

**CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2015**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Natural Resources Commission was held in the lower level Conference Room of City Hall, 8 N. Elmhurst Road, Prospect Heights, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chairperson Wojnarski.

The following Commissioners were present when the roll was called: A. Debicki, C. Graudins, M. Jendreas, E. Madden, D. Sievertson, K. Spiegelhalter, and Chairperson A. Wojnarski.

Also present was City Liaison S. Cutaia and Park District Liaison K. Nowicki.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Sievertson moved, seconded by Commissioner Graudins, to approve the November 24, 2014 Minutes as submitted. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Slough – Work days have been successful. The stump grinder is still in the repair shop.

Mr. Cutaia provided some details about the Beet Juice Program and said that the solution cannot be applied before a rain or when temperature is below 20 degrees.

Warning signs have been ordered which caution people about “hot embers” and “herbicide”.

Regarding permanent signage for both the slough and the prairie, a restoration ecologist is working on the wording and pictures, and more information will be available at the February meeting.

A landscape plan for the slough should be available for the February meeting. The plug order will arrive in May. Commissioner Graudins passed out a sheet of questions and concerns regarding plug planting. Commissioners and volunteers need to have a landscape plan, instructions and proper tools before the plug order arrival.

Mr. Cutaia provided drawings from MWRD regarding the Willow Road project. This project involves work on additional streets in the immediate area, and also involves a 20% cost sharing by the City of Prospect Heights. Public meetings will be held in the near future to present the plan to public officials and residents.

Arbor Day will be held on Friday, April 24th at the Slough. Commissioners decided to plant a tree and/or native shrubs. Park District Liaison Nowicki will be working out the details of the program for the Garden Club, who is the sponsor.

Commissioner Jendreas and City Liaison Cutaia exited the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Prairie – The ComEd lease agreement should be ready within a week, according to Sara Race from ComEd. There are almost 100 native prairie seed packets left. They will be brought to the workdays and distributed. They will be available at City Hall until February 16th. Information about availability will be posted in the Journal and Facebook. Commissioner Madden will prepare a press release for the newspaper.

Cook County Forest Preserve – No further information available at this time.

Outreach Plan – An idea to print out monthly journals and distribute at key locations was suggested.

Native Plant Sale – Future plans to provide easily accessible native plants to residents were discussed. Collaborating with other plant sales was suggested. Local Elementary and High School plant sales that already occur were considered.

NRC Journal – Commissioner Spiegelhalter will prepare an educational article about Green Infrastructure, highlighting the Library program in March. Commissioner Wojnarski will prepare an educational article about urban coyotes.

NEW BUSINESS

Library Program – Jeff Mengler will provide a program entitled “Green Infrastructure Solutions to Flooding and Water Pollution at the Library on Thursday, March 12th at 7 pm.

Park District Nature Classes – Bird walks, tree and plant ID classes as well as natural history walks have been approved by the Park District. The programs will be printed in the Summer Program. Commissioner Wojnarski suggested adding Nature Camp for children in 2016. Park District Liaison Nowicki agreed that it was a good idea but it would require careful planning.

Steward/Volunteer Swap with Morton Arboretum – Chairperson Wojnarski said it looks good for the swap.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:

Marcia Jendreas, Secretary

Agnes Wojnarski, Chairperson