

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

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

Guest: Peter Falcone, Assistant City Administrator

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 except Pete Hahn were in attendance. However, a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 8, 2023

The minutes of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission Board Meeting of June 8, 2023 were reviewed. No changes or corrections were noted. Therefore, the meeting minutes of June 8, 2023 were approved.

NEW AGENDA TOPICS

Dana stated that a new topic entitled "New Initiatives" will be discussed under New Business at tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteer Workdays

Our volunteer workday of June 25, 2023 was conducted near 408 Hillcrest Drive for planting sedges and grasses into the newly prepared shoreline Restoration Year 3 by Pollinator Park.

Our volunteer workday of July 9, 2023 was conducted near 408 Hillcrest Drive for completing the second level or the prairie level with plantings as part of the Shoreline Restoration Year 3 by Pollinator Park.

Volunteers planted almost 2,000 plants. Volunteer workdays continued to be well attended with new volunteers joining us, too, such as, people present at this year's Independence Day parades. A couple of new volunteers said they have wanted to volunteer with us for a long time.

Transplanting Wednesdays of July 5 and July 12, 2023 were cancelled due to severe weather.

Dana reported that 1,204.5 hours have been incurred to date this year. Seth inquired if Nature's Finest Volunteer Days on Friday mornings and Transplant Wednesdays (evenings) were included in the volunteer hour calculations. Dana confirmed that they are included. Agnes also said that Wednesday mornings when Seth is present with Agnes and the interns and when Jill assists Agnes on the weekends the hours worked should be included in volunteer hours.

Prospect Heights Public Library/Park District Events

Nature Speaks Program

The summer Nature Speaks Program presents Grace Hart on Wednesday, July 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. both live in person at the Prospect Heights Public Library and via Zoom Presentation. The subject of Ms. Hart's presentation is "Saving the Bees: What Does it Mean, and What Role Do Honeybees Play."

Dana reported with great appreciation and anticipation that Dr. Gerould Wilhelm has been added as our speaker for the Fall Nature Speaks Program on October 19, 2023. This is a unique opportunity for us. Dr. Wilhelm will engage with the audience, accepting and answering specific questions and concerns, and talk about the endangered rare and endangered habitats in the Chicagoland Region, climate changes, and the importance of land stewardship.

Gerould S. Wilhelm is an American botanist, research taxonomist, educator and lichenologist. He is known as the author of several flora of the Chicago Region, such as the *Plants of the Chicago Region* (1979) co-authored with Floyd Swink and *Flora of the Chicago Region: A Floristic and Ecological Synthesis* (2017), co-authored with Laura Rericha.

Dr. Wilhelm is the director of research at Conservation Research Institute, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of planning, design, restoration, and long-term management of sustainable ecological systems in built and natural environments through applied research, education, and outreach, and research efforts have increased our understanding and awareness of the critical cultural relationships involved in the evolution of North American landscapes and ecosystems.

Dr. Wilhelm is an owner of Conservation Design Forum, Inc., the pioneer company devoted to changing water doctrine in the United States. He believes that water should be regarded as a blessing, not a bane.

Dr. Wilhelm also developed the Floristic Quality Assessment methodology, a tool to assess the integrity of natural areas and has become widely adapted for use in many states and provinces.

The Wonders of Beeswax Workshop will be conducted by Grace Hart on Friday, July 28, 2023 from 1:00-2:15 p.m. at the Public Library. Honeybees are famous for their sweet honey, but there are more products from the hive to discover! Grace Hart, professional urban beekeeper, shares an artisanal workshop where attendees will learn about and experience the wonders of Beeswax while making a set of hand-dipped candles. This event is sponsored by ComEd.

Mary Lou Mellon has agreed to conduct two Fall Bird Walks on September 9 and September 23, 2023 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Both dates are Saturdays.

Projects – Update/Status/Commissioner Site Monitoring Reports

Gary Morava Nature Preserve

Peter Hahn noted in his current monitoring report for the Nature Preserve that some work must be completed to ensure that the Nature Preserve remains attractive and inviting. Therefore, our next volunteer workday will be scheduled at the Nature Preserve to remove several dead trees, maintain several oak tree plantings, trim the walking paths, and place wood chips on the walking paths. Dana suggested scheduling the next volunteer workday at the Nature Preserve.

Pollinator Park Update and Shoreline Restoration Project

John stated that Pollinator Park looks really great! We experienced a drought and then a deluge of rain, which brought plantings to life. Pollinator Park brings people outside, but traffic and parking have become issues. John has observed a camping scenario where young people are roasting marshmallows; trash has increased and is noticeable; and drinking is present. A neighbor contacted the police on the fire incident, which was located on the edge of the turf grass and plantings near 404 Hillside and on the city's right-of-way area. Safety is an issue for the neighborhood. Dana will plan a meeting with Mark Roscoe of Public Works.

Site Monitoring Reports

Site Monitoring Reports are provided by each Commissioner before the meeting date. During the meeting, questions or concerns will be addressed but not the entire reading of each report.

ComEd Seeded Prairie (Dana Sievertson)

Dana and Agnes visited the prairie and the overwhelming thing you notice immediately is the increased volume of bird chorus followed by a sizable influx of butterflies, mainly Monarchs. Never seen so many as this year, and they are at all sites. Pollinators are everywhere as we approach mid-season form, which is a real key indicator as to the health of the prairie. That said, the 1.125" of rain we enjoyed today (July 11, 2023) will pay big dividends. Dana was impressed with the ever-increasing diversity of plants.

The Stantec burn and the effectiveness of herbiciding that Peter, the interns and Stantec have accomplished is impressive. Agnes and the interns have also mitigated the poison hemlock. Our sincere appreciation to all of you!

Dana was informed by Grace Hart from Alveole that her hive inspection has been completed, and all is well. Grace also said that the native pollinator hotels are in, and she was quite surprised and giddy about the fact that Grass Carrying Wasps have taken up residency. She said it was a big deal and another indicator of prairie health. She has promised photos. She said other native pollinators are present, as well. Grace was very pleased.

Dana suggested an FQA Assessment should be conducted of the ComEd Seeded Prairie. FQA is the Floristic Quality Assessment method, which uses vegetation composition to assess ecological condition. The FQA method focuses particularly on the concept of plant “conservatism” as an indicator of the ecological quality of a given site.

Heron Pond (John Kamysz)

A current monitoring report was not provided.

Hillcrest Lake (John Kamysz)

Information on Hillcrest Lake is provided in the Shoreline Restoration Project section of the meeting minutes.

Nature Preserve (Gary Morava) (Pete Hahn)

Peter toured the Gary Morava Nature Preserve on Wednesday, June 12, 2023. Pete did not notice anything really troublesome but said the Nature Preserve could use some work to make it more attractive and inviting.

The walking paths need wood chips as soon as possible and are getting overgrown. A lot of lush green vegetation has emerged in the Nature Preserve, in particular Purple Coneflower and Butterfly Milkweed. Several oak tree plantings need to be maintained. Several dead trees should be removed. The branch pile is increasing in size.

Remnant Prairie (Seth Marcus)

A current monitoring report was not provided.

Remnant Sedge Meadow (Jill Moskal)

Agnes and I conducted a physical review of the Remnant Sedge Meadow on July 6, 2023 in the early evening starting at the bike path on West Willow Road and heading south to Camp McDonald Road.

The northwest corner or west of the bike path is a large stand of Common Milkweed. This area used to be all Teasel.

A stand of Reed Canary Grass is located east of the bike path and is a concern but will be managed next year.

Dark Green Bulrush is located at the border in front of the stand of Reed Canary Grass.

Dudley’s Rush and Spike Rush are present. In fact, the Sedge meadow has 15 different types of sedges (Carex), such as Bulrush, Soft-Stemmed Bulrush, Dark Green Bulrush and Nodding Bulrush.

A large area of sedges and rushes are present as we near Camp McDonald Road: Brown Fox Sedge, *Carex scoparia* (Pointed Broom Sedge), Torrey's Rush, Blue Vervain, American Vetch and wild strawberries. Flea Bane and Dog Bane and American Elderberry, a shrub, are also present.

A wildflower native to North America, Blue Vervain is often seen growing in moist, grassy meadows and along streams and roadsides where it brightens the landscape with spiky, bluish-purple blooms from midsummer to early autumn.

Woody shrubs are located in front of the first electrical tower we approached. This area was not herbicided after ComEd and StanTec utilized the brush hog through the Remnant Sedge Meadow in late winter/early spring this year.

Invasive Teasel and Sweet Clover will be managed (cut) by our summer interns on Friday, July 7, 2023 to prevent it from seeding.

We observed that Purple Loosestrife is being attacked by the loosestrife beetle.

Phragmites are the largest problem at the Remnant Sedge Meadow and are located 20 feet from the Yellow Loosestrife.

Next Steps: Cut the Teasel before it goes to seed; mow in the winter; eliminate the Phragmites and possibly investigate a drone spray.

Saint Alphonsus (Ed Madden)

A current monitoring report was not provided.

Slough (Agnes Wojnarski)

Agnes and the interns will plant sedges at the Slough on July 14, 2023 (Friday) and freshen up the Boardwalk as it has become a bit impassable with all the rain.

Agnes reported that an Eastern Kingbird is nesting at the Slough.

The Eastern Kingbird is a sturdy, medium-sized songbird with a large head, upright posture, square-tipped tail, and a relatively short, straight bill. Eastern Kingbirds are blackish above and white below. The head is a darker black than the wings and back, and the black tail has a conspicuous white tip.

Eastern Kingbirds often perch in the open atop trees or along utility lines or fences. They fly with very shallow, rowing wingbeats and a raised head, usually accompanied by metallic, sputtering calls. Eastern Kingbirds are visual hunters, sallying out from perches to snatch flying insects.

Eastern Kingbirds breed in open habitats, such as yards, fields, pastures or wetlands and are especially abundant in open places along forest edges or water. They spend winters in the forest of South America.



Tully Park (Wendy Dewar)

Wendy Dewar has observed Penstemon, Rudbeckia, and Tall Coreopsis in bloom at Tully Park. Wendy complimented our summer interns for the good job of herbiciding the Canadian Thistle.

Also, Friends of Tully Park are awaiting word on when the 214 South Wheeling Road property will be demolished.

Seed/Greenhouse Program

Agnes said collecting the seed of rare woodland spring sedges and ephemerals will occur during the next three weeks. Soon Transplanting Wednesdays will become Seed Collection Wednesdays.

Agnes reported that thousands of plants have been planted. We are doing a great deal of planting despite the loss of plants during the Greenhouse electrical fire in the spring.

Independence Day Parades - Prospect Heights and Arlington Heights

John said we had a fantastic turn out for creating and building another parade float, characters, particularly a Caterpillar, which was “driven” by Seth, and our presence. John said we had a wonderful outcome at both Parades (July 1 and July 4, 2023). Forty-seven volunteers participated. It was all a lot of fun!

John expressed sincere appreciation to everyone who was available to build and create our float and characters and to participating and breaking everything down and storing it for next year. A lot of work was required, and a lot of time was well spent.

John received a letter from the Frontier Days Festival Parade Committee of Arlington Heights stating our parade entry was judged a winner, and we won First Place for Creativity in the Non-Commercial Category! This is the second year in a row that we won First Place. A plaque will be issued to us.

Dana particularly noted John, Kate Tully, Andy, Monty, and Spencer and Mary Watson who were consistently and constantly present. Also, many thanks to Jill for creating the thousands of treat bags that are provided to parade attendees.

Dana also expressed appreciation to Ed and other attendees and participants who documented the parade with tons of photos and information. Dana will be creating a special tab entitled Parades on the PHNRC website.

Seth wondered if we could parlay our parade participation for publicity on our mission that Prospect Heights has a cool nature preserving organization. We could contact a nationally known newspaper or larger local newspaper to view the parade video and see how entertaining it is. This may garner a two-minute segment on the local news and in a local paper for publicity. It is a feel-good story.

Ed said it's a great idea. In general, Ed suggested utilizing an event like an Open House at the Slough or when we first opened the Boardwalk with a dedication to promote our mission. Also, having elected officials present, such as Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky and others who are receptive to our work, is a positive bonus.

Local television stations typically have a 4th of July or Independence Day recognition, a fun piece on what's happening around town. Dana reported that Terri Campbell said the Public Library and PHNRC were featured on the ABC 5:00 p.m. news segment. However, we cannot locate a recording of this news segment. ABC's website has On Demand, but it is only for 4:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Agnes said the Independence Day Parade is a truly fun event and community driven.

Commissioners expressed sincere appreciation to John for his organization, creativity, and efforts to create our parade presence plus the ordering and purchase of PHNRC t-shirts for everyone. The t-shirts were a very nice touch!

Summer Interns

Arianna (Ari) Blank and Kathryn Fisher, our summer interns, continue to be amazing! Agnes said they have a strong work ethic and go above and beyond with the work to be accomplished. They are intelligent and a pleasure to be with.

Their term will be coming to a close this season: Ari departs on July 25, and Kathryn the following week.

The traditional prairie hopping day with the summer interns will be Tuesday, July 25 where two to three prairie sites in Illinois will be visited, lunch enjoyed, and special gifts are presented to our interns. Expected return time is 4:00 p.m.

District 214 Micro-Internship

Jason, Sonya and Ava are participating in this summer's District 214 Micro-Internship with the PHNRC. Agnes reported they have complete interest in the program. Agnes is looking forward to the Fall High School Interns and the Spring High School Interns. It is very enjoyable!

Agnes is undecided on whether to have a Summer High School Intern program because of the many hours involved with both the Summer High School Intern program, the summer internship program and her own working hours. Agnes does not wish to combine the two programs because it is a different educational experience for each, and her objective is to make the internship programs the best for all participants.

High school students have shown great interest in the environment and nature and expressed pursuing a college degree. The High School Intern Program we host provides a valuable educational opportunity. Also, over the years, Agnes has found that more and more high schoolers want to participate.

CONTINUOUS REPORTING

NRC 2022-2023 Budget and Treasurer Report – John Kamysz

John provided Commissioners with the City of Prospect Heights Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 NRC Budget:

<u>Budgeted Funding:</u>		
City of Prospect Heights	\$	15,544.00
Prospect Heights Park District	\$	7,500.00
Donation Funding	\$	<u>500.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$	<u>21,544.00</u>

Supply purchases of \$2,021.55 and Summer Intern salaries have brought our Current Revenue to: \$9,704.77.

Hillcrest Lake Shoreline Restoration Project Budget: Purchase of supplies and Coir Logs of \$3,233 have reduced the Project Budget to \$1,767.00. Dana recently purchased fill dirt for a total of \$987.50; therefore, the remaining revenue of \$779.50 will be utilized to purchase aquatics (\$300 to \$400), stakes for the carp enclosure (\$120.00) and chicken wire.

City Civic Meetings and PHNRC Representation

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

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 2023

City Council Regular Meeting – June 12, 2023

OLD BUSINESS

A.O-23-12 Staff Memo and Ordinance Authorizing Map Amendments Rezoning of Certain Territory from B-3 Commercial, Wholesale and General Services District to B-5 Commercial Industrial District. (*2nd Reading*) – **Alderman Dash moved to approve O-23-12 Staff Memo and Ordinance Authorizing Map Amendments Rezoning of Certain Territory from B-3 Commercial, Wholesale and General Services District to B-5 Commercial Industrial District. (2nd Reading); seconded by Alderman Dolick.**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES - Dash, Anderson, Cameron, Dolick
NAYS - None
ABSENT - Morgan-Adams

Motion carried 4 – 0, one absent

B.O-23-13 Staff Memo and Ordinance Amending the City Code, Title 5 Chapter 7 of the City Code Deleting the O-1 Office Research Park District and Adding B-5 Commercial Industrial District. **(2nd Reading)- Alderman Dolick moved to approve O-23-13 Staff Memo and Ordinance Amending the City Code, Title 5 Chapter 7 of the City Code Deleting the O-1 Office Research Park District and Adding B-5 Commercial Industrial District. (2nd Reading); seconded by Alderman Cameron.**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES -	Anderson, Cameron, Dolick, Dash
NAYS -	None
ABSENT -	Morgan-Adams

Motion carried 4 – 0, one absent

NEW BUSINESS

A.R-23-12 Staff Recommendation of Bid Award and Resolution Authorizing a Demolition Contract with Arkana, Inc. for the Property Located at 214 S. Wheeling Road for a Price of \$25,950 and Allowance for a 10% Contingency for Unforeseen Conditions that May Arise During the Project – **Alderman Dolick moved to approve R-23-12 Staff Recommendation of Bid Award and Resolution Authorizing a Demolition Contract with Arkana, Inc. for the Property Located at**

214 S. Wheeling Road for a Price of \$25,950 and Allowance for a 10% Contingency for Unforeseen Conditions that May Arise During the Project; Seconded by Alderman Dolick.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES -	Cameron, Dolick, Dash, Anderson
NAYS -	None
ABSENT -	Morgan-Adams

Motion carried 4 – 0, one absent

City Council Regular Meeting – June 26, 2023

Consent Agenda

Resolution Appointing Northwest Municipal Conference Delegates



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To: Mayor Pat Ludvigsen and Members of the City Council
Joe Wade, City Administrator

From: Peter P. Falcone, Assistant City Administrator

Subject: Resolution Appointing Northwest Municipal Conference Delegates

Background

The Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) by-laws requires the designation by resolution of City Delegates. With the election of Pat Ludvigsen as Mayor, the City needs to update our representation on the NWMC governing Board. The attached resolution designates Mayor Pat Ludvigsen as Delegate, and the City Administrator as the Alternate Delegate. Northwest Municipal Conference meetings are held on a regular basis and the City has always had a representative in attendance during this representation structure.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends City Council approval of Resolution R-23-14 to comply with Northwest Municipal Conference by-laws.

Chicago Executive Airport Report – Scott Saewert

The Chicago Executive Airport will be turning 100 years old in 2024. Michael Haupt, a local author, does all kinds of research on airfields in the area. CEA is partnering with him in his quest to write a book about Pal-Waukee Airport/CEA. Also, Michael Haupt will be presenting “Chicago: Shaping the Airline Industry” at the Prospect Heights Public Library both in person and via Zoom on July 10, 2023 (Monday) from 1:00 to 2:15 pm.

Program Description: Chicago has played a critical role in forming the airline industry, not just for the United States but worldwide, as well. Aviation historian, Michael Haupt and author of *Aviation Chicago Timeline*, explores how Chicago was the hub of the airmail and airlines not only physically but, more importantly, of the organizations that controlled them.

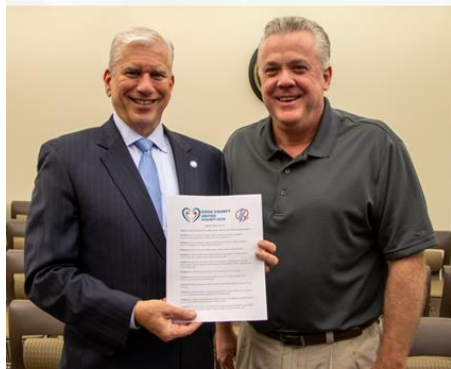
E. R-23-15 Resolution Pledging the City of Prospect Heights to Join Cook County to Unite Against Hate

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Prospect Heights adopts the Cook County United Against Hate pledge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Prospect Heights does hereby commit to fighting injustice and intolerance, and hereby joins with its community to welcome all people regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, class, or other backgrounds.

Passed and Approved this 26th day of June, 2023.

City United with County Commissioner Britton



(l to r) Cook County Commissioner Scott Britton and Mayor Pat Ludvigsen

Cook County Commissioner Scott Britton presented Cook County's United Against Hate campaign to Mayor Ludvigsen and the City Council at Monday night's council meeting. After the Commissioner's presentation, the City Council passed a resolution pledging support to Cook County's campaign by continuing our commitment to being a welcoming community for all peoples.

The City of Prospect Heights would also like to thank Commissioner Britton for his support of the City's infrastructure plans. Without City funding for projects like the forthcoming Wolf Road and Camp McDonald sidewalks, the City is reliant on grants and thanks to Commissioner Britton's office, the City was able to acquire approximately 300K in grant funds to use as seed money to leverage larger funding sources.

(Source: July 30, 2023 Prospect Heights City E-Newsletter)

This Resolution was passed to support this measure and recognize the organization. No action needs to be taken on our part.

F. R-23-16 Resolution Authorizing a Civil Engineering Services Agreement with Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc. for Design Engineering Services - Alton Road Storm Sewer Improvements

Alton Road is located near the railroad tracks and just due West of Wolf Road.



To: Mayor Ludvigsen and Members of the City Council

From: Joe Wade, City Administrator

Subject: Engineering Services Agreement for Alton road Storm Water Management Improvement

Date: June 21, 2023

Background

Storm water management improvements to the Alton road area has been a goal of the City for some time. Specifically, the roadway ditches and rear yard area of adjacent parcels are subject to persistent nuisance flooding long after storm events and when McDonald Creek has returned to normal.

This year, the City provided for Alton road storm water management improvement in the FY 2023/24 budget. The plan includes construction drainage and storm sewer improvements from the Alton Road right-of-way to McDonald Creek.

The estimated cost of the project is \$180,000, which includes \$30,000 for design and construction engineering.

Analysis

This project was approved in the 2023/24 capital budget. Funding is available for this long-planned improvement.

Recommendation

While the project needs design engineering and permit approval/application work, it is believed this project could be completed in 2023. Staff recommends approval of the resolution and agreement.

Scope of Services

The area of Alton Road south of Camp McDonald Road is within the floodplain of McDonald Creek and subject to periodic flooding. However, the roadway ditches and rear yard area of adjacent parcels are subject to persistent nuisance flooding long after storm events even when the creek has returned to its normal water level. The City of Prospect Heights intends to construct drainage and storm sewer improvement from the Alton Road right-of-way to McDonald Creek. Based on our discussions regarding this project, we propose the following services:

Mark Roscoe, Public Works: On June 24, 2023, in the morning, a sink hole was located. On Old Willow Road near Wolf. The sink hole was a crater about 7 feet deep and 8 feet across. No accidents or injuries occurred. Officers barricaded the area as it was an unsafe condition in the roadway. MWRD, IDOT and IAW (Aeries Construction) met within three hours on site, determined who owned the issue, and solved the situation. Mark complimented how all agencies worked well together.

A sewer manhole had eroded away and turned the earth around it to flow into the sewer pipe. The sewer pipe has water or sewage flowing through it under the earth. MWRD will replace the manhole.

Next Meetings: The next City Council Regular Meetings are scheduled for July 10 and July 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Chambers.

Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of June 27, 2023

From: Christina Ferraro, Executive Director, June 2023 Board Report

TULLY PARK (City IGA) – The park district is working with the City to make the park accessible for all with parking and signage at the 214 S Wheeling Rd. property. The City is conducting an asbestos check to obtain a demolition permit. The City Council approved the demolition/restoration bid award June 12th, with action likely within the next sixty days.

BIKE PATH - Bike path signage was updated to include “The police are authorized to enforce rules on this property; call 847-398-5511 to report violations; find prospect heights park district ordinances, violations and fines at www.phparks.org; call 911 to report emergencies”.

From: Dino Squires, Superintendent of Facilities and Parks, June 2023 Board Report:

NRC

Met with NRC reps and a Tully neighbor at Tully Park to discuss the area between the park and 214 S. Wheeling property. We discussed clearing out approximately half the distance between the two utility poles on the back of the lot. This will connect the two properties and give the public access to Tully Park in addition to the equipment staff required to mow. To not disturb the section that NRC planted a few years ago, flags will be placed around the perimeter of the prairie plants behind the Wheeling Road property.

12. New Business

- A. Approval Ordinance 06.27.2023A SD23 IGA for property usage
- B. Approval Ordinance 06.27.2023B ComEd recreational lease
- C. Approval of Resolution 06.27.2023 pledging to join Cook County to Unite Against Hate
- D. Discussion of donation of real and personal property

Prospect Heights Park District
ORDINANCE NO. 06.27.2023B

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LEASE WITH
COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY FOR COUNTRY GARDENS PARK, BIKE
PATH AND NATIVE PRAIRIE

WHEREAS, the Prospect Heights Park District ("Park District") is an Illinois Park District organized and operating under the Illinois Park Code; and

WHEREAS, the District seeks to renew its Recreational Lease from Commonwealth Edison Company ("ComEd") for land at what is commonly known as Country Gardens Park, the bike path, and the native prairie; and

WHEREAS, both the District and ComEd have negotiated a Recreational Lease for Country Gardens Park, the bike path, and the native prairie, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, which includes a term through May 31, 2038 and a rental payment of \$1; and

WHEREAS, the Recreational Lease also authorizes the District to maintain a ten foot wide recreational path for pedestrians and bicyclists (starting at Schoenbeck Rd. and ending across street south of the Prospect Heights train station) and to restore natural prairie habitat; and

WHEREAS, under the Park Code, 70 ILCS 1205/10-4, the District has the authority to lease land for park and playground purposes for any period not exceeding 99 years; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners finds that executing the Recreational Lease with ComEd, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, is in the best interests of the District and the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Prospect Heights Park District as follows:

Section 1. The preambles as set forth above are incorporated herein and made a part hereof.

Section 2. The Board approves the Recreational Lease in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A and authorizes and directs the President and the Secretary to execute and attest to said Recreational Lease.

Section 3. The Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to take such action as may be necessary to carry out the terms of said Recreational Lease, including as necessary, the use of corporation legal counsel.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall take full effect immediately upon its passage. All previous ordinances, resolutions, motions, and orders of the Prospect Heights Park District Board of Park Commissioners in conflict herewith be, and the same are, hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

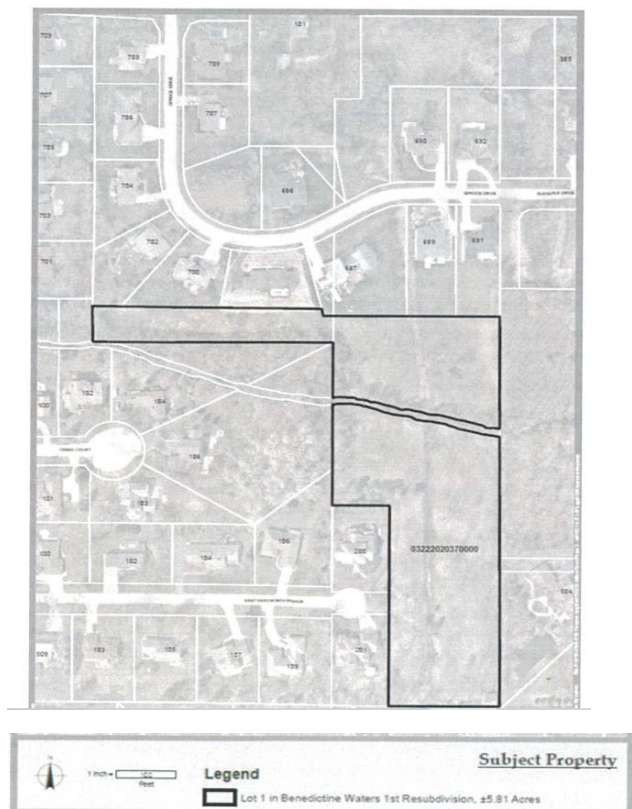
Section 5. If any portion of this Ordinance shall be determined to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of Illinois, the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall remain full force and affect.

PASSED this 27th day of June 2023

June 27, 2023

To: Park Board of Commissioners
From: Christina Ferraro, Executive Director
Re: donation of real and personal property

A resident has requested the Park Board approve a gifting agreement without restrictions between him and the Park District for a donation of a portion of land he currently owns for public use. This parcel is southwest of Walnut Woods. It is just west of the creek, open grass area and without easement to access property. If approved, the property would be subdivided PIN 03-22-202-037.



Christina Ferraro, Executive Director, E:mail Message of June 29, 2023:

PHPD Dino Squiers Retirement Ahead and Mark Grassi coming onboard.

After more than 20 years with the park district, Dino is retiring at the end of July. While I know Dino will miss the friendship of staff and patrons, I know he is looking forward to spending time with friends and family, traveling and more. Dino has always been quick witted and has hilarious one-liners at the appropriate moment! He has been an integral part of the team, maintaining and managing parks and facilities and offering support to other staff and programs. He will be missed. Always a true professional, Dino has allowed us time to locate and train a suitable replacement. We received about 24 applications for the Superintendent of Parks & Facilities position and went through a round of phone screenings and interviews with the top 5 candidates.

At this time, Mark Grassi has been named Superintendent of Parks & Facilities to succeed Dino. This position will also serve as the safety coordinator. He has been in the field for over a dozen years and currently lives in Crystal Lake with his family. He grew up in Prospect Heights and attended St. Al's and St. Viator schools. He spent his entire childhood at PHPD facilities, parks and programs. While he will have some BIG shoes to fill, I believe Mark will be a nice addition to the team. As scheduled, Dino Squiers will retire at the end of July and Mark's first day is July 17th so this overlap will offer Mark and Dino some positive transition time. Help me welcome Mark to the team in a few weeks.

Thank you!

More about Mark:

- Most recently he has served as the Environmental Education Manager with the Bartlett Park District. Previously he was the Frontier Park Supervisor at the Arlington Heights Park District after working in their Parks Department as a Grounds man and crew leader. He also worked for the Nunda Township Road District. He has a degree in Environmental Sciences and Studies from DePaul University.
- He has working experience with parks & maintenance departments, facility management & inspections, ecological restoration, recreation programming, special event management, outdoor swimming pools, routine maintenance, snow operations, street maintenance projects, storm water mitigation, culvert installation, arboriculture, fleet and equipment maintenance, etc. His experience ranges from working with parks, grounds and trades staff to training and onboarding seasonal, part-time and full-time maintenance staff. He has conducted inspections and corrective actions for playgrounds, fields, and parks. He has assisted with large playground and facility construction projects. He has been involved with turf/horticulture and tree care and was certified as a Prescription Burn Applicator.
- He has worked work directly with NWSRA, IDNR and PDRMA. He completed the Playground Maintenance Technician program and, also, has experience with safety initiatives such as educating and training staff, supervising driving safety training, reviewing EAPs, leading CPR/AED training, conducting incident/accident reporting, and participating in the Loss Control Review process.
- He will earn his Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO) or Certified Pool Operator (CPO), his Turf & Pest Control applicator's license and Playground Safety Inspector certificate within a year.
- He served as an original founding member and lead event organizer for Envirogroup, the Arlington Heights Park District's first community-driven service group committed to conservation/environmental volunteerism.

Christina Ferraro
Executive Director

110 West Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, Illinois 60070

Direct line: 847.666.4861

www.phparks.org

Next Meeting: The Prospect Heights Park District Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gary Morava Recreation Center in Prospect Hts., IL.

NEW BUSINESS

Prospect Heights Park District Summer Camp – August 2023

Laura Fudala, Recreation Supervisor for the Park District, advised Dana that the Native Camp can be held between August 7 and 11, 2023. Minimum of 50 kids. After discussion with Commissioners and their availability, the date of August 9, 2023 (Wednesday) was selected. Set-up will be at 8:00 am, and Native Camp will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.

Seth and John are unavailable. Agnes, Dana, Ed, and Jill will be present. Managing of the Skins and Skulls activity must be determined.

PHNRC Website

Dana will prepare and post information on our Fall Nature Speaks Program speaker, Dr. Gerould Wilhelm very soon and, also, create a special page for Independence Day Parades.

Seth showed the information he receives when advancing to our website from his technology device. His search is immediately directed to our Nature Speaks Program section of our website. A Commissioners page is available on our website. Dana suggested that Seth's cache should be cleared. However, Dana must investigate the Google website source.

Eagle Scout Projects

Dana reported that we have been besieged with requests for Eagle Scout Projects. We truly do not wish to decline but also do not want to provide Bench Making Projects. Instead we have spoken with Joe Wade and Christina Ferraro on the idea of naturalizing public lands around Prospect Heights' facilities or the park district. A meeting has been arranged with Joe Wade and Christine Ferraro to further discuss this idea and potential sites.

This objective would involve small conversion projects that involve leadership skills, the Eagle Scout doing the mainstay of the work with PHNRC assistance, such as infrastructure and herbiciding, The Eagle Scout would do the bulk of the work to put their name on it.

A biproduct utility of this idea for Eagle Scout Projects is the identity of Prospect Heights as our community becomes more naturalized and green corridors are increased.

John suggested starting a plastics campaign. Many of our Stores and vendors use a lot of plastic. Simply touring our natural areas you invariably pick up a whole bag of plastic. John suggested initiating a campaign where reusable bags are provided. Advertise or propaganda to discourage use of plastic bags and encourage store owners to switch to paper instead of plastic. We would back the Scouts in this endeavor as much as we can.

Ed inquired if we must involve the city. John said some communities have ordinances where they charge for plastic bag usage. This is a practice on the West Coast and not so much in the Midwest.

Peter Falcone advised that any communication from the PHNRC with Prospect Heights businesses must be approved. Local businesses would assume that what we are presenting is a top directive from the city; therefore, the message could be misconstrued.

Peter Falcone further advised us to see what other communities are doing, what are best practices, etc., and then address it with the City Council. John will conduct the investigative work on a plastics campaign.

New Initiatives

The Rotary Club of Arlington Heights

The Rotary Club of Arlington Heights requested the PHNRC to provide a talk on our organization on August 3, 2023 at 12 Noon at Palm Court. Dr. Joseph Musolino, Club Executive, and Karen Baker, Community Service Chair are The Rotary Club contacts.

Dr. Joseph Musolino is very interested in the PHNRC and what we do. He is trying to create a new satellite group focusing on natural issues. The Rotary Club International added protecting the environment as its seventh core cause and are looking for community partners to offer service opportunities to their members. They are particularly interested in partnering with us for workdays for the people in his group to get them started.

Ed volunteered to provide the presentation.

Hebron Presbyterian Church

Pastor John expressed great admiration for what we do, especially the parade, and asked if we could work with members of his congregation to help them become more integrated with their community of Prospect Heights and, at the same time, get members involved in nature and doing natural things. Dana mentioned that we could provide site tours, educational talks, and special workdays. They cannot participate on Sundays, ever.

Dana suggested naturalizing the land around their church. We could start a work group with the people of their church. It would be natural land management education for them and increase green space in Prospect Heights.

Dana is waiting to hear back from Pastor John,

Nature's Finest Workday

Joel Steffens wood chipped the areas north and south of the board walk today, July 13. Joel did an incredible job! He is a working machine. Joel is part of the retiree group that works on Friday mornings. Where there is a need, Joel fills it.

PHNRC Board Meetings in the Summer

Dana suggested the possibility of the NRC not meeting in June and July. Much work befalls Agnes and Dana, especially during the spring and summer months. Commissioners agreed to cancel the August 2023 meeting and to skip meeting during the months of June and August in the future.

Peter Falcone advised that we could meet as often as we wish. Further, it is not necessary to meet to discuss how to spend our budget. A special meeting could also be organized. Peter could reach out to all Commissioners via e:mail if he required an approval on a budget spend. You could still meet other months to make decisions.

Prairie Week – September 17-23, 2023

Prairie Week is designated as September 17 – 23 this year. Our second Fall Bird Walk is scheduled on Saturday, September 23, 2023.

Dana mentioned that Prairie Week activities and events scheduled in previous years were either not well attended or held with no participation at all. Therefore, we previously discussed cutting back on scheduling Prairie Week this year and simply acknowledge it. Agnes said that any special happenings that week can be communicated via e:mail message.

Announcements to the Public

John sent Commissioners a photo of a natural, environmentally friendly laundry detergent called Earth Breeze. The detergent is contained on a sheet with 60 sheets to a packet. The product is biodegradable. Following is a link to the product website: [Eco-Friendly Laundry Detergent Sheets - 60-Pack | Earth Breeze](#)

Visitors' Comments

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission previously scheduled on August 10, 2023 has been cancelled. Our next scheduled meeting will be held on September 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Central Time in City Hall Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the meeting. Therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary