

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

Present: Pete Hahn Jill Moskal
 Ed Madden Dana Sievertson
 Seth Marcus Agnes Wojnarski

Absent: John Kamysz
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. The majority of Commissioners were present except John Kamysz. However, a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of March 7, 2024

The minutes of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission Special Board Meeting of March 7, 2024 were reviewed. No changes or corrections were noted. Therefore, the meeting minutes of March 7, 2024 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteer Workdays

The volunteer workday of March 17, 2024 was held at the Slough on Hillside Avenue working from Olive and Hillside side north to Marion for invasive brush roundup.

A Special Workday was scheduled on April 7, 2024 (Sunday) at Camp Pine Woods, Des Plaines, in the Cook County Forest Preserves to assist with a monster stand of buckthorn at Camp Pine Woods. The Special Workday was attended by 34 volunteers, 28 of which were from the PHNRC volunteer base. Buckthorn removal was accomplished well, and our volunteers expressed interest in participating in more of these types of outings.

Transplanting Wednesdays on April 10 had 18 people in attendance with 3,840 seedlings transplanted.

To date, volunteer work hours are 622 hours. Amazing for mid-April!

Prospect Heights Public Library/Park District Events

Nature Speaks Program

Dana confirmed PHNRC Commissioners Dana, Ed, Jill, and John as presenters for the Nature Speaks Program on April 25, 2024. The PHNRC will present the past 10 years and how our Commission has changed the face of Prospect Heights. The PHNRC presentation is in conjunction with the library's summer reading program entitled *Read, Renew, Repeat* featuring the idea of conservation. The presentation date is during Earth Week.

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* will be a wonderfully diversified summer reading program that encourages reading as a restorative method of self-improvement and self-preservation.

Dana reported that the replacement for Olivia Mullenax, Adults Programs Manager at the library is Joe Magneli (sp?). Joe has contacted Dana to gain a full understanding of the Nature Speaks Program.

Dana and Agnes have been attending a Pollinator course and, as a result, have candidates for future Nature Speaks Program speakers.

Spring Bird Walks are scheduled for Saturday, May 4 and Saturday, May 18, from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Cyndi Lubecki will assume leading all future Bird Walks.

Projects – Update/Status

ComEd Seeded Prairie

The Prospect Heights Park District is hosting an inaugural Garden Dash 2K/4K on Saturday, June 15, 2024 at Country Gardens Park with proceeds supporting the Prospect Heights Police Department Helping Hands Fund. Christina Ferraro, Executive Director, said the event proceeds from Country Gardens Park down the bike path to Elmhurst Road, and Christine asked Dana and Agnes if the run/race could traverse back through the prairie on the mow path. We are pleased to have participants (runners and walkers) run/race through the prairie utilizing the path.

Seed/Greenhouse Program

Agnes reported that the Greenhouse is almost filled with transplants with room for only a few more. The Holding Greenhouse will be assembled on Friday morning, April 12, 2024 by Nature's Finest. Permission has been received from the Planning and Zoning Board to proceed, per Dana.

Education Updates

Wheeling High School: Classes and Visit

Agnes reported we are waiting for a date to provide a 35-minute in-class presentation from the Wheeling High School Environmental Science Class (STEM) sponsor and teacher, Mediha Abat. Agnes and Seth will manage this educational request once the date is determined.

Seth reported that the area around the stately Elm Tree on the Wheeling High School property has been herbicided. The plan is to install native plant beds with benches, seating and informational signage.

The University of Illinois Extension has a project where they identify the largest tree species in Illinois. From the depths of the Shawnee National Forest to backyards in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois' biggest trees are branching out. The Illinois Big Tree Register (IBTR) has been in existence for more than 58 years, per Jay Hayek, a University of Illinois Extension forestry specialist in the department of Natural Resources and Environmental Species (NRES). The register began in 1962 as a citizen science outreach project to recognize the Prairie State's largest native trees.

An interactive digital map has been developed to discover and recognize the value of our state's largest native tree species. The map includes tree species details, GPS coordinates, measurements, and their resulting scores, as well as a list of the 10 largest trees on record to date. Illinois' top-ranked tree is a 122-foot-tall Eastern Cottonwood in Ogle County.

Illinois forests have grown older and more mature over the past century. Since 1924, forest coverage has increased by 67%, per Jay Hayek. Research has shown that large, old trees grow faster and pull more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than young trees. With more cracks, notches and hollows, large trees provide shelter for many species of birds, mammals, and other wildlife. For homeowners, large trees increase property value, reduce energy bills, and add privacy.

The large Elm Tree (*Ulmus americana*) or American elm is located at Wheeling High School, Wheeling, Illinois, County of Cook and was last measured in 2023 with a diameter at breast height of 70.6 inches, a circumference of 18.5 feet, a height of 93.3 feet, and a spread of 100.5 feet.

Mrs. Abat would like to see a grant from the Northern Cook Water Reclamation District for funding to purchase plants for the same area and requested our assistance.

District 214 Micro-Internships

The District 214 Micro-Internships for the spring season started February 13, 2024 and will conclude at the end of April. However, the Internship may proceed through May for participants to complete the program hours. The spring season has been fun and a great experience for the interns.

District 214 requested creating a videotape of the Micro-Internship Program.

Spring Prescribed Burns

Spring prescribed burns have concluded and were conducted at all work sites and residential properties except Gary Morava Nature Preserve and half of Heron Pond. The burns conducted were successful.

CONTINUED REPORTING

Eagle Scout Project

Dana did not have new information to share.

Adopt-A-Trail Update

Dana did not have new information to share.

CONTINUOUS REPORTING

NRC 2023-2024 Budget

In John's absence from the meeting, Dana provided Commissioners with a copy of the current City of Prospect Heights FY2023-24 NRC Budget. Dana reported Net Revenue is currently \$3,629.20 with a balance after expense reductions of \$104.40. The \$629.20 from Net Revenue and the balance after expense reductions of \$104.40 will be combined and used to purchase aquatic plants.

Dana is in the process of completing an Openlands Green Regions Grant application. If we receive the Grant, a total of \$20,000 would be applicable to project funding. The composition of the \$20,000 is \$3,000 from the current Net Revenue balance, a donation received of \$4,000 being held for next year; the city providing \$3,000; and the Grant providing a \$10,000 match.

City Civic Meetings and PHNRC Representation

City Council Regular Meeting – March 11, 2024

FY2024-2025 City of Prospect Heights Budget Presentation

The first of three City Council Meetings to discuss the FY 2024-2025 City of Prospect Heights Budgets was held on March 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Central Time. Dana, Agnes, and Jill were present to address any questions regarding the PHNRC budget for the coming year.

The PHNRC Budget is considered under the Administration, Finance and Legal category. No questions were raised by the City Council.

Power Point Slide – Administration, Finance and Legal:

Administration

- Staffing Levels – 4 Full Time
- Budget increased \$16,400 (\$726,000 to \$747,450)
- Health Insurance costs (+\$22,600) increased (Reason: New Deput Clerk requires family insurance coverage.)

Finance

- Budget Flat (+6,710) for audit fee, actuary, software costs for Caselle enhancements.

Legal (includes City Attorney, Housing Attorney/Labor Attorney/Outside Counsel)

- Increase (+\$44,500)
- Historical forecasting of services
- Police Sergeants and Patrol Collective Bargaining

NEW BUSINESS

C. R-24-12 Staff Memo and Resolution Authorizing Professional Services Agreement for 2024 Lake Management Services for Hillcrest Lake with Tigris Aquatic Services in the amount of \$8,550.

Action Requested: (Motion, Second, Roll Call Vote)

Hillcrest Lake was once owned by the Homeowners Association in the area. It was donated or gifted to the City of Prospect heights; therefore, the city has assumed responsibility for the maintenance of Hillcrest Lake.

Several years ago, aquatic plants appeared on Hillcrest Lake, which impacted the aesthetic view and caused consternation among area residents. The city enlisted the services of Hey and Associates, an environmental engineering firm, to evaluate the health of the Lake and long-term guidance for the management of the health of the Lake and Slough. Additionally, information from the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission (PHRNC) and Mr. Kupczyk proved invaluable in charting a Lake Management Plan. Special recognition is due to the NRC, which, through a multi-year effort and volunteer hours has implemented the Report recommendation of deep-rooted shoreline plantings to address erosion and provide a less favorable habitat for geese resulting in a reduction of goose excrement and pond eutrophication.

The city contracted with Clarke Aquatic Services for the treatment of elodea growth. Joe recommends Clarke primarily for their systematic approach to elodea containment and consideration of possible second order effects. The Company stressed sensitivity to oxygen levels and the impact on fish and other species in a shallow lake. Clarke proposed and initiated a gradual approach to treatment with an initial application of 50% of the Lake.

The Company's treatment plan reflected concerns expressed by the PHNRC, which had advised treatment of the total Lake at once could change oxygen levels and endanger fish and other species. Also, concerns were expressed that the loss of elodea could provide an opening for replacement plants, which may be invasive and problematic in controlling. This was proven to be true. In subsequent years, the city contracted for treatment of curly leaf and sago pond weeds. In some years, the Lake did not exhibit aesthetically displeasing aquatic growth; therefore, no treatment or costs were undertaken.

In 2023, Clarke Aquatic Services was sold to another company. Through the transition, treatment of the Lake was missed. A new request for proposal was made in 2024, and the city received responses from five interested vendors proposing varying treatment plans with prices ranging from \$5,535 to \$16,535. After close examination of the submitted proposal responses, Joe felt Tigris most closely represents the qualifications sought by the City of Prospect Heights. Tigris primarily proposes the application of Aquathol K herbicide to target undesirable species while avoiding impact to non-target species. This and

other components of their lake management plan closely represents the direction of the request for proposal and evaluation of the Hey Report.

Joe Wade recommended acceptance of the submittal of Tigris in the amount of \$8,550 for lake managements services. The amount of the contract is within the \$10,000 staff spending authority; however, the matter is placed on the agenda because of the high level of public interest in the city's management/contract/payment for the care of Hillcrest Lake.

STAFF, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Dan Peterson issued a warning to residents to be aware of contractor fraud. Two principals have been identified; their trucks are licensed from out of state. Any driveway repairs require a permit, and the work must be completed within the city code. Also, vendors must have a city solicitor's permit and license.

Dan cautioned that no vendor should come to you in the afternoon for major work.

Joe Wade said the permit department has a reliable brochure with reputable listings of contractors. Please contact the city before contemplating repair work to your residence and property.

Warning signs of potential fraud and tips to prevent being scammed.

1. Be wary of unsolicited offers. Door-to-door salespeople.
2. Check for local references.
3. Contact the Building Department to verify if the contractor is registered per ordinance. 847-398-6070 ext. 211.
4. Request a detailed contract identifying scope of work and itemized pricing. Do not pay in full up front.
5. Don't allow work to begin without a building permit being issued.
6. Contractors who demand cash for a job or request a check made out to a person other than the owner or company.
7. Offers from contractor to drive you to the bank to withdraw funds to pay for the work

In 2023, according to the Better Business Bureau, "paving fraud is rampant in Chicago this summer." It is still rampant and you need to be diligent.

<https://www.bbb.org/article/news-releases/22795-bbb-scam-alert-need-a-new-driveway-look-out-for-asphalt-scams>

Lisa Busby will be the new Deputy Clerk replacing Karen Schultheis, who is retiring. Lisa has municipal experience and a wealth of experience and skill set. Lisa's first day of employment is March 14, 2024.

City Council Regular Meeting – March 25, 2024

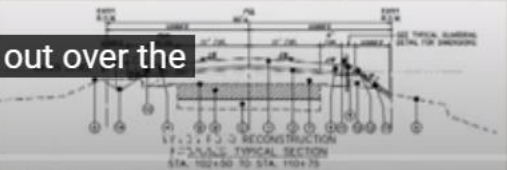
I was unable to attend the City Council March 25, 2024 meeting in person. Therefore, I listened to the meeting recording. Below are notes derived from the meeting recording.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Picture in picture

Stormwater Projects

- * Willow Road Flood Control Project
 - * IGA w/ CCDOTH & MWRD Executed
 - * Compensatory Storage at Our Redeemer Church/PH Park District Property
 - * Permit Submittals Completed to CCDOTH & IDOT – Q1 2024
- * Current Status & Next Steps
 - * Pending IDOT Approval, project to be bid summer 2024
 - * First phase construction fall 2024
 - * Completion summer 2025



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31:44 / 1:10:54

Willow Road Flood Control Project will be placed out to bid in the summer and then building it in two phases: the first phase is Fall 2024, and the second phase after consolidation is Spring/Summer 2025.

