

CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
January 11, 2024

Present:       Pete Hahn                               Dana Sievertson  
                  Ed Madden                        Agnes Wojnarski  
                  Jill E. Moskal

Absent:       John Kamysz and Seth Marcus

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 John Kamysz and Seth Marcus were present. However, a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 9, 2023

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

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteer Workdays

Our volunteer workday of November 12, 2023 was comprised of the PHNRC Annual Seed Processing Event, which was held at PHNRC Headquarters at 9 East Marion, Prospect Heights. The workday included seed processing, a potluck lunch, and Volunteer Appreciation Day.

Our volunteer workday of November 26, 2023 was conducted at the Slough near 7 Hillside to remove invasive buckthorn resprouts and assorted invasives.

Our volunteer workday of December 10, 2023 was held at the Gary Morava Nature Preserve for essential winter work of removing invasives and snags and regular maintenance of the area.

Our volunteer workday of December 24, 2023 fell on Christmas Eve. Therefore, we rescheduled the workday to Sunday, December 31, 2023. Our December 31 workday was held at the Slough near 7 Hillside to remove invasives and snags and regular maintenance of the area.

Our volunteer workdays continue to be heavily attended. Also, we have been fortunate with good weather to complete our work.

Dana said volunteer hours have been off the charts! For the year 2023, 3,374.25 volunteer hours have been recorded. The first workday this year (2024) kicked-off 40 volunteers. Everyone wants to participate.

PHNRC Annual Seed Processing Event and Volunteer Appreciation Day – November 12, 2023

Every November we hold our Annual Seed Processing/Volunteer Appreciation Day/Potluck Luncheon and award the prestigious Golden Loppers to the Volunteer of the Year. Over 40 volunteers participated, and an array and variety of entrees and desserts were available for the potluck luncheon plus the special treat of fresh, manually-processed apple cider courtesy of Michael Kormanik.

The workday started with the Bald Eagle hovering over the group of volunteers doing concentric circles in the bright, brilliant blue sky, a mere 100 feet above the cheering group of volunteers.

After lunch, Commissioner Dana Sievertson expressed sincere appreciation to all volunteers and highlighted special efforts over the course of the year to several individuals.

During the past 10 years, our volunteers have transformed a “trash wetland” into a beacon of hope and refuge for native plants and animals (The Slough). A five-acre plot of mowed turf grass has been transformed into a thriving and vibrant prairie, teaming with millions of pollinators and rich biodiversity (ComEd Seeded Prairie). A two-acre, beer-can, mattress-laden buckthorn forest has been transformed into a vibrant, interactive nature site of magic and intrigue (Gary Morava Nature Preserve). Land-locked Tully Park is now a meditative natural area through the guidance of the Tully Park Stewards. Hillcrest Lake has been resurrected from a desolate combination of mowed turf grass and eroding shoreline into a study of how to restore troubled shorelines naturally. A Greenhouse Program has been created and is unparalleled by anyone to guarantee us an endless supply of native stock to support our efforts.

Next, Dana acknowledged our most elementary of volunteers: Kaitlyn Nobuhata, Zeke Chatroop, and Kali Chatroop for their significant contributions to the PHNRC in 2023. Kaitlyn exceeded efforts in transplanting and seed processing. Zeke is the Guardian of the Slough. Kali is an up-and-coming member of the youth corps. We anticipate seeing these youngest of our volunteers as summer interns in the future.

Heartfelt appreciation was expressed, and a Certificate of Recognition was presented to “Chainsaw” Louis. Louis is a fearless chainsaw wizard beyond compare! Louis has been an integral part of the PHNRC and a very dear friend since 2016. Louis was the most important player in the resurrection of the Slough and the removal of the wall of buckthorn that previously encased the Slough. Louis has rescued us from numerous widow maker situations along pathways and has been a behind-the-scenes mechanic deure for the ages. What would we do without Louis’ support and generosity.

Choosing our Volunteer of the Year is always a challenge because all our volunteers are very kind, dedicated, and concerned for the environment. Dana expressed that the measure of a person’s life is what they do when no one is watching. That internal drive to do the right things because one knows intrinsically what is the right thing to do. Our Volunteer of the Year for 2023 is no exception. He has logged more hours of service than imaginable and tended areas where he saw the need and not the ask. He has a deeply seeded drive to get up in the morning and make a difference. He has

adopted the NRC Mission as a way of life. The PHNRC Volunteer of the Year Award for 2023 was presented to Spence Watson.

Dana presented one more award stating opposition to the saying, “that behind every good man there is a good woman.” Instead, he said “When two people have become partners, their collective experience feeds off one another, and they support each other’s collective existence.” Therefore, the PHNRC felt the need to recognize Mary Watson for her superhuman efforts in her new-found love of nature, the PHNRC, and volunteerism. Our new Greenhouse stands as a testimony to Mary’s drive. Thank you, Mary!

Dana concluded by stating that everyone present is a volunteer. No person is paid in dollars and cents but by the fruits of their labor. Our volunteers have transformed the landscape, the birds, the insects, the ever-increasing biodiversity, and the newly emergent species that are restored from the seedbank.

Thank you! We love all of you!

#### Prospect Heights Public Library/Park District Events

##### Nature Speaks Program

Terri Campbell, Adult Programs Coordinator at the Prospect Heights Public Library has retired. Olivia Mullenax is the new manager for the Library’s Adult Programs.

Kathleen Marie Garness is scheduled to present the winter Nature Speaks Program at the Library and via Zoom on February 22, 2024 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Kathleen will present “Inspiring Young Artists Through Nature and Conservation.”

Also, Kathleen will be the featured artist of In the Gallery for the month of February 2024 with her showing of “The Allure of Orchids.” Orchids are one of the two largest plant families in the world and by far the most morphologically diverse. Kathleen has stated that orchids are found inside the Article Circle, all the way to southern Tasmania, and on every continent except Antarctica, in every habitat, even deserts!

The Allure of Orchids Exhibit will feature a selection of paintings and drawings of Orchids native to Northeastern Illinois.

Kathleen Marie Garness is a scientific illustrator and renown Botanical artist with a focus on regional floristics, especially Orchidaceae. Kathleen’s work has been exhibited at Kew Gardens, London and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, among other venues. Kathleen loves sharing her passion for plants with all ages. Recent collaborators include The Field Museum, Indiana Academy of Science, and Conservation Research Institute.

Dana reported that Laura Rericha, co-author with Dr. Gerould Wilhelm of the book entitled Flora of the Chicago Region, a Floristic and Ecological Synthesis, was interested in being a presenter for the Nature Speaks Program. Unfortunately, Laura is unavailable during Earth Week, April 21-27, 2024.

### Projects – Update/Status

#### Heron Pond

Agnes stated that our volunteer workday of February 5, 2024 was conducted at Heron Pond to clear brush.

#### Hillcrest Lake / Shoreline Restoration Project

John Kamysz will be defining that area for restoration in 2024. Agnes said plants are ready for installation; therefore, we should schedule the Shoreline Restoration Project earlier this year, such as June instead of July or August. This topic will be discussed at the February meeting.

#### Pollinator Park

Agnes spread seed at Pollinator Park on January 10, 2024.

#### Saint Alphonsus

Agnes will be spreading seed on the prairie at Saint Alphonsus this evening, January 11, 2024, ahead of the predicted snowfall on Friday, January 12, 2024.

#### Slough, The

Agnes plans to spread seed at the Slough on Friday morning, January 12, 2024 while it is snowing perhaps!

#### Seed/Greenhouse Program

Agnes states that all the seeds have been potted and are almost outside to germinate over the winter. Putting seeds in, again, end of February/First week of March.

Dana expressed appreciation, again, to volunteers, Mary and Spencer Watson, joining Commissioners Monty Monterroso, Seth Marcus and Dana Sievertson to erect the standing Greenhouse. It was nothing short of a marathon of human endurance for five days in October 2023 to assemble the new standing Greenhouse. A lack of plan clarity, typos, miss-marked parts, and hidden parts within a bundle contributed to several challenges with the process. Thank goodness for Mary bringing clarity and organization to streamlining the process.

### Education Updates

#### Wheeling High School: Classes and Visit

Agnes said that Wheeling High School Environmental Science Class (STEM) sponsor and teacher, Mediha Abat, has requested the PHNRC to plan a visit and an in-class 35-minute presentation. Dana wondered if John and Seth would be available. If not, Dana and Agnes will manage this educational request.

Also, Wheeling High School Environmental Science Class (STEM) would like to schedule visits to the Slough this spring. The visit includes a discussion on ecological sciences.

#### MacArthur Middle School

The PHNRC held our event with MacArthur Middle School in December 2023 to deliver seed for the school sixth grade Science Club's wet and dry prairies. PHNRC volunteers – Kate Tully, Andrew (Andy) Fagiolo, Eva Hyndman - assisted Commissioners Seth Marcus, Monty Monterroso and Agnes Wojnarksi with the Event. The seed provided was the product of the students own seed collection and seed processing for the two groups of 80 each in the summer of 2023.

The students received a talk on native plants and the species they would be sowing that day along with instructions. The students created their own two types of seed mix in the classroom before heading out to seed their dry and wet prairies.

Dana commented that Stephanie Ritter is a marvelous Science teacher. Note to Records: *The Daily Herald* published an article on Stephanie Ritter on February 12, 2018 when Stephanie was celebrating her 13<sup>th</sup> year at MacArthur Middle School. Stephanie teaches science, language arts and social studies to sixth graders.

Stephanie spent seven years in advertising after earning an undergraduate degree in advertising and business. Stephanie returned to school and earned a Master of Arts in Teaching Degree from National Louis University before starting her teaching career at MacArthur. Stephanie is also a member of the National Science Teachers Association.

Stephanie remarked that she decided to enter education as a second career because she enjoyed volunteering as a literacy tutor for adults and as a guest volunteer at a local middle school through her employer. Stephanie's most unusual experience was as a birthday party performer through Mad Science of Northern Illinois. Ever since childhood, Stephanie has enjoyed being outdoors and working with plants and animals.

Stephanie said her sixth-grade science colleague and her always incorporate at least one hands-on lab into each chapter taught in addition to several other hands-on activities to build curiosity prior to the lab. Stephanie is appreciative of the science laboratory available at MacArthur just for sixth grade use and has chosen a curriculum called Stemsco that emphasizes inquiry-based learning as it follows the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards).

Stephanie commented that sixth graders like any lab or activity where they can take something home, such as a fossil model or a grow-bug. Once they completed a lab where various snack food was burned to calculate which had more calories. Stephanie also encourages students to take advantage of any science opportunities in the community, such as the telescope viewing at the Public Library or Harper College Astronomy Day.

#### District 214 Micro-Internships

Kathy Wicks, Partnership Manager and Apprenticeship Supervisor for Township High School District 214. In this role, Kathy strategically cultivates, develops, engages, and stewards local area business partners.

Kathy contacted the NRC and stated that three or four students are interested in the micro-internships this year during the spring and fall seasons. Kathy inquired if three or more students were possible for a summer micro-internship. Unfortunately, Agnes declined stating that the summer season is limited to the NRC summer internship to ensure effective management.

#### Prescribed Burns

The balance of sites requiring a prescribed burn have been postponed until Spring 2024. During our March meeting, we will determine sites for a prescribed burn in April.

In the fall 2023, we attempted to burn the Slough and other sites to no avail due to weather conditions, such as humidity, during the season. We are also experiencing challenges in getting our brush piles to burn during volunteer workdays.

#### NEW INITIATIVES

##### Eagle Scout Project

Dana will begin the planning process for the Eagle Scout Project by meeting with Chief William Caponigro and Public Works Director, Mark Rosco. Dana will have information to present at the PHNRC February 2024 meeting.

##### Adopt-A-Trail Update

Dana reported the current Adopt-A-Trail Program is as follows:

|                                                          |                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Gary Morava Nature Preserve –<br>Lower Section           | Dana Sievertson                                     |
| The Slough from the South Boardwalk<br>to the River Oats | Commissioner John Kamysz                            |
| The Slough -South Boardwalk<br>Tully Park                | Mary and Spencer Watson<br>Commissioner Jill Moskal |

Also, it should be noted that when Pete Hahn visits the Nature Preserve, as part of our Monitoring Program, he conducts maintenance. Jill also offered to assist in keeping the paths maintained at the Nature Preserve.

Dana plans to publish an article on the Adopt-A-Trail Program in the next Journal issue.

## CONTINUOUS REPORTING

### NRC 2022-2023 Budget

Peter Falcone provided Commissioners with a copy of the current City of Prospect Heights FY2023-24 NRC Budget:

|                                |    |                  |
|--------------------------------|----|------------------|
| <u>Budgeted Funding:</u>       |    |                  |
| City of Prospect Heights       | \$ | 13,544.00        |
| Prospect Heights Park District | \$ | 7,500.00         |
| Donation Funding               | \$ | <u>500.00</u>    |
| TOTAL:                         | \$ | <u>21,544.00</u> |

However, recent Christmas donations must be posted, and they are: Hyndman Foundation Annual Giving - \$1,500 and Artist Kate Tully and Andrew Fagiolo - \$500. Peter will post the information and resend the current budget to Commissioners.

Current Net Revenue (Expenses) is \$104.40.

Agnes said the \$2,000 in donations will be utilized to purchase much-needed supplies, such as loppers and work gloves, and aquatic plants for the Shoreline Restoration Project.

John Kamysz was not present to provide the Treasurer's Report.

### NRC 2024-2025 Budget

Peter Falcone advised the PHNRC to have our budget for the new fiscal year submitted by the end of February 2024. Budgets will be voted upon at a February City Council Meeting. Finance created and produced the Budget calendar, but Peter did not have it readily available. However, Peter preferred us to be ready sooner rather than later, and he will schedule a February City Council Meeting date for the NRC to present their budget.

Dana requested Commissioners to be ready to discuss our thoughts and objectives for the NRC 2024-2025 Budget at our meeting of February 8, 2024.

### Prospect Heights Park District Budget

Jill reported that the Prospect Heights Park District Budget will be approved at the Board Meeting of January 23, 2024. Jill contacted Christina Ferraro, who confirmed that the Park District has allocated funding of \$7,500 and for the August Summer Camp to the NRC. The PHNRC is very appreciative of the Park District's continued support.

### City Civic Meetings and PHNRC Representation

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

### **CIVIC AND COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 13, 2023**

#### **City Council Regular Meeting – November 13, 2023**

##### **8. OLD BUSINESS**

- A.** Presentation by ML Development, of Development Plan for 506-508 Camp McDonald Road, Rezoning Property R1 to R2 and Request for Referral to Plan Commission Zoning Board  
*Action Requested: (Motion, Second, Roll Call ☒Vote)*

The document and application submitted be tabled. May consider coming forward with a different type of home that is a better fit, and that would be a single-family home development.

No action needed. Thought a presentation would be made but no new design. This is new. The mayor did not know this was going to happen. It was the client's call.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Staff Memo and Ordinance Approving the Addition of a Municipal Tree Ordinance to the Prospect Heights City Code (1<sup>st</sup> Reading) (Note: Pages 33 – 37 of the meeting materials packet.)

This is more of a clerical adjustment for us and provides guidance on what trees to plant and not plant.

#### **Staff, Elected Officials and Commission Reports**

Joe Wade, City Administrator, said the PHNRC typically approaches the City Council at this time of the year to conduct a burn of the prairies within the next two weeks. Agnes Wojnarski, PHNRC Chairperson, is a burn certified manager. The NRC has done this for several years.

A prerequisite for conducting a prescribed burn is completing and submitting a burn permit application with the Illinois EPA. This year, the NRC's request to conduct a prescribed burn was late because receipt of the burn permit approval was late. The PHNRC have conducted prescribed burns for several years and without incident, and they are quite good at it. Conducting the prescribed burns is dependent on temperature, humidity, and wind direction.

The City Council was fine with the PHNRC proceeding to conduct prescribed burns this season.

#### **City Council Regular Meeting – November 27, 2023**

**Consent Agenda:** Approval of the 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Calendar was tabled, per a move by Alderman Morgan-Adams. The motion to approve the 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Calendar has been moved to the December 11, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting.

#### **Staff, Elected Officials and Commission Reports**

Assistant Finance Director Tannehill provided an October Financial Report, which takes the City halfway through the fiscal year with revenues at 41% and expenditures at 29%. Fifty-percent (50%) of the fiscal year has passed. Everything is in line.

Dan Peterson, Director of Building and Development, said that the Public Zoning Board of Appeals (PZBA) has changed the night of their monthly meetings to the fourth Wednesday of every month.

The first meeting of 2024 will be held on January 4, 2024 and will be an information-gathering meeting only. A follow-up meeting to the Jan 4 meeting will be held on January 24, 2024 at 7:00 pm in City Hall Chambers regarding chickens. The follow-up meeting will be a public meeting and not a public hearing because chickens are not in the zoning code. Currently, chickens fall under animal control, and issues with chickens should be reported to the Police Department.

Joanna Prisiajnikouk, City Clerk, referenced a story of a senior citizen experiencing service fraud. Dan Peterson said the Building and Development Department has lists of registered contractors in all disciplines available to residents. Also, the Senior Services Department of Wheeling Township has a resource of senior-friendly contractors.

Mark Roscoe, Director of Public Works, reminded residents that when using a snow blower to clear their driveways or walkways of snow, please do not blow snow into the roadway. This action causes a hazard.

#### City Council Regular Meeting – December 11, 2023

*I was unable to attend the City Council Regular Meeting of December 11, 2023. Therefore, I reviewed the meeting Agenda and listened to the meeting recording for information to report.*

#### Consent Agenda

- C. R-23-32** Staff Memo and Resolution Approving Local Funding Commitment for Motor Fuel Tax Rebuild Illinois Funded Willow/Owen Flood Control Project

**Subject:** R-23-32 Surface Transportation Program Funded Willow Road/Owen Court Flood Control Project

#### **Background:**

The City has been selected for Surface Transportation Funding through the Northwest Council of Mayors, for the Willow/Owen Flood Control Project in the amount of \$665,000 for construction and construction engineering costs. To qualify for this funding, the City is required to pass a funding commitment resolution.

Resolution passed at the December 11, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting.

#### Old Business:

The 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Calendar was outlined. City Council Regular Meetings occur every second Monday of the month and every fourth Monday of the month unless otherwise specified. The location is City Hall, 8 North Elmhurst Road, Prospect Heights, Illinois at 6:30 p.m.

Joe Wade said that the proposed schedule did not consider Passover on April 22, 2024 and Memorial Day on May 27, 2024. Therefore, these dates may be moved to a Wednesday, such as April 24, 2024 and May 29, 2024. Joe Wade will advise in the future.

|                   |                           |                      |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| January 8, 2024   | April 8, 2024             | July 8, 2024         | October 14, 2024    |
| January 22, 2024  | April 22, 2024 (Passover) | July 22, 2024        | October 28, 2024    |
| February 12, 2024 | May 13, 2024              | August 12, 2024 – No | November 11, 2024   |
| February 26, 2024 | May 27, 2024 (Memorial    | meeting.             | December 9, 2024    |
| March 11, 2024    | Day)                      | August 26, 2024      | December 23, 2024 – |
| March 25, 2024    | June 10, 2024             | September 9, 2024    | No meeting.         |
|                   | June 24, 2024             | September 23, 2024   |                     |

Dan Peterson, Director of Building and Development, reminded residents that the PZBA will conduct a public meeting regarding chickens on January 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Public comments on this issue will be utilized to draft an ordinance.

### Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of November 14, 2023

#### Christina Ferraro, Executive Director

Christina reported that the PHNRC applied for a state EPA burn permit, and approval was delayed for clerical reasons. Therefore, this item will be presented at the December 12, 2023 Park District Board Meeting.

Christina reported that the City has completed the demolition of the property next to Tully Park, and the process to transfer the property from the city to the district will begin next month.

2024 Budget Preparation: Budget meetings are turning to the presentation phase. Payroll and benefits will be added to budgets after open enrollment to complete the proposed budget process.

The Finance Committee budget review meeting is proposed for 12/04/2023, with the Board budget presentation scheduled for 12/12/2023.

Mark Grassi, Superintendent of Parks & Facilities reported another monument sign was installed at Jaycee Park and two monument signs will be installed at Country Gardens.

Next Meeting of the Prospect Heights Park District Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, December 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Old Orchard Country Club.

**Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of December 12, 2023**

*I was unable to attend the Prospect Heights Park District Board Meeting of December 12, 2023 but reviewed the meeting Agenda and meeting materials packet. Noted below are items of interest.*

**FINANCE COMMITTEE AND 2024 BUDGET**

Staff have been busy finalizing budgets. The Finance Committee met on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to review projections that include beginning balances, activity, and ending balances for 2024. There was brief discussion regarding researching potential investment opportunities such as certificate of deposits and money market accounts for FY2024.

**Update:** I checked directly with Christina Ferraro, Executive Director, and she informed me that the Budget is under review and will be approved at the January 23, 2024 PHPD Board Meeting. The Budget includes a \$7,500 contribution to the PHNRC, which is listed under the Corporate Fund 100 and a PHNRC contribution for Summer Camp 2024, which is in the Recreation Fund 200 Department 14, Summer Camp.

**BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEMS 2024**

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 2024   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolution Determining Confidentiality Closed Session Minutes</li> <li>• Public Hearing Budget &amp; Appropriation Ordinance</li> <li>• Approval Ordinance Combine Budget &amp; Appropriation FY2024</li> <li>• Approval Ordinance Abating Tax Levied for year 2023</li> </ul> |
| February 2024  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| March 2024     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidated Election March 19, 2024</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| April 2024     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tentative workshop regarding future planning</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| May 2024       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appoint advisory positions to the Board June 2024-May 2025</li> <li>• Acceptance of the FY2023 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                |
| June 2024      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election of Park Board Officers</li> <li>• Local government efficiency committee report due June 10, 2024 to Cook County</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                            |
| July 2024      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolution Determining Confidentiality Closed Session Minutes</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| August 2024    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval Resolution NWSRA 2025 Assessment</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| September 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• annual harassment prevention training</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| October 2024   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolution Approval of IAPD credentials</li> <li>• Approve Ordinance issue bond</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| November 2024  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve Prescribed Burn 2024-2025</li> <li>• Approve Resolution Truth in Taxation for Levy Year 2023</li> <li>• General Election November 5, 2024</li> </ul>                                                                                                                   |
| December 2024  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FY2024 Budget presentation</li> <li>• Approve Annual Tax Levy Ordinance</li> <li>• Schedule of 2025 meetings</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                        |

### **PROSPECT HEIGHTS LIONS CLUB**

On March 26, 1954, this club was chartered by Lions International and has provided significant support to the Prospect Heights Park District. The Park District intends on honoring them throughout 2024 – their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In 1966, the Lions Club built & staffed the original swimming pool. A year later the Park District was formed by referendum and, in 1968, the District purchased the swimming pool from the Lions Club. Later they also provided funding for the accessible front entrance at the Gary Morava Recreation Center. In addition, the Lions Club provides scholarships annually for Prospect Heights youth to attend summer camp who otherwise would not afford it.

### **PARK DISTRICT ORDINANCE CODE**

Staff have been working with legal counsel to update the current District Code. Amendments forthcoming for approval.

### **Prospect Heights Park District Board of Directors – 2024 Board Meeting Schedule:**

The 2024 regular board meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month with exceptions indicated below with a double asterisk. All the meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Gary Morava Recreation Center, 110 West Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL 60070:

**Update:** The 2024 PHPD Board Meeting Schedule was approved at the December 12 2023 Board Meeting.

|                                 |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| January 23, 2024                | July 23, 2024                      |
| February 27, 2024               | August 27, 2024                    |
| March 19, 2024** (Spring Break) | September 24, 2024                 |
| April 23, 2024                  | October 22, 2024                   |
| May 28, 2024                    | November 19, 2024** (Thanksgiving) |
| June 25, 2024                   | December 17, 2024** (Christmas)    |

### **NEW INITIATIVES**

#### **Summer Conservation /Restoration Talk from the PHNRC**

Terri Campbell, retired Adult Programs Coordinator at the Prospect Heights Public Library, initially contacted the PHNRC on October 20, 2023 during the Library’s Summer Reading Program. The theme for the Summer Reading Program of 2024 is “Read, Renew, Repeat:”

Designed for all ages, our summer reading program will feature the idea of conservation. Conservation as a movement focuses on protecting species from extinction, maintaining and restoring habitats, enhancing ecosystem services and protecting biological diversity. iREAD 2024. Read, Renew, Repeat makes for a wonderfully diversified summer reading program that encourages reading as a restorative method of self-improvement and self-preservation.

Terri thought it would be wonderful if the PHNRC could conduct a program for the library on our efforts in restoring Prospect Heights complete with before and after slides of our restoration work, relationship with the Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts, student groups, etc.

Terri felt we could either present as one of the Nature Speaks Programs or add it to one of the library's regular programs for its patrons.

Commissioners discussed providing a presentation during Earth Week on either April 23 or 24, 2024, especially since Laura Rericha is unavailable, and as part of the Nature Speaks Program instead of a summer presentation. The talk will be a one-hour presentation with 30 minutes available for questions and answers.

We will work with Olivia Mullenax, who is the new manager for the Library's Adult Programs, on this opportunity.

#### PHNRC 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – February 10, 2024

The Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission turns 10 on February 10, 2024. We are pleased to have longevity.

Conducting a celebration in conjunction with our Annual Chili Fest at John and Kristen's home was discussed. Photos chronicling the years and a celebration with our volunteers will be planned.

#### Earth Week – April 21 – 27, 2024

Earth Day is Monday, April 22, 2024.

Dick Dobson, one of our volunteers and a member of the Sierra Club, approached Dana and Agnes on conducting a workday for Sierra Club volunteers on Earth Day or a Sunday PHNRC Volunteer Workday. The anticipated number of Sierra Club volunteers would be between 100 and 150.

A great PHNRC worksite would be the Remnant Sedge Meadow, a suggestion by Seth Marcus. The task would be clearing brush. PHNRC Volunteers would be present to lead and assist Sierra Club volunteers. Dana and Agnes met with Dick Dobson and Barbara from the Sierra Club, talked about the site and discussed how the volunteer workday would be constructed.

Utilization of the Crescent Cardboard parking lot for volunteers would be ideal; therefore, Dana will contact Crescent for permission and notice plus an invitation to join us. Also, contacting ComEd, the Park District, and Wheeling Township would be appropriate.

Porta Potties must be ordered, and a luncheon provided for all volunteers. The Sierra Clubs has funds to cover these types of costs.

Additionally, the Sierra Club would appreciate a PHNRC presentation in March on native plants and requested us to provide 20 small seed packets with the species noted to allure people to attend the presentation. The presentation would include information on the native seed packets. Agnes would be pleased to provide the presentation to the Sierra Club.

Presentations – City of Prospect Heights and Prospect Heights Park District

Dana and Agnes noted that the PHNRC should provide presentations to the City and Park District Board on an update on our worksites and efforts. After discussion with Peter Falcone, the City Council just had a meeting on January 8; therefore, Dana and Agnes requested to be placed on the City Council's January 22, 2024 meeting. Dana and Agnes are in discussion with Christina Ferraro for a Park District Board Meeting date to provide a similar presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

Announcements to the Public

None.

Visitors' Comments

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission is February 8, 2024 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 7:26 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS  
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary