CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2015

The Special Workshop Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) was held in the lower level Conference Room of the Prospect Heights Police Department, 14 E. Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Wojnarski.

The following Commissioners were present when the roll was called: P. Hahn, M. Jendreas, D. Sievertson, and Chairperson A. Wojnarski.

Absent were Commissioners A. Debecki and E. Madden.

Also present were City Administrator Joe Wade, Assistant City Administrator Peter Falcone, residents Tim Kupcik and Jim Wliley.

Commissioner Sievertson reviewed the Mission Statement of the Commission: Our mission is to preserve, protect, and restore natural areas and raise awareness of environmental issues affecting Prospect Heights.

He said that the Commission was charged by the Prospect Heights City Council to take the findings and recommendations from the Hey and Associates report and create a plan of action for implementing those recommendations, subject to Council approval. The Action Plan will look at the report recommendations and create a plan based on solutions that will most greatly benefit the wetlands without endangering them, and will ensure its long term survival and sustainability for future generations.

Commissioner Sievertson gave a summary of the Hey Report listing problems and recommended solutions. He highlighted items to be included in the Action Plan as follows:

- Shoreline erosion
- Contaminated storm water runoff
- Reduction of goose population
- Removal of invasive plant species
- Address high nutrient loads
- Removal or treatment of invasive aquatic growth

Monitoring and keeping records is essential to assessing the wellness of an ecosystem. Monitoring plant species, soil composition, water quality, wildlife, amphibians, bird migrations and insects are key indicators as to the health of the habitat they exist in. Recording the results of those investigations provides a historical record with which the results can be compared so judgments can be made about the steps that have been taken, how effective they have been and if changes need to be made.

The Commission is in the process of developing details and budget figures for a one-year time period. The Commission has applied for a grant through National Fish and Wildlife and will be notified by November 30th if the Grant is awarded to the NRC, so this could have an effect on the scope of the plan. Monies from this Grant will be spent on invasive removal and planting of native plants upstream from the Slough in the Library/Park District areas.

A Rain Barrel Program was mentioned and Commissioner Jendreas said she just received information from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC) about residents obtaining free rain barrels. This information was forwarded to City Administrator Wade.

Commissioners discussed goose poop problems which cause excess nitrogen and phosphorus in the water, and the benefit of planting native vegetation to change the habitat and ward off the geese. It is also important to have a measuring device (which could be a marked stick) to measure the depth of the water, at least on a weekly basis. Herbiciding the elodea in two treatments and monitoring results was also discussed, however, it was noted that removing the elodea could result in the growth of algae or more serious invasives.

Joe Wade exited the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

At this point the meeting was opened to citizen comments.

Mr. Kupcik stated his feelings about elodea removal and said residents want a more comprehensive management plan for the whole year. He commented that residents don't want weeds or mosquitoes because these things negatively affect the value of their homes. He said he did extensive research and has names of companies that would perform yearly management. He was asked to provide this information to the NRC, which he agreed to, and Commissioner Hahn was directed to discuss this matter further with Mr. Kupcik, and then contact the companies for a draft proposal. Commissioner Hahn has extensive knowledge of aquatic herbiciding. Commissioner Hahn provided Mr. Kupcik with his contact information.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Wojnarski moved, seconded by Commissioner Sievertson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote and meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Jendreas, Secretary

Approved by:

Agnes Wojnarski, Chairperson