Picture in picture

Stormwater Projects

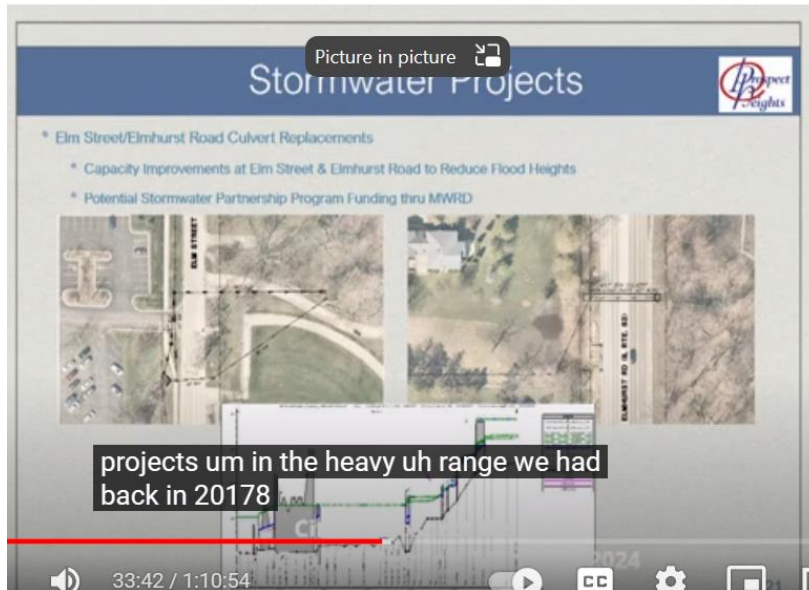
- * Hillcrest Relief Storm Sewer
 - * 5-year CIP anticipates Design Engineering in 2026
 - * Phasing and/or Grant funding needed for project to proceed



City of Prospect Heights
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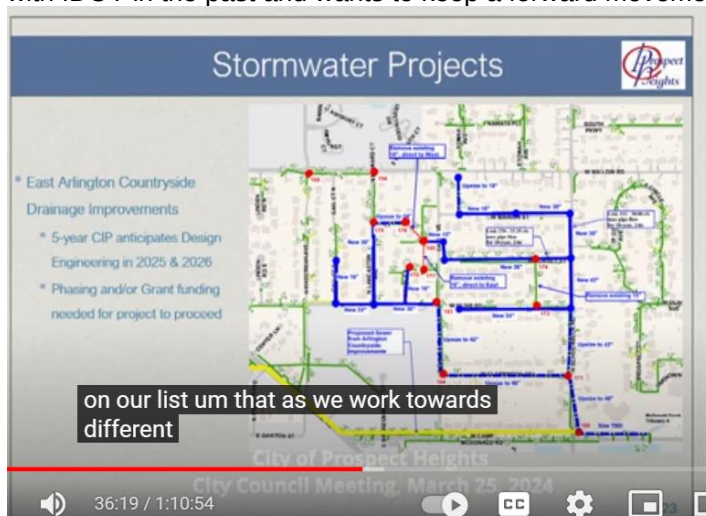
32:32 / 1:10:54

Hillcrest Road Storm Sewer Stormwater Project: Mark Roscoe reported that when Hillcrest Lake exceeds capacity, as designed by the topography and in the flood plain maps, water flows west to east through several backyards between Hillcrest and Owen. This is a design concept project that Public Works is working toward, which would provide an overflow pipe that would get the water to traverse up to Owen and the creek going to the North instead of going through residents' backyards. This approach will eliminate residents' insecurities and provide a known path for the storm water to flow. This is a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) but, also, our plan for the future.



Elm Street/Elmhurst Road Culvert Replacements: Heavy rain was experienced in our town in 2017 resulting in significant damage to the park district through flooding across Elm Street taking out a softball field, requiring repairs and maintenance. One way to resolve and to keep the street open is to place another pipe to get water at a certain level to run from west to east.

The photo to the right (shown above) is Elmhurst Road/Route 83 just before Issac Walton Woods where the same issue exists. Route 83 is a dam stopping water, and it piles up beyond a reasonable level on the west side of Route 83. Replacing a small concrete pipe with a larger box culvert would help the transfer of storm water at a certain level from one side of the road to another. Mark Roscoe has spoken with IDOT in the past and wants to keep a forward movement because things do not get done overnight.



East Arlington Countryside, also referred to as Dorset Area, Willow and Alum, is still on the Capital Improvement Project list as we explore different designs and funding sources because these areas become basins of water from heavy rainfall.

February 2024 Financial Report: Bob Tannehill reported that 10 months into the fiscal, revenues represented almost 75% of the budget, and expenses reflect about 57% of the budget. Significant revenues are in line with budget expectations.

Dan Peterson, Director of Building and Development, received notice that three more residents were approached by the paving contractor fraud group last weekend. These residents called city hall to verify if the contractors were legitimate. Dan Peterson warned residents, once again, that unsolicited offers to work on your property should be turned away. Contractors must be registered and bonded.

Public Comment:

The reporter in the audience asked on the status of the chicken ordinance.

Dan Peterson said the PZBA held a public meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Not as many residents were in attendance as at the January PZBA Meeting. Staff provided their report and findings of research that the Zoning Board requested.

Information was provided by both sides: those residents who wish to keep chickens and those who wish that roosters were banned. Lengthy discussions from both sides pursued, and both sides wish to work together for ideas and solutions.

A draft chicken ordinance will be presented in 60 days for discussion. Hard numbers have not yet been established. The draft chicken ordinances will be discussed at either the May or June monthly PZBA meeting.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled City Council Regular Meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall Chambers.

Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of March 19, 2024

March 2024 Administrative/Operational Summary – Christina Ferraro, Executive Director

The Park District is awaiting the plat of survey for Tully Park to purchase the adjacent property, 214 South Wheeling Road, Prospect Heights. Christina mentioned the upcoming Earth Day event that the Park District is partnering with the Sierra Club and the PHNRC. The Earth Day event expects about 100 volunteers to help with the nature restoration of the Remnant Sedge Meadow.

NOTE: At the conclusion of the PHPD Board Meeting, I spoke with Christina, who said that once the plat of survey is received, she plans to host a meeting with Tully Park neighbors to learn of their expectations for the land.

COOK COUNTY PAID LEAVE ORDINANCE: The Cook County board unanimously approved the amendment to the Paid Leave ordinance which delays the enactment date for Park District and School Districts until January 1, 2025. This does afford the district the opportunity to educate residents, fiscally plan for paid time off, and implement operational changes required to implement new workplace policies. Many Cook Commissioners pledged to work with park district directors as the rules of the ordinance are crafted and later adopted.

Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled Prospect Heights Park District Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gary Morava Recreation Center in Prospect Hts., IL.

Plan Zoning Board of Appeals – Meeting of March 20, 2024

I was unable to attend the PZBA March 20, 2024 meeting in person but reviewed the meeting Agenda and listened to portions of the meeting recording.

IV. Old Business

1. PZBA Case No. 24-01 PC – Public Meeting

Description: Staff report regarding keeping of chickens in the R-1 Single Family District.

Dan Peterson, Director of Building and Development, said the February PZBA Meeting was a fact-finding meeting. Tonight's meeting will present a follow-up report.

No action has been proposed. This evening's meeting is simply for residents to learn of the follow-up report and staff seeking assistance from the PZBA on next steps.

Many residents commented on the issue of keeping backyard chickens. Also, written notices from other residents that did not speak at the February meeting have been received and reviewed.

The follow-up report is comprised of additional research and comments received. The objective is to be respectful of everyone's concerns and to address all comments.

Brief History

Chickens have always been in the city of Prospect Heights. A city code ordinance governed Prospect Heights before it was a city. One sentence in that entire city code ordinance pertains to fowl.

The city of Prospect Heights was established in 1976. Nothing was added to the existing city code ordinance and the animal control ordinance. The only reference is zoning code lot coverage and accessory buildings.

Since 1977, structures have been defined as accessory buildings to control the size and location by the zoning code. Structures addressed are animal houses or kennels and chicken coops. Structures are limited in size and number in the zoning code. People did not have to get a permit for owning chickens. Building a structure did not require a permit. Not many complaints are received by the city about rooster crowing or noise complaints.

The January public hearing was an emotional and passionate night. It was a one-sided debate. Folks in opposition felt they could not express their opinions. Considering all residents' concerns is a priority.

Current concerns: (1) residents who want to keep chickens and for various reasons; (2) egg production is the number 1 reason to keep chickens; (3) roosters and noise control; (4) cleanliness (odors and upkeep) and sanitation; and (5) quality of life, especially in the summer months. NOTE: Selling of chicken eggs and birds is prohibited in our city code.

Residents do not wish to write citations against their neighbor.

Tonight is about moving forward. Dan spent a lot of time on the phone and websites to learn of best practices and standards established by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for residential chicken keeping, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the University of Illinois Extension campus, the 4H, and other agencies that manage this issue.

Dan learned that there is no standardized set of rules for backyard chicken keeping. Best practices are currently unknown. Most address farm egg production sanitation but little information is available.

Dan researched for best practices in the area in terms of other municipalities similar in size, not similar in size or make-up, and to learn more. Dan surveyed 23 municipal government agencies in the Chicagoland metro area for towns with similar populations both urban, suburban, and collar communities outside the range.

Also, Dan researched counties with Home Rule and Non-Home Rule. Non-Home Rule communities are a bit more lenient on residents keeping backyard chickens. Of the 23 municipalities in Cook County, there is only one that approves backyard chicken keeping with specific guidelines. Two municipal counties, including Lake County, have educational pieces and regulate the number of animals by lot size. For example: 20,000 square feet = maximum of eight hens; roosters prohibited. In Will County, 12,500 square feet minimum lot size = one chicken per 2,500 square feet. Lot size and prohibiting roosters and other types of fowl are factors.

All ordinances researched appear to establish limitations based on lot size, setbacks, and neighboring properties, and they approve one chicken per 1,000 square feet. That is being generous. Most other ordinances are more restrictive. For Prospect Heights, this would be approximately 20 chickens per lot. A graduated scale for larger properties would be considered. Prospect Heights has half an acre and three-quarter acre lots similar to Lake County.

Methodology for determining the number of chickens: Prospect Heights has half acre lots and is different from other towns.

Some municipalities limit the number of properties that could have backyard chickens. We will not propose this.

Registration, licensing, building permit, and zoning permits are required. The Illinois Department of Agriculture maintains that registration is required to track residents owning backyard chickens for disease control and health issues.

Application and educational materials and handouts will be produced. Lot diagrams will be drawn to ensure adherence to zoning codes.

Speaking with zoning consultants with over 50 years of experience, Dan learned that most towns prohibit roosters for noise control.

The Village of Woodridge posted their process and progress regarding backyard chicken ordinances.

Dan is confident we can solve the problem and issues of concern and get to a point where everyone is happy.

People in opposition were not necessarily opposed to backyard chickens but simply wished to ensure quality of life and maintain noise control. One individual felt that every bird should be registered just like residents' dogs are registered; however, this is unrealistic.

One respondent said there are no limitations. One respondent said there should be higher allowances for meat production of chicken. This is an avenue we have not discussed and may need more research conducted.

Supporting comments

Not opposed to registering and licensing properties that want to keep chickens.

Not opposed to backyard chickens as long as regulations are reasonable, and fines are not punitive.

Registration, compliance, and inspections may eliminate other issues that have been raised.

Most of our rules are under the health code of Cook County, one of which is residents cannot conduct slaughtering; however, we realize that those conducting slaughtering of their chickens are doing it for personal consumption.

Keeping ducks, geese and turkeys is up for debate. Most towns surveyed do not allow these types of fowl. Dan has a concern with having both wild and domestic animals in the same area.

All respondents said roosters should be allowed. One rooster per lot is reasonable. Properties with more than one rooster should be grandfathered in. If you have property that is not in compliance, how do you get it to a point of compliance? If in compliance, the owner should be allowed to try the Crow Collar on their rooster. However, if you try one method and the rooster's crowing is still considered disruptive, you are fined \$750.

SUMMARY

Responses from both sides – opposition and in favor – agreed upon registration and licensing of properties for owners who wish to have backyard chickens. The city has a methodology to determine the reasonable number of chickens allowed per lot.

All the people in opposition except for one person do not think having chickens is bad. They feel there is a place for chickens in Prospect Heights. However, they want to ensure the quality of life is in order and not disturbed.

Dan does not believe there is a problem with property owners registering their property in the R1 District. In this way, we know how many properties there are. Current estimates are between 50 and 70 properties that have backyard chickens based on field surveys and when Dan is out and about the town. Dan is aware of one stretch of town where five properties in a row have chickens, so this is a pretty large flock for one area of our community.

Coops and runs are accessory structures and shall be subject to the building zoning regulations of the city code. Any new person wanting to have chickens must get a permit first before purchasing the chickens. Those that already have chickens must be in compliance and per the allowance based on what it was supposed to have been permitted. This does not make it legal but non-conforming. Accessory structures should be brought into compliance with zoning codes. We are not here to penalize but simply to ensure compliance within one year's time.

Registrations should be renewed annually and to verify compliance with zoning and to ensure any new people are following regulations. Registration is free of charge with the Illinois Department of Agriculture for beekeepers.

CONCLUSION

Keeping chickens is an appropriate use for the property. Room to address certain components that will make it better for all parties going forward. Looking for directions from the PZBA. Next step is draft language for an ordinance.

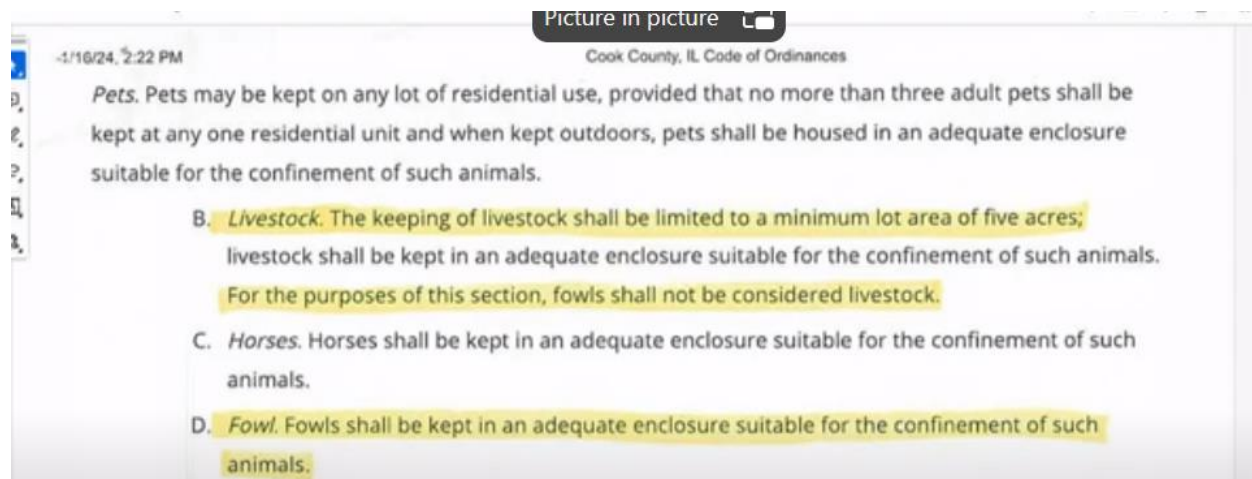
For zoning code changes a text amendment is initiated. All text amendments in the zoning code must go through a public hearing where the draft language is presented, testimonies given why it is there by the staff or whoever is proposing that language, time for questions, cross-examination and the public to have their say.

We are nowhere close to being done. An announcement will be made and placed in the e:newsletter of when the language is up for consideration. A recommendation is then made by the PZBA then a first and second reading in front of the City Council. A potential for three more opportunities for the public to have involvement in the process.

Dan sought direction and concurrence from the PZBA to start drafting changes. However, one of the things that we need and may need is more information on registrations, the number of the prohibition of roosters question, and meat producing birds and should there be allowances if a person registers their property for meat production. Research has shown that sometimes you can only buy them in 50 to 100 bird lots. Dan is unsure.

Coops are subject to the zoning code.

We are not here to take chickens away. Just securing how we can all live well together.



Prospect Heights Zoning Code

Section 5-3-4 Lot Coverage

No detached garage, nor carport attached or detached, shall exceed 720 square feet. No accessory building, other than a garage, may exceed 200 square feet. If 2 or more accessory buildings are constructed, in addition to a detached garage, the first building may not exceed 200 square feet and the other building(s) may not exceed 80 square feet, with a combined total square footage for all garages and accessory structures not to exceed 1,000 square feet.				R
"Accessory building" shall be defined as any structure, whether affixed to or resting upon the ground and detached from the primary residence, having walls (open or enclosed) with or without a roof, and specifically identified as follows: garage, carport, open side summer house, barn, summer house, accessory storage building, screened structure, dog or animal house/kennel, playhouse, clubhouse, storage shed, gazebo, fallout shelter, utility toolshed, wood storage shed, greenhouses and any other similar structure.				
The following examples of structures and features are not defined as accessory buildings and shall not be				

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting of the Plan/Zoning Board of Appeals has been changed from April 24 to April 25, 2024 (Thursday) at 7:00 p.m. due to the observance of the Passover Holiday.

Friends of the PHNRC

Joe Wade and Peter Falcone have often suggested that the PHNRC form a 501(c)3. The benefit of this program is that any donation the PHNRC receives would go straight into the 501(c)3. No questions about tax write-offs for the people who donate would occur, and there is no deadline on when the donated money must be spent by the NRC. Also, the 501(c)3 would be a separate entity from the PHNRC and would have the ability to solicit funds, organize fundraisers, etc.

The Commission seeks to learn more on establishing a 501(c)3 (Friends of the PHNRC) to act as a receiver for donations and provide the timing for use of donations for something special that will benefit the habitat and mean something to the people who have contributed to our Commission's mission. How would it be structured? Who will be on the Board? What are the responsibilities? Also, the PHNRC would appreciate establishment of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Prospect Heights Park District and the City of Prospect Heights if Friends of the PHNRC is established.

Upon inquiry, Peter Falcone does not see a conflict of interest in Commissioners of the PHNRC to be members of the Friends of the PHNRC. Peter feels the PHNRC should have a presence. However, he will investigate further for a definitive answer.

MacArthur Middle School and Tree Initiative Program

Pete Hahn provided an update on a Tree Initiative Program with MacArthur Middle School.

Pete said they are still seeking to get a group together with the school and interested parties in June or July 2024. Plans are still pending.

The proposed Tree Planting Event at MacArthur Middle School would occur in October and involve tree planting, maintenance, and sight distinction on the trees' location. The trees would be donated through Openlands TreeKeepers Chapter.

Sierra Club Volunteer Workday at the Remnant Sedge Meadow

A special workday with the Sierra Club has been scheduled for Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Remnant Sedge Meadow. Up to 200 volunteers could be present. Crescent Cardboard Company has granted permission to use their parking lot for volunteers' vehicles. Lunch will be paid for by and provided by the Sierra Club.

Anticipated speakers are Ms. Jan Schakowsky, U. S. congresswoman representing the 9th District of Illinois, will be the keynote speaker. Ms. Mary Beth Canty, a member of the Illinois House of Representatives for the 54th District, is also anticipated to be a speaker. Complete information was provided in the March *Journal* and through spot e:mail messages.

Dana stated that ground coordination is a must, and the PHNRC Commissioners and volunteers will be leaders. PHNRC volunteers should wear their NRC t-shirts. Herbiciding will be accomplished after the workday. The Sumac and Plum Trees will be marked with “green” flagging tape to identify as do not cut. Green is the “do not cut” color utilized by the Cook County Forest Preserves. Agnes mentioned that the bow saws should be identified so they are properly returned. The work and work locations will be mapped. Each volunteer would lead a group of 8 to 10 volunteers to supervise the work. A few PHNRC members will be floaters for answering questions, providing beverages, etc.

Dana and Agnes have participated in weekly, two-hour Zoom Meetings with Sierra Club members to plan, coordinate and organize the April 20 Special Volunteer Workday.

Living Green Expo (Grace Lutheran Church, Mount Prospect) – June 8, 2024

Jill reported that she has responded favorably for the PHNRC to participate in the Living Green Expo on June 8, 2024. Further information forthcoming.

Prospect Heights Community Days – June 1, 2024

The PHNRC is very interested in participating in the Prospect Heights Community Days on June 1, 2024. The coordinator is Marcia Gendras.

Independence Day Parade – July 6, 2024

Currently, the Prospect Heights Independence Day Parade is scheduled for Saturday, July 6, 2024.

Although not confirmed, we anticipate that the Arlington Heights Independence Day Parade will be on Thursday, July 4, 2024.

NEW INITIATIVES

PHNRC Summer Interns 2024

On Tuesday, April 9, 2024, the PHNRC posted a notice on the PHNRC 2024 Summer Internship Program on the NRC website and the Chicago Environmental Network. A link is provided to the page that describes the program and how to apply. Interviews will start fairly soon. Coordinate the timing because some interns may be available as early as May 16 while others are available the first week of June, depending on when college spring semesters conclude.

We have an applicant and received a text message from Ava Foster, a previous High School Mirco-Internship Program participant, expressing her interest. Ava is currently attending college.

Site Monitoring Reports

Commissioners’ provision of monitoring reports for the specific sites they are responsible for will begin in the month of May. Specific assignments are:

ComEd Seeded Prairie	Dana Sievertson
Gary Morava Nature Preserve	Pete Hahn
Heron Pond	John Kamysz
Hillcrest Lake – Pollinator Park	John Kamysz
Hillcrest Lake – Shoreline Restoration Project	John Kamysz
Remnant Prairie	Seth Marcus
Remnant Sedge Meadow	Jill Moskal
Saint Alphonsus	Ed Madden
Slough, The	Agnes Wojnarski
Tully Park	Jill Moskal

ComEd/Green Regions Grant Application

Dana has been completing the ComEd/Green Regions Grant Application and is awaiting quotations on pricing for trees and shrubs from Natural Communities. The application is due on April 12, 2024 by 5:00pm Central Time. Dana plans to file the application on Friday morning. Dana feels we are on solid ground. Response to our application will be received in early July when ComEd will make the presentation on who receives the Grant.

NEW BUSINESS

Announcements to the Public

Seth mentioned that a plastic snowman was placed by the Board Walk. Now that the spring season has arrived, retrieval of the plastic snowman would be appreciated.

Ed Madden observed a fisherman walking away from the Slough with a string of fish. "If you build it, they will come."

Visitors' Comments

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission is May 9, 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 7:31 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary