seth mentioned the cliff in the Nature Preserve, and the debris pile places more pressure on the cliff presenting the possibility the cliff could collapse. Instead of increasing parking spaces to 202 spaces and 10 less spaces to the north and shrink it away. Vulnerable area.

The Park District has held public discussions and HOA meetings plus social media coverage. Feedback has been received and is mostly positive. The Park District will be speaking with residents and condominium associations through October.

If the Referendum passes, a Prospect Heights home valued at \$200,000 would pay an extra \$25 per month. A tax calculator is located on the Park District website.

Christina stated that the project must be accomplished together as the Rec Center will be \$18 million, and the Pool will be \$7 million. Otherwise, two referenda would need to be initiated.

The Park District only receives \$2.2 million per year in property taxes and \$225,000 for capital projects which includes playground equipment, rec center roof or mechanicals, path and seal bike path, tennis courts resurfacing, etc. Therefore, not enough money exists to make the kind of comprehensive improvements needed. Also, the Park District seeks grant money for these projects.

The gym floor and Room 2 floor are sinking along the east wall. The rear roof rec center and mechanical room, main boiler and air handlers are over 25 years old.

Community Benefits with a successful referendum are:

- Second gymnasium with two full size basketball courts (an additional gym is an additional revenue stream).
- Suspended walking track over both gymnasiums.
- Two full size fitness classrooms for exercise and dance classes.
- Family changing areas and men/women locker rooms.
- Second water slide (potentially a lazy river or spray features)
- Separate pool entry so no more going through the rec center to get into the pool.
- Updated Amenities (more efficient mechanicals should not increase utility bills very much, tennis courts' repairs are costly; replacement should solve sub-draining issues.

The tax impact of \$30 million is a home assessed at \$200,000 will see a tax implication of \$25 a month or \$308 per year. A tax calculator is located on the Park District website for more accurate numbers. Additional tax impact will be less than the nonpresidential rates paid to surrounding park districts because they want more or better.

If the Referendum fails., the projects will be placed on hold.

If the Referendum is successful in November, then the design phase would begin in 2023, and all the permits will be received. The project would run 24 months with an expected opening date of Fall 2025.

Prices could increase over the course of the project, and some improvements might have to be scaled back, if that occurred.

Christina Ferraro noted that the Park District's boundaries are not the same as the City's. The Park District also incorporates parts of Arlington Heights, Wheeling, Mount Prospect and Prospect Heights.

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteer Workdays

Our volunteer workday of October 2, 2022 was held at the ComEd Prairie for maintenance and seed collection.

Our volunteer workday of October 16, 2022 will be held at Heron Pond for path maintenance, brush control and seed collection.

A future volunteer workday will be held on the north side of the Slough for maintenance on Hillside and getting the area prepared for a prescribed burn.

Dana said we have logged 2,500 volunteer hours to date. We are way above where we were last year. This is very encouraging.

Prospect Heights Public Library/Park District Events

Nature Speaks Program

The Fall Nature Speaks Program will be conducted on October 20, 2022 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm via a Zoom presentation by Dan Jaffe Wilder on “Kill Your Lawn.” In his presentation, Dan Jaffe Wilder will talk about the diverse options available from whole lawn replacement to strategies for reducing inputs and increasing ecological value.” Currently, 43 people are registered to attend.

Kevin Griebenow, a friend of John’s, will present on hydrology and the storm water run-off, water shed on January 26, 2023. Kevin is a Dam Engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers and can educate us on water flow and how it works.

The Bird Walk of October 8, 2022 was cancelled because the morning temperature was 37 degrees and weather conditions were damp. Therefore, Mary Lou Mellon felt these conditions would result in a low bird count and also, did not want the birders to be uncomfortable during the walk.

The Spring 2023 Bird Walk dates have been confirmed: May 13 and May 24, 2023 and conducted by Mary Lou Mellon. The Spring 2023 will begin Mary Lou’s ninth season of conducting our Bird Walks.

District 214: Buffalo Grove High School Update

Agnes reported that the Buffalo Grove Prairie looks beautiful and looks like a little island of native plants with a lot of pollinators. The students are displaying true ownership by monitoring, weeding and watering the prairie. Further, they will be collecting seeds on their own, a task incorporated into their program. Agnes said the students are doing a good job of maintaining their prairie.

District 214: Wheeling High School

Agnes said we assisted the Wheeling High School students plant a tiny patch by the building. Further, these students have volunteered with us for years, so it is good for us to help them.

District 214: Career Night

District 214 has asked us to participate in their Career Night of October 25, 2022 via Zoom. Seth and Dana will participate and present. Two summer interns are interested in participating in the program this summer. The program is basically education with the summer Interns over 10 weeks or 60 hours from 7:00-8:30 am. They can participate in person or via Zoom. This is not a work internship; however, they are welcome to join in on work tasks.

District 214 Career Night consists of a panel of different companies and entities that offer internships. Each one makes a brief presentation. It is very diverse, such as, presentations on auto mechanics, business, engineering, farming, natural resources and many other disciplines.

Also, a few students expressed interest in our Summer Internship Program.

MacArthur Middle School Prairie

MacArthur is interested in converting a little parcel of land (about 1,500 square feet) located where the three schools – Anne Sullivan, Betsy Ross and MacArthur - come together and naturalize the area. The students are driving this project. Grade 6 students have been coming out yearly to collect seeds, planning field trips and presentations, and including us in their Science Fair.

Agnes and Seth will be at MacArthur on October 18 and 19, and we will contact our regular volunteers for their availability, too. The day will be 10:00-11:20 am for seed collecting at the ComEd Seeded Prairie and seed processing and then 12:30 – 2:00 pm for planting. Also, we will provide sedge plants and burn the area in the fall before they spread seed.

Slough Boardwalk Project

Dana is preparing the ComEd Grant Report for submission by December 31, 2022.

Dana just finished the last sign for Pollinator Park and starting on the Board Walk interpretative signs. The signs will be incorporated into the poles used to anchor the Board Walk. Benches will also be installed.

At the last workday, we installed 7,000+ plants. With the Greenhouse Program, we planted slightly over 20,000 plugs, which is half of what we created. Half of the existing plants will over winter.

Pollinator Park Update and Shoreline Restoration Project

The current phase of the Shoreline Restoration Project is completed. Our sincere appreciation to Mara and Lou for watering the plantings during the summer months. Their efforts made a huge difference. Anyone who lives near the project has been an enormous amount of assistance.

Peter has been maintaining the Plum Grove. Three plum trees were damaged and then replaced. A few of them even bore plums.

Path Maintenance at Worksite

Path Maintenance is being managed at our worksites except grassy areas need attention.

Heron Pond is scheduled for path maintenance for the workday of October 16.

The paths through the riparian buffers on Hillside need work. Seed should be collected then a vertical trim before mowing. Our next seed collection Wednesday will be held at this location.

The Special Seed Collection Wednesday of October 12 was cancelled due to rain. Next Wednesday, seed collection is planned for Pollinator Park for Indian Grass. Do not have a number yet on what we have collected. It would do well to incorporate seed collections with our workdays.

Illinois Prairie Week (September 19 – 23, 2022)

Dana said no one attended the History of the Prairie at ComEd Prairie on September 21, 2022 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. People attended the History of the Slough Tour of September 14, 2022 at 5:30 p.m., which was well-received. It was cancelled due to weather and rescheduled.

Things that happen at the Slough are more successful maybe because it is a central location.

For 2023, we should scale back Prairie Week activities and simply present key features.

Prescribed Burns

Dana reported that the burn permit has been issued and is effective for one year. Dana and Agnes are working on a prescribed burn plan for the Fall and Spring. A matrix will be comprised for a common talking point before speaking with Commissioners. In speaking with Amy Finsburg of Stantec and burning the prairie this year. They understand that the ComEd Seeded Prairie must be burned this fall. Stantec has the problem of their crew is in Madison, Wisconsin, the site is in Illinois, and the Monitor who runs the program is in Illinois. This causes extreme problems in orchestrating the burns. Stantec proposed for us to burn but have the Stantec Monitor meet us, he would manage the burn but we would conduct the burn. This scenario provides a better chance of conducting the prescribed burns. Do we have enough auxiliary water? We have the water tank in the van and backpacks with water. Agnes said if you do it right, you do not need water.

ComEd plans to do something at both the Remnant Sedge Meadow and the Remnant Prairie this winter. ComEd have marked invasive trees and bushes for removal at the Sedge Meadow and will try to brush cut the Remnant Sedge Meadow this winter when the ground is frozen. ComEd said they are in total agreement that these two sites are all worth doing. They will craft a plan and get back to us. Thank you, ComEd!

Agnes said we should burn areas where we plan to put down seed in the fall. Certain areas burn too fast. When we burn an area that goes poof, the fire goes over the woody species and does not have a chance to eliminate the woody species. The fire is very hot and very fast. We must burn slower. Dana said a lot of buckthorn resprouts are on the path that parallels Hillside Avenue.

How do we parcel the areas to be burned without destroying the habitat for wildlife? Agnes felt we should prioritize areas we have not burned in the past, like Heron Pond. You cannot burn every area in one season. You must parcel it between each season, (i.e., two to three days in the fall and two to three days in the spring.). Divide the areas based on needs and put down seed in certain areas.

NEW BUSINESS

Poplar Creek Prairie Stewards Seed Collection Days

Agnes said collecting seed at Poplar Creek is still possible and perhaps a few non-volunteer workdays of October 23 and November 6, 2022. Agnes will speak with Diana and e:mail dates to Commissioners.

Annual Seed Processing and Volunteer Appreciation Day

Commissioners discussed when to hold this year's Annual Seed Processing and Volunteer Appreciation Day. Commissioners decided on November 13, 2022, which is a normal workday, but conduct the program from 10:00am to 1:00pm. However, if cancelled, will reschedule to November 20, 2022. We also would like to explore a larger workspace with either Public Works or the Park District.

Commissioners should begin thinking of a volunteer recipient for the 2022 Golden Loppers Award.

Return to In-Person Committee Meetings – City Hall Chambers

After a brief discussion, Commissioners decided to continue conducting meetings via Zoom Meeting while the Governor's Executive Order is firm. Commissioners will revisit this topic when the Governor's Executive Order is rescinded.

Treasurer's Report

John Kamysz provided Commissioners prior to the meeting with an updated copy of our City of Prospect Heights FY2022-23 NRC Budget, which was supplied by Peter Falcone. The Report includes the Capital Budget for shoreline restoration, which shows we are over. Dana has information to share with Joe Wade for adjustments and will update Commissioners after that discussion.

Commissioners' Site Reports

ComEd Seeded Prairie (Dana Sievertson)

Dana reported that we are in Season 3 with Canada Golden Rod and clipped 750 pounds over one-fourth of the west side of the ComEd Prairie. We will continue cutting this invasive and applying spot herbiciding.

Agnes and Dana have spoken to a number of people, like Jeff Wise, and the advice received is to cut, mow and trim back the plant as close to flowering as possible. We could use brush cutters in the early stage through the large sections of the Prairie. A natural cadence is overseeding burning and managing the Golden Rod.

A prescribed burn then seeding is planned for the ComEd Prairie this fall.

Heron Pond (John Kamysz)

John reported that Herod Pond's trail is overgrown and impassable. John was unsure of the plans for upcoming workdays, but Heron Pond requires attention.

Nature Preserve (Gary Morava) (Pete Hahn)

Pete reported that he toured the Nature Preserve on October 3, 2022 in the morning.

Pete said the Nature Preserve is in good condition. It is a pleasure to see all the work and plantings coming together.

The trails were in excellent walking and viewing condition.

Pete noticed more dead trees that will need to be removed. There is so much tree work in the Nature Preserve that one must institute a maintenance plan for tree work.

The brush pile seems to be getting larger and moving out into some of the plantings. Pete suggested designing a solution to the brush pile. Pete realizes it is very cost effective and convenient to dump branches and debris close to the park and Nature Preserve.

Remnant Prairie (Seth Marcus)

A current report on the Remnant Prairie was not provided.

Remnant Sedge Meadow (Jill Moskal)

On Saturday, September 24, Jill noticed a bush and a few trees that were red-tagged at the Remnant Sedge Meadow. Also, I came upon a small area where invasive flowering plants were cut. I did not walk the entire length of the Sedge Meadow, just from Old Willow Road south until the heavy-concentrated area of cattails. Upon informing Agnes and Dana, they learned that ComEd red-tagged the invasives.

Dana spoke with Amy Flsburg of Stantec. Amy indicated that Stantec will try to run the brush hog at the Remnant Sedge Meadow this winter.

Saint Alphonsus (Ed Madden)

Ed reported that St. Alphonsus Prairie looks great. Ed was expecting to notice some deterioration as the season is ending; however, the prairie looks the nicest it has all year.

Ed believes there is one tree that is a weed tree. If so, it needs to be removed.

Slough

No specific monitoring report was provided; however, the Slough was discussed during the meeting and noted in the meeting minutes.

Tully Park (Wendy Dewar)

Wendy reported that Asters and unfavorable Golden Rod are in full bloom. Also, the Heather Asters and Boneset are still blooming.

Wendy has collected some seeds from Inland Oats, Ironweed and Monarda.

Wendy is hoping to deadhead the unfavorable Golden Rod before it goes to seed.

Wendy is interested in scheduling a workday to remove Buckthorn; however, perhaps that is best accomplished after any attempted prescribed burn at Tully Park.

City Civic Meetings and PHNRC Representation

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

City Council Hybrid Workshop Meeting – September 12, 2022

Public Works Director, Mark Roscoe, provided an update on the completion of the Arlington Countryside Project.

Mark said that Camp McDonald has been cleaned up and pavement replaced.

Mark noted that Metropolitan has pushed back the installation of the pump 30 to 60 days because of supply issues. Mark said the Police Department and Fire District worked with Public Works regarding a motor vehicle accident that damaged the levee wall. Oil was left on the wall that is being removed by Public Works. Some of the wall will need to be replaced.

Staggered Terms for Elected Officials: Attorney O'Driscoll said staggered terms for elected officials can only be accomplished through a referendum. Ten percent of the number of voters at the 2019 election will be needed for signatures on the petition. The deadline would be by January 2023. This would not impact the 2023 elections, but if approved, would be law in the 2027 election.

The unanimous consensus was to pursue staggered elections.

The City of Prospect Heights Quarterly Newsletter discussed centered around three issues: the length of the newsletter, advertising, and a new director for the newsletter. Mayor Dolick noted that the majority were against additional soliciting of advertising beyond what is already being done. Mayor Dolick said that the newsletter will stay under the directorship of Assistant City Administrator Falcone. City Administrator Wade noted that as the newsletter is under his auspices, the items that elected officials wanted added had to be relevant to the City.

City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting – September 28, 2022

Presentation: Prospect Heights Park District – Bond Referendum for the Replacement of the Gary Morava Center, New Aquatic Center and Sundry Improvements

4B



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 20, 2022

To: Mayor Dolick and City Council, City of Prospect Heights

Cc: Joe Wade, City Administrator, City of Prospect Heights

From: Christina Ferraro, Executive Director, Prospect Heights Park District

Re: November 2022 Referendum Lions Park Project

The Prospect Heights Park District is pursuing a \$30 million bond referendum to raise revenue to replace the Gary Morava Recreation Center, Lions Park Pool and the playground, in addition to reconfiguring the existing tennis courts to include pickleball and basketball. The referendum question will be on the November 8, 2022 election ballot.

Background

The Park Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to put the referendum to a public vote after engaging the community in the Comprehensive Master Planning process in 2018 and in surveys through 2021. The community identified as priorities replacing the Gary Morava Recreation Center as well as the Lions Park Pool.

Projects the community identified as priorities include:

- Construction of a new recreation center to replace Gary Morava Recreation Center
- Construction of a new aquatic facility to replace Lions Park Pool
- Installation of a new outdoor playground at Lions Park
- Addition of new tennis, pickleball and basketball courts
- The administrative building and its garage will be demolished, and staff currently housed at this building will be included in the recreation center.
- The parking lot will increase in size to accommodate 202 cars (currently 95 spaces)
- A garage will be built on the property to serve as quarters for the Parks Department staff, equipment and fleet of vehicles and buses.

Although Prospect Heights Park District continues to maintain a conservative approach to fiscal management, available funds will not cover the full cost needed for these

Tel 847.394.2848
Fax 847.394.7799

110 West Camp McDonald Road
Prospect Heights, Illinois 60070

www.phparks.org

(continued)

necessary projects. The district receives approximately \$2.2 million per year in property taxes to support operations and \$225,000 per year for capital projects which includes maintenance and improvements of 14 park sites, playground equipment, tennis courts, bike path, pool, fitness room, recreation center electrical system maintenance, roof, etc. In addition to seeking approval for a bond referendum, Prospect Heights Park District is pursuing additional funding through grants and partnerships to support capital replacement.

The Gary Morava Recreation Center was constructed in 1976 with an addition completed in 1993, and Lions Park Pool is nearly 30 years old. Both facilities have outlived their useful lives and are unable to meet the community's evolving recreational needs

The Morava Center and Lions Park Pool are where generations of families turned to for recreation: performing in dance recitals, making lifelong friends in the preschool program, spending summers in camp, competing in swim meets, using the fitness room and more. Updating and replacing the facilities now will ensure we continue to provide these opportunities for the many young families moving into the community.

A home assessed at \$200,000 will see a tax implication of \$25 a month, or \$308 per year. Residents can calculate their tax impact using the tax calculator available on the Park District website and inputting the market value from their previous year's tax bill paid in the Spring/Summer.

Conceptual designs for the proposed projects are posted in the Gary Morava Recreation Center and on the Park District website. The Park District will be holding a series of information sessions and open houses in the future. and community feedback is invited More information will be available on the website as it becomes available.

<https://phparks.org/future-planning/>

Mark Roscoe, Public Works Director reported that the River Trails Park District is renovating Willow Trails Park located on Burning Bush and Apple Drive at the edge of Wards 1 and 4. Public Works is assisting them with their storm water management plans.

Mark Roscoe said the Arlington Countryside Project is moving along. A shortage of pumps and controls exist, but receipt is expected this week.

Next Meetings: A City Council Workshop Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. The City Council Regular Meeting will be held Monday, October 24, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of September 27, 2022

A Parks Tour was conducted on Monday, September 26, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

TULLY PARK UPDATE: The appraisal process for 214 S. Wheeling is ongoing. The intergovernmental agreement with the City will be developed soon. The demolition is planned for spring of 2023. This may be deferred to 2023 budge

LIONS PARK PROJECT UPDATE: Staff continues to work with PCI on community education plan. There were two facilitated discussion groups this month. A schedule of educational/informational sessions is being created and distributed soon.

2023 BUDGET: Budget meetings are underway, an initial capital meeting has been held, as well as a training meeting for new recreation staff members, and an Admin Corporate Fund 100 meeting. The tentative board-related timeline is as follows:

Date	Time	Meeting
12/6/2022	6:00 pm	Finance Committee - Budget Review
12/13/2022	7:00 pm	Board Meeting - FY 2023 Budget Presentation
12/16/2022		FY 2023 Budget Available for Public Inspection
1/6/2023		Public Hearing Notice to Local Paper
1/24/2023	7:00 pm	Public Hearing on FY 2023 Budget
1/24/2023	7:00 pm	Board Meeting to Approve FY 2023 Budget

POP-UP ARTWALK ART SALE: On Saturday, September 25 from 10:00am-4:30pm, we will again be hosting the Pop-Up ArtWalk Art Sale at Izaak Walton Park. The event will include live music, vendors selling handmade ice cream and lemonade, along with about 10 local artists selling their handmade items.

WINTER/SPRING 2023 PROGRAM GUID: Staff have begun the process of creating and designing the Winter/Spring 2023 Program Guide. We anticipate that the guide will be available online in the beginning of November and paper copies will be mailed to our residents by Thanksgiving. This program guide will include programs that run from late-December 2022 until the end of May 2023.

REQUEST FOR PARK DISTRICT LICENSE FOR COMPENSATORY STORM WATER STORAGE AREA: Joe Wade presented the City of Prospect Heights' the following request:

The City of Prospect Heights has been working with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways to examine methods to prevent Willow Road from being closed during significant storm water events. Flooding, and resultant street closures are common during significant storm water events, with Willow Road being closed for eight days in 2020, between Hillcrest Lake and the Slough. These closures are an impediment to traffic circulation and public safety responses.

To provide a storm hardening and flood control improvement for Willow Road, a plan has been developed to raise the grade of approximately 900 linear feet at the location, 2-4 feet, with culvert installation. The elevation change, and culvert installation would cause water which presently stands on the street surface, to flow under the roadway. The culverts under Willow Road are designed to maintain the same hydraulic conditions as presently exist. Also, there will be no change to the outflow of Hillcrest Lake.

As the project involves fill placement in the regulatory floodplain, City and Illinois Department of Natural Resources regulations require excavation of a commensurate amount of floodplain volume. As the City is an urbanized area, finding a location for compensatory storm water storage is challenging. Earlier potential locations were explored but were not available for assorted reasons. However, the City has identified a workable site along McDonald Creek, under the ownership of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and Prospect Heights Park District.

As a proposed solution, the City respectfully requests consideration of the Park District of the following proposal: The City seeks to construct two compensatory storage areas. One area is at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and the other is at Somerset Park. Most of the Somerset Park proposed compensatory storage area is located within the floodplain and therefore construction and grading will have a minimal impact on the subject Park District property. Approximately 53% of the needed compensatory storage volume is within the Park District parcel. Based on this volume, the City is prepared to compensate the Park District in the amount of \$12,700 for use of Proposed Compensatory Storage Area #1

Next Meeting: The next scheduled PHPD Board Meeting is Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gary Morava Recreation Center on Camp McDonald Road in Prospect Heights, IL.

Dana asked Peter Hahn of the concept of placing compensatory storage ahead of the area of where you need it. Pete knows the area, and it is where the beaver previously causes problems. We are puzzled how this will solve the problem. It is McDonald Creek at that point, and the Slough is on the other side.

Pete Falcone said it is part of the waterway, which is why it can be used for compensatory storage for Willow Road. Willow Road, north of Somerset Park and the church, is considered the same area as far as compensatory storage is concerned. Whether right next to Willow Road or the property, it is considered the same.

The City does not do this on their own. The City consults with IDOT, the MWRD, etc. Agnes said it does not affect the storage capacity drainage area of the Slough. Peter Falcone said it will because it will have to be graded. Agnes said the Slough empties into the creek. Our Redeemer Church area also enters the creek from the other side and combines into the creek but downstream.

Peter Falcone stated when the City goes through the State, the Regulatory Agencies and the experts, and we must consider their recommendations.

Announcements to the Public

None.

Visitors' Comments

No visitors were present.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission is November 10, 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