

CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 13, 2023

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

Guest: Peter Falcone, Assistant City Administrator

NOTE: Meeting held via Zoom. Meeting ID: **834 6027 5399**

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, and a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 9, 2023

The minutes of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission Special Board Meeting of March 9, 2023 were reviewed. No changes or corrections were noted. Therefore, the meeting minutes of March 9, 2023 were approved.

NEW AGENDA ITEMS

Agnes and Dana added the following topics under New Business as new Item A to this evening's Agenda:

- Oak Tree Donations
- Herbicide
- Signage
- Video about the Slough

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteer Workdays

Our volunteer workday of March 19, 2023 was conducted at the Nature Preserve at Morava and working in the upper section to remove invasives and brush plus a trash clean-up. Also, a spring prescribed burn by Commissioners was performed at the creek bank.

Our volunteer workday of April 2, 2023 was conducted but at a different location than originally scheduled due to the weather. Volunteers transplanted seedlings for the Greenhouse Program at PHNRC Headquarters at 9 east Marion.

PHNRC Transplant Wednesdays began yesterday, April 12, 2023 from 5:30-7:30 pm at PHNRC Headquarters at 9 East Marion. Snacks and water are provided to our volunteers.

Our Earth Week Volunteer Workday of April 16, 2023 is planned to be conducted all over the Slough and at Pollinator Park with the objectives to open trails, put down wood chips in several areas, install a drainage feature, install the holding Greenhouse and install the carp enclosure at Pollinator Park. However, currently, the forecast is a 93% chance of significant rain.

Our volunteer workdays continue to be heavily attended, which is absolutely wonderful! Yesterday's PHNRC Transplant Wednesday was attended by 21 volunteers working at four tables and have already transplanted thousands of plants.

Prospect Heights Public Library/Park District Events

Nature Speaks Program

Dana said the Nature Speaks Program for Earth Week on Thursday, April 20, 2023 from 1:00-2:30 pm reflects that 53 people have registered to attend the presentation by Peter Cairn from Scotland on *The Rewilding of Scotland* and returning Scotland to its natural state.

Grace Hart, the Aveole urban Beekeeper, is slated to speak this summer. However, Dana is awaiting information from her on her presentation for publication on our website. We may have to plan another speaker presentation if we do not hear from Grace soon.

Mary Lou Mellon will conclude the eighth year of the Bird Walks this Spring and start the ninth year of Bird Walks in the Fall of 2023. The Spring Bird Walk dates are May 13 and May 27, 2023 (Saturdays) from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Please be sure to register with the Park District.

Slough Boardwalk Project – Update/Status

Dana has completed the signage production files that were finalized today with Blue Raven. The signage has been sent to production and should receive our order in six to eight weeks. The replacement sign for Pollinator Park was received with technical difficulty and will be delivered at the beginning of next week. Sign installation in Pollinator Park will be installed soon. Installation products are available.

Agnes and Seth walked the Board Walk and noticed that the wedges initially installed in the Board Walk were washed about by the recent heavy rainfall. John said the wedges were initially installed some time ago with the idea of replacing the wedges with bolts when conditions were dry. Dana inquired if leveling the Board Walk could be an Eagle Scout Project. However, John felt installing the bolts and leveling the Board Walk was maintenance and not project work. Seth suggested installation of the bolts must be done sooner rather than later while the plants are still low to the ground. We will try to build this work into an upcoming workday.

Ed mentioned that the wet conditions surrounding the Board Walk makes walking on it like a catapult. Any consequences from the new flood project? We have had good rain events. Any ill effects? Still not functional; waiting on parts.

Dana is finishing the Grant Report and will send it to Commissioners for review before sending it to Christine Ferraro, Executive Director of the Park District and ComEd for final approval.

Pollinator Park Update and Shoreline Restoration Project

Dana and John will be meeting to survey the shoreline of Hillcrest Lake and determine the next work area. At the April 24 City Council Meeting, MWRD will present the 60% finalization of plans for raising Willow Road and Owen Court, which impacts where we will work on Hillcrest Lake for the shoreline restoration project.

John said the banks of Hillcrest Lake are eroding quite a bit, so any area is a good area to begin work and requires substantial action. The section that is in between the tester site and first site in front of the large white house on the west side of Hillcrest Lake. This particular area is eroding bad, at least 100 linear feet per John. Another section could also be accomplished. The linear feet accomplished last year was 165 and was pared back because of overage on the budget. John said this year we could work on the section of 100 linear feet and extend from one of the other sections patching them together.

Dana said we have a large inventory of parts and will tally them. The diameter of coconut rolls must be determined and then an order placed. The section we will work in has a large drop-off per John. Therefore, we must purchase a large coconut roll.

Seed/Greenhouse Program

The Greenhouse is officially filled with transplants. A shade screen has been placed on the west side of the Greenhouse for shade to help ensure the interior of the Greenhouse is kept at an even temperature. Currently, the transplants are watered four times per day.

The holding Greenhouse must be installed.

Prescribed Burns

PHNRC successfully completed Spring prescribed burns at all our sites and project sites. Heron Pond did not burn well, and St. Alphonsus did not burn well perhaps due to wet conditions. The Slough was burned including areas that were not burned successfully in past years but were instead brush cut by our interns.

The Spring prescribed burn season is officially concluded. Everything is coming out – snakes, turtles, insects. Agnes expressed appreciation to all who assisted with the Spring prescribed burns.

Everything is emerging from the burned areas, so it is easy to see things that need herbiciding, specifically Reed Canary Grass, Cattails and Canada Thistle. Pete is available to help with herbiciding.

Earth Week – April 15 – 22, 2023

Dana released announcements on the PHNRC Earth Week activities on April 12, 2023.

April 16, 2023 (Sunday) PHNRC Volunteer Workday at the Slough to conduct invasive removal and general clean up, relining the trails and putting down wood chips in certain areas, installing the Holding Greenhouse and transplanting.

April 19, 2023 (Wednesday) Wheeling High School Environmental Science Class joins the PHNRC at the Slough for service hours and tours from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Transplanting Wednesdays will be conducted on Wednesday evening from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at PHNRC Headquarters, 9 East Marion Place.

April 20, 2023 (Thursday) Nature Speaks Program -Peter Cairn and *The Rewilding of Scotland* and showing the multi-pronged effort to reclaim Scotland's natural state. Time: 1:00-2:30 p.m. Admission is free of charge, but please register with the Prospect Heights Public Library.

April 22, 2023 (Saturday) Earth Day – Slough/Board Walk Open House and the Opening/Installation Day for the Sunflower Project's Art Park installation for the summer called "Birds of a Feather" at the Izaak Walton Pavilion. Timing is 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Prospect Heights Community Day – June 3, 2023 and Oak Tree Saplings

Dana reported that our volunteer, Maja Wojdalski, sent a brochure to Dana of the MWRD giveaway program of native oak saplings (several varieties) and one Hickory tree. Maja requested about 240 oak tree saplings for the PHNRC to provide as giveaways at the Prospect Heights Community Day of June 3, 2023 and the Park District's Block Party of June 17, 2023. Additionally, Maja will pick up the saplings and care for them until the event giveaway dates.

Thank you very much, Maja, for thinking of us and your consideration and organization efforts.

Dana and Jill will manage a table for the PHNRC at the Prospect Heights Community Day on June 3, 2023 from 9:00 to 11:00 am. The pop-up banners will be utilized.

Prospect Heights Park District Block Party – June 17, 2023

The Prospect Heights Park District Block Party will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2023 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. However, as a vendor, we are permitted to stay until 11:00 p.m.

Set-up time begins as early as 1:00 p.m.

We will giveaway plants in exchange for e:mail addresses and signatures and will include oak sapling giveaways.

Independence Day Parade, City of Prospect Heights

The Independence Day Parade will be held on Saturday, July 1, 2023 starting at 9:30 am. Dana said John has plans to make our participation even bigger and better than 2022. We look forward to, once again, participating in our town's Independence Day Parade.

John has kept the construction materials from the 2022 float and will contact the person who donated the trailer to see if we may use it, again, this year.

John has brainstormed with Kate Tully about the design of our entry, and we may change the presentation just a bit. Our informational signage on the float will be enhanced. The walking giant puppets will be present but may have additional characters. We must start working on it. Anyone interested, please let John know. John will send e:mail communications to last year's parade participants to gauge interest.

Construction is involved one week before the parade date.

Additionally, John strongly recommends we participate in the Arlington Heights 4th of July Parade on July 4, 2023. Jerome McDonald is our contact. John will enroll us in the Arlington heights 4th of July Parade.

The Arlington Heights 4th of July Parade is attended by thousands and thousands of people which provides wide exposure for us.

Both parades are so much fun!

We will, once again, provide candy bags to parade attendees with our PHNRC informational sign.

NEW BUSINESS

Slough Video

Patrick Colvin, Digital Communications Technician for the City of Prospect Heights, produced a video tour of the Slough with Agnes and Dana last year, has produced it and is in the process of editing it. It's really cool! Patrick is looking for the content. Agnes and Dana suggested a tour of all our sites and an item on the Greenhouse Program. If Commissioners have ideas and/or wish to participate, inform Agnes and Dana.

Ed suggested including a video of volunteer workdays to expand context.

In the video, when Agnes and Dana were out shooting with Patrick, residents stopped to talk and were included in the video as engaged conversations.

The Slough Video is altruistic and a good promotional piece.

Pollinator Park and Vehicle Parking

John reported that the area of Pollinator Park that we have been reconstructing is suffering from vehicles utilized by fishermen and heavy tractor and trailers by landscaping businesses. Vehicles, tractors and trailers are parked on the shoulder and the area we are working on. This area is in the first year of planting and may not look like much now but must be protected.

John said the landscapers' tractor and trailer were parked on top of everything we just planted. John approached them, but they were belligerent and refused to move their vehicles. However, the resident utilizing the landscaping service requested they move on, and they did.

This area is losing its greenery due to the vehicles parking on the land/area. It is becoming gravel compacted dirt especially around the Stone Garden.

Should we rope off the area and/or install signs announcing this is a restored habitat area?

Ed said rope off the area and install signs. The first section after the test section which is robust and beautiful John roped it off for two years. Otherwise, people would be driving their vehicles on it or tramping through it.

We intended to build a path from the Stone Garden and out north. However, John cautioned it may be tough to plant the dirt is compacted and contains gravel from the road.

Agnes said we will flag out a path. Dana said we have temporary fence posts and will cordon off with caution tape. Perhaps place signs in the mature planting areas and cordon off the areas where plants are taking root.

Slough Trails

John said bike riders are using the Slough trail, and their usage is damaging the path especially when wet. Signs should be placed announcing: "Do not utilize trail when wet. Bike tracks are damaging to the trail." Can the Park District place signs? Dana said we previously asked, and they opposed it because they do not want to limit access or how the trails may be used. Dana will follow up with Christina.

Summer Interns

We have hired two exceptional young women: Arianna (Ari) Blank and Kathryn Fisher. Both will start early on May 15, 2023. A lot of the work is catch up work, so this is ideal.

Ari lives around the corner and was raised in Prospect Heights. Her parents are wonderful people. Ari is studying environmental sciences. Ari wants to base her career around Prospect Heights and plans to return to Prospect Heights after finishing her studies.

Kathryn is studying environmental engineering but is very interested in natural resources.

Ari and Kathryn have received their forms and are in communication with Peter Falcone.

Dana and Agnes have provided the herbicide workbooks so they may start studying and obtain their herbicide licenses.

District 214

Dana reported that three high school students, two from Prospect High School and one from Hersey High School and who are interested in the sciences will participate in the micro-internship. One is looking for 60 instead of 30 hours. Therefore, Agnes will work out her work schedule to be present Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings for their time. This internship is separate from the Summer Internship and involves mostly education and some prairie work. Materials will be provided to the students.

Agnes said these are great kids who are thinking of going into the natural sciences because they love nature and want to have an opportunity to learn more about it.

Agnes said if any Commissioner wishes to assist her, please advise.

NRC 2022-2023 Budget and Treasurer Report – John Kamysz

John provided Commissioners with an updated copy of our City of Prospect Heights NRC 2022-2023 Full Year budget. March expenses brought our revenue down to \$471.13. These funds must be utilized by May 1, 2023. Therefore, Agnes proposed purchasing herbicide, work gloves and protective equipment for the summer interns, and soil.

Due to our summer interns earlier start date, Dana contacted Joe Wade on extending an offer of employment to the intern candidates before our 2023-2024 Budget proposal was approved. Joe provided permission to proceed. Thank you, Joe, and the City of Prospect Heights! We sincerely appreciate your consideration.

Site Monitoring Reports

ComEd Seeded Prairie

Dana reported that the ComEd Seeded Prairie was successfully burned this Spring, and Dana distributed a lot of seeds. Concentrated areas of Golden Rod are apparent. We will watch and observe.

Gary Morava Nature Preserve

Pete Hahn reported that the Nature Preserve is emerging from winter dormancy. The Nature Preserve is clean and shows the results of all the hard work. Virginia Bluebells are just beginning to flower and are spreading. The dump site looks neat and confined. The paths need wood chips before the paths become too wet and muddy. The oak saplings that we planted years ago are all growing nicely, some over four to six feet high.

Heron Pond

John reported that Heron Pond is starting to bloom. John is interested in seeing what grows after the tree removals during the winter.

Pollinator Park

John reported that local landscapers are parking their equipment on planted areas, sitting on it, and ignoring the restoration area. John suggested placement of signs and/or rope off the areas.

Remnant Prairie

Seth submitted a detailed report on the Remnant Prairie to Commissioners.

Seth said as discussed with a few individuals in the Commission, he monitors one of the Remnant sites and has mentioned over the years that it would be great to connect the Remnant Prairie and Remnant Sedge Meadow and eventually the ComEd Seeded Prairie to have a continuous habitat or a gold standard of what one tries to achieve. We would not be making a perfect habitat or prairie but an improvement. It is challenging for wildlife and even a butterfly to get from one to the other considering what is in between.

How could we bring it about? Through a ComEd Grant or a Boy Scout Eagle Project or Goats? O'Hare Airport uses Goats to clear grassy areas. Should we vote on it? Move forward? Next Steps?

Dana said the first step is feasibility. Again, the Park District has the leasehold on it. The property belongs to ComEd. Everything must start with these two stakeholders: We can approach them and ask: Are you interested? Can this be accomplished? Once we clear this hurdle, we can view it strategically. Next winter ComEd could brush hog between the two sites to minimize soil disturbance and then herbicide in the spring or use a few workdays to cut the Thistle and stack it.

Agnes said we do not have the Remnant Prairie and Remnant Sedge Meadows under control. This year, the Remnant Prairie was burned. Fantastic!

Seth said he has observed what the Cook County Forest Preserve does with their acreage, which is far greater than us and realizes that StanTec and ComEd can go after big parcels of land. If burning the two acres and the Remnant Prairie and Remnant Sedge Meadow is a small area. But they have the equipment, which is beneficial.

Agnes said we must be cautious. In the beginning, restoration was not a consideration plus they have limited funding.

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John inquired if we have the manpower. No, we do not. However, Seth feels the objective of accessibility with a contiguous site would be ideal.

Dana said we could approach and ask the two principals and gauge their interest. Remember that the idea of solar panels was refused. Agnes suggested letting these areas go and address removal of Thistle and Canada Golden Rod.

John said it seems like we have more people at the volunteer workdays than before. If we have the people now, it is a good time to capitalize on it. John worries that we do not steal away from the other projects. Agnes said once started, one must routinely maintain it to prevent it from becoming weedy.

The Shoreline Restoration Project is a large project. This year we must maintain and manage existing areas to ensure they are in top shape. We had previously agreed that 2023 would be a year of maintenance.

Saint Alphonsus

Ed said there is not much to report of the St. Alphonsus prairie basin except a few plants are emerging. Ed felt we had about 40% this spring, so the area is likely to look much better soon.

Slough

Agnes said that the areas of the Slough must be herbicided.

City Civic Meetings and PHNRC Representation

Jill highlighted notes from the following March 2023 City Council and PHPD Board meetings:

[City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting – March 13, 2023](#)

Following are excerpts from the March 13 City Council meeting minutes pertaining to the Budget.

STAFF, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND COMMISSION REPORTS

City Clerk Prisiajniouk – noted that the school districts are hiring all levels of educators. This is an ongoing process.

Acting Mayor Dolick asked that the City Council go back to the Budget presentation. PRESENTATION

A.FY2023-2024 City of Prospect Heights Budget Presentation for Revenues and All General Fund Departments (City Council, Administration and Finance, Community Development, Police, and Public Works) and Capital Improvement Plan – City Administrator Wade thanked the Finance Team for putting together the budget proposal. He noted that revenue is on the upswing, and that there are major capital projects in progress that were heavily funded by grants applied for by the Staff. He said that the proposal for the contribution for the police pension is \$1.29 million (not as much as the pension Board requested but exceeding the minimum amount. SWANCC funding is a massive building that has a 30-year old roof that needs to be repaired – the City Staff is recommending a 2-year surcharge (of \$1 per bill to residents) to contribute to the City's share of the roof repair.

He noted that this is a static budget

Co-Finance Director Graefen said that the major strategic financial considerations are the same as last year. In terms of capital projects, the City will end the year at \$2.5 million in the fund balance, and a FY 23/24 revenue of \$5 million.

The City expects to have \$1 million by the end of the fiscal year. This means that if capital improvements projects are to continue, there will be a need for more revenue sources – contribution from other funds and grants.

Fund balance projections for the end of FY 23 – General Fund - \$145,000. Motor Fuel tax will be strong - \$896,000. Tourism did well - \$532,000 against expenses of \$348,000. DEA Funds did not have any significant revenue. Solid waste had a balance of (\$72.00).

The Capital Fund is being reduced by \$4.3 million because of the Arlington Countryside project.

FY 24, General Fund is projected at a loss of \$400,000 (that includes the \$1,000,000 transfer to capital).

The net bottom line is a projected (\$1,800, 000)

Projected results for FY 23 –REVENUES - \$10,238,476; Budgeted \$9,306.901; EXPENDITURES - \$10,238,476; Budgeted - \$9,344,188 due to deferral of some capital projects.

Co-Director Giacalone said that the Finance Department has put together a three-year projection of revenues and expenditures. That will be presented at a future date. This will encompass the entire budget and budgetary trends. Capital improvements will also have a three-year projection.

ADMINISTRATION – Assistant City Administrator Falcone

–increase in wages from \$95,000 - \$101,000; special events funding at \$43,000 (\$28K to Run and Rock the Runway/\$10K for Block Party/\$5K for City events).; Natural Resources Commission (a \$1000 increase); A/V Dept increase in equipment from \$27,500 to \$28,650, technician with pay/insurance/IMRF - \$64,884).

Natural Resources Commission Sievertson said that the increase in the dollar amount for the NRC was mainly because of the increase in herbicides.

No action was taken.

City Council Regular Hybrid Meeting – March 27, 2023

4. PRESENTATION

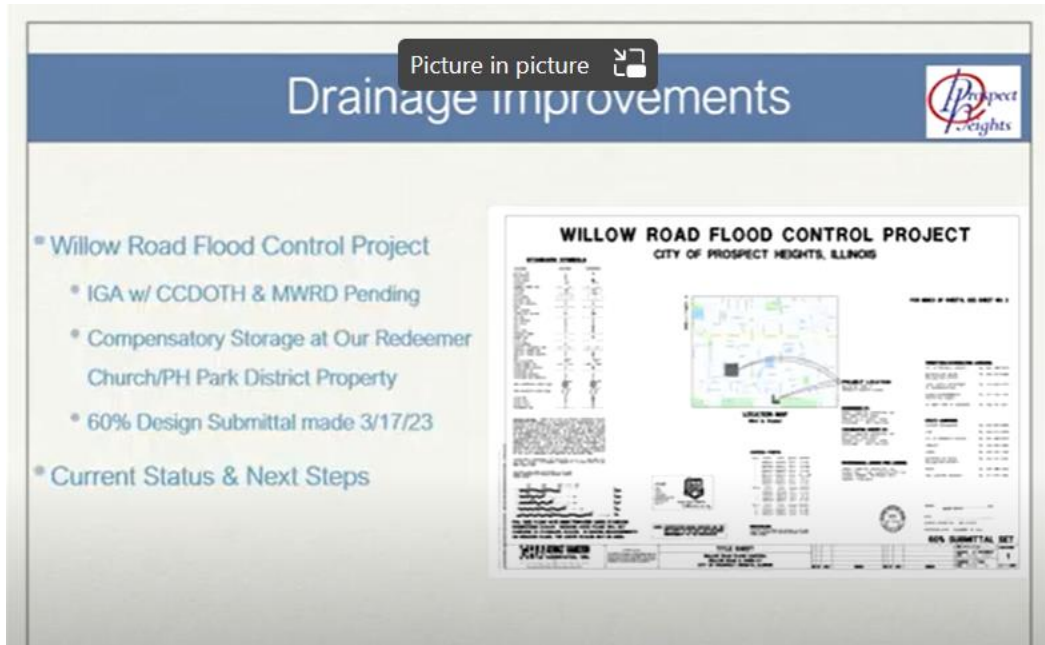
A. Chicago Executive Airport Monthly Update Presented, by Director Jim Kiefer

B. FY2023-2024 City of Prospect Heights Budget Presentation (**Capital Improvement Plan, Tourism, Motor Fuel Tax, Water, Sewer, Special Service Areas, Solid Waste, Road Construction Debt Service, and Police Pension Fund**)

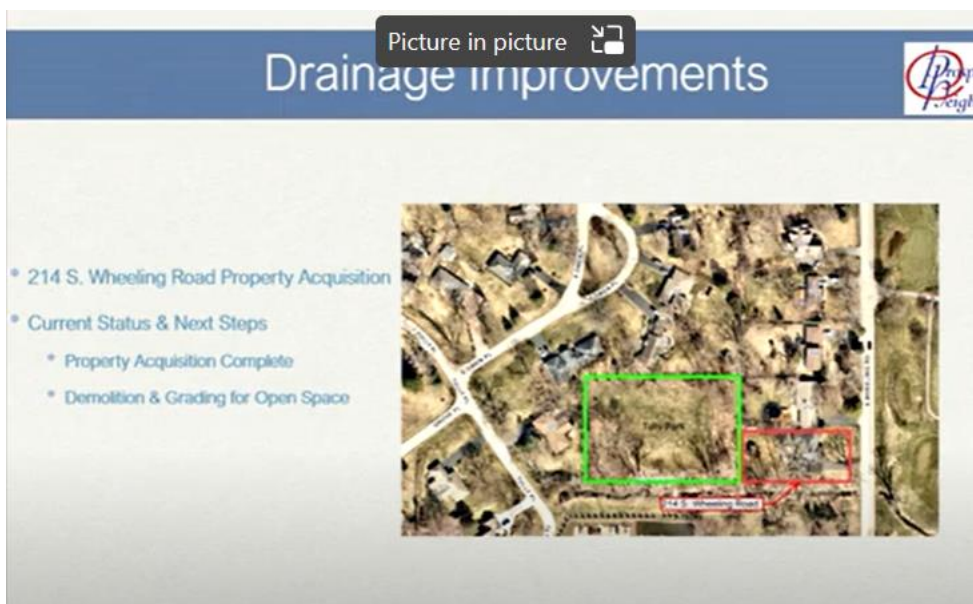
Mark Roscoe, Director of Public Works: Willow Road Project – Dan provided highlights. Goal – to raise Willow Road and Owen Court up above flood elevation. Scope has been defined. Compensatory Storage has been defined over this past summer. Open space parcels on PH Park District property and Our Redeemer Church adjacent to McDonald Creek. MWRD determined it was sufficient for this project.

The 60% design was presented on March 17, 2023. Working with the MWRD and Cook County Department of Highways and meeting regularly to keep apprised of the design. Willow Road is a County Road, and both departments are contributing significantly to the Project.

The Project will start this year per Mark Roscoe. Putting it out to bid over the summer. First phase completed this fall. One design element was discovered during Phase I process by the County due to the nature of building the road up on soil and the flood plain want to do surplus loading on the road in the fall and allow to settle over the winter season and pick back up in the Spring 2024.



214 South Wheeling Road: Moving along. Maybe demolished later this year and work through the steps with the PH Park District.



Arlington Countryside Storm Water Project: Delays in getting the right parts fell in the way of getting the project turned up late last fall. Metropolitan Industries want to get the project done for us but have not assembled all the parts. They proposed a change to the way the controls would be installed, but we denied it. We want to keep to the original plan and do it right. The project will not be completed in the fiscal year 2023.

Picture in picture



STORMWATER PROJECTS	Funding Source	FY22-23	FY23-24	FY24-25	FY25-26	FY26-27	FY27-28	Syn Total
Arlington Countryside - Ph 3 - Constr Eng	City	\$242,000						\$ -
Arlington Countryside - Construction	ADFA	\$2,100,000						\$ -
Arlington Countryside - Construction	City	\$1,228,500						\$ -
Arlington Countryside - Construction	State of IL - DCD	\$670,000	\$300,000					\$ 300,000
Willow Trails Eastside - Design Eng	City		\$205,000					\$ 205,000
Willow Trails Eastside - Constr Eng	City			\$230,000				\$ 230,000
Willow Trails Eastside - Construction	City share			\$800,000				\$ 800,000
Willow Trails Eastside - Construction	St of IL - Comm Projects			\$2,400,000				\$ 2,400,000
Dorset Area Improvements - Design Eng	City				\$250,000	\$250,000		\$ 500,000
Dorset Area Improvements - Constr Eng	TBD					\$470,000	\$470,000	\$ 940,000
Dorset Area Improvements - Construction	TBD						\$1,300,000	\$ 1,300,000
Contingency	City			\$100,000				\$ 100,000
Total Stormwater Improvement Projects		\$ 4,240,500	\$ 505,000	\$ 3,530,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 720,000	\$ 1,770,000	\$ 8,775,000

City Budget Fiscal Year 2023-2024: First Reading at the City Council Meeting of April 10, 2023. Final Approval at the City Council Meeting of April 24, 2023.

Next Meetings: The next City Council Regular Hybrid Meetings are scheduled for April 10 and April 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of March 28, 2023

BLOCK PARTY: Due to a scheduling conflict with a nearby event, the date of the Block Party is now June 17. Fortunately, all the booked vendors and contractors were able to accommodate our new date. We are in the process of contacting the food truck vendors who were selected for the event to finalize their participation. Promotion for the event is underway and we hope for another day of beautiful weather.

COM ED RECREATIONAL LEASE 2018-2028: The ComEd Recreational Lease 2018-2028 with option to renew through 2038 is up for approval. The areas involve the bike path and natural prairie habitat. Staff recommend entering a recreational lease with ComEd through 2028 with an option to renew for an additional ten years. This lease is for the use of the ComEd right-of-way for the bike path, the property used for Country Gardens Park and the natural prairie habitat. The agreement includes the Park District maintaining the property including necessary paving, grading, landscaping, cutting and mowing of grass and weeds, removing all litter, garbage and graffiti from, and repair any vandalism including the bridge crossing. The district also has the right to use regulatory burn procedures to control and maintain the prairie grass portion.

MOTION: Approve the terms of the agreement between Prospect Heights Park District and ComEd subject to final approval by the Executive Director and the District's Attorney of the agreements exhibits and contract wording.

Status: At the March 28 PHPD Board Meeting, this topic was discussed and not approved.

DECENNIAL COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT: Last June this act was signed into law. The park district is required to form a committee no later than June 10, 2023, to study local efficiencies and at least once every ten years thereafter. Committee must include the Park District board members, at least two residents of the Park District appointed by the board president and approved by the board, and the executive director. The board president is the chair of this committee. Each committee must (1) study Park District's governing statutes, ordinances, rules, procedures, shared services, IGAs, and interrelationships with other governmental units and the State, (2) collect data, research, and analysis as necessary to prepare a written report that includes recommendations with respect to increased accountability and efficiency. IAPD is developing numerous resources to use in developing a report which must be provided to Cook County board no later than 18 months after the formation of the committee. The committee is required to meet at least three times and may meet during the regularly scheduled board meetings. After the report is provided, the committee is dissolved until it is reestablished with newly appointed members in 10 years. The first committee meeting must occur no later than June 10, 2023. Christina Ferraro recommends identifying committee members at April 2023 board meeting and propose the first meeting be scheduled for May 23, 2023, a regular scheduled board meeting. The final report would then be due Nov 22, 2024.

TULLY PARK (City IGA): Nothing until spring.

Next Meeting: A Prospect Heights Park District Special Board Meeting will be held on April 11, 2023 starting at 5:30 p.m. The Prospect Heights Park District Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gary Morava Recreation Center in Prospect Hts., IL.

Announcements to the Public

Seth provided information and guidance on Recycling and suggested to Dana to place this information as an article for the April 2023 issue of *The Resource Journal*.

Curbside Recycling: Do not place items in plastic bags. Recycle paper, glass, aluminum and some plastics.

SWANCC – Solid Waste Agency of Cook County – is a wonderful resource. SWANCC accepts many items for recycling, such as antifreeze, drain cleaners, gasoline, herbicides, insecticides, paint thinners, anything toxic, etc. SWANCC has special recycling days, or you may proceed to their location in Wheeling. Contact SWANCC if you do not know how to dispose of an item. Website: www.swancc.org

Thrift Stores: Goodwill and WINGS accept used clothing in good shape and household items.

ABT and Best Buy accept small electronics for free; large items carry a fee.

Habitat for Humanity Restore located on Rand Road in Arlington Heights accepts all sorts of building materials, kitchen cabinets, plumbing materials, flooring, sinks, etc. Check their website for complete information: <https://habitatnfv.org>

Specialty: H&M, the clothing store, accepts any type of textile or towels and will repurpose the ripped and torn fabric. On their website, look for the menu item of hm.com/sustainability.

If clothes are ripped or damaged, H&M the clothing store any type of textiles or towels; will repurpose the fabric. Check out the Sustainability menu item at www.hm.com/sustainability.

DSW will take used shoes to recycle.

Jewel and Tony's will take plastic bags.

Recycle the unrecyclable at TerraCycle. SCARCE accepts a variety of items for reuse and recycling as part of our effort to help people and our planet prosper. New and gently used books and supplies can be donated by local community members, schools, and organizations looking to reduce waste and give back to students everywhere.

Remember to compost.

John reported that he walks around Hillcrest Lake and Heron Pond every day and picks up plastic bags that are polluted. John fills a bag full of plastic every day. John encourages everyone to not use plastic and plastic bottles. Purchase a Brita filter and reduce our waste. Use reusable bags. Reference the following link to learn how to eliminate plastic: <https://www.ecologycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/eliminate-plastic.pdf>

Visitors' Comments

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the meeting. Therefore, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary