



The water received in rain events causes increased volume of water and faster moving water flow. The proposed pumping station will increase the volume of water and cause the water to move even faster. The ultimate distance of all this water is the Camp McDonald Creek in the Nature Preserve; the Slough; and Hillcrest Lake.

Dana has a video that shows the culvert from underneath Elm Street and how the water moves in Camp McDonald Creek from the location of the library and immediately runs into the Creek at the Nature Preserve. The ferocity of the water that occurs during a 100-year-rain event without a pump is telling. The erosion that will occur with the wall at the bend in the Creek may be disastrous.

Dana outlined the following PHNRC concerns and questions.

- 1) The pump: What is the CFM on the pumps, volume, horsepower and size and diameter of the pipe. Review and then ask what is the volume and flow the pump and pipe will be in delivering more water. How can we articulate this and put specificity to it, such as it will be X number of gallons of water at X number of gallons of water per minute?
- 2) We believe the sheer volume of flood water paralyzing that residential area must have been quantified. Therefore, what are the calculations? How much water do you expect to move downstream? What can we expect coming in?
- 3) Even if getting this water, we will be getting it faster. There appears to be no provisions for the exit side for that water to escape as fast as it is coming in. Result: If it cannot get out, it will flood here. Water is cleared from one area and dumped into an environmentally sensitive restoration area that has occurred over seven years.
- 4) Based on climate change, we have witnessed the hydrology change on the Slough and the Lake where plants installed should have been fine but as climate change and plants underwater for seven days, the plant did not survive. Therefore, we must adjust on what we plant and plug at Hillcrest Lake. This is a challenge.

Agnes and Dana are meeting with Rick McAndless on Saturday and will speak with him. Rick is the Resource Conservationist at North Cook County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Seth: The cliff or wall of the Camp McDonald Creek at the Nature Preserve is already collapsing. This is a major issue. The proposed pumping station will exacerbate that impending crisis. As part of the big picture and plans, what is the management plan for that wall? Perhaps the Park District should be involved in this conversation.

Ed said he is empathetic to those homeowners where flooding has been a constant problem. Ed is aware our City wants a resolution. An additional concern to the speed and force of the water is the high level of contamination in the water. The water would be distributed without natural filtration that occurs when the water moves along a slower route to the area. There are oversight organizations, like the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Water Reclamation District, etc., as well as the concern with the existing MWRD Willow Road Flooding project. These concerns must have been studied.

This is a type of Project that requires permits from the IDNR, MWRD, Army Corps of Engineers, and approval by the City government and Residents.

Dana: Dana said we need to look at the size of the culvert from underneath Elm Street and observe how much water comes out of that area. The creek flow rounds the bend and then goes under a smaller culvert that was installed by the neighbor on Pine Street next to the Nature Preserve. The water flows through the Nature Preserve to Pine Street and then to Elmhurst Road. The houses that stack up on Elmhurst Road already experience flooding during a rain event. Those culverts' size are 30 inches.

We should walk through the entire creek area and look at the size of all the culverts.

The culvert that drains Hillcrest Lake is already too small. The neighborhood floods. The pumping station solution is a recipe for more flooding. The residents around Hillcrest Lake and the Slough will be concerned.

Only one culvert going out North from the end of Hillcrest Lake, and it is maybe 20 to 30 inches in circumference. Then if you add three to four more times the volume of water, it will flood.

Agnes is concerned of the impact on the Slough. With 100-year-rain events, it takes days for the water to recede. This affects the insect, nesting birds, turtles, amphibians, etc. – the entire habitat.

We are unaware of the entire concept of this project. The City has not initiated a conversation with us. Maybe they have addressed the types of concerns we have mentioned and studied it.

Peter Falcone said the City has been looking for a solution to the Arlington Countryside flooding issue for over 40 years. There is a lot of history to consider.

We have outlined good points to consider with this issue. Hopefully, they will be addressed by the regulatory agencies.

We have an opportunity to pose our questions and concerns to the City Administrator. We are currently in a fact-finding mode. We do not have enough information to make recommendations until we understand the scope and the problem.

A suggestion: Move the water to Lake Arlington instead of the Slough? We are unfamiliar with the Lake Arlington area, but it may have a potential for naturalizing the retention ponds in that neighborhood. We were successful in naturalizing the retention pond that attracted a lot of mosquitos at St. Alphonsus. It is now a lush native wet prairie. There are things that can be done.

Is there a deadline? Timeline: The urgency, as we understand it, is to purchase two pumps from Germany in advance because of the potential of a shortage of pumps or parts and a concern of contractors' schedules and letting out the contracts. Even if the project is not yet permitted, expediting these purchases could proceed. Then if successful in obtaining the permit, no time is lost in preparation.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Volunteer Workdays

Agnes stated that our last three volunteer workdays have been heavily attended by 30 plus volunteers. We have accomplished an unbelievable amount of transplanting, brush control and invasive control.

The last two workdays were attended by people who have travelled a distance. We are still following guidelines by spacing workers and having a variety of work in an area to accomplish.

Our next workday will be transplanting at the Slough. Dana felt a path should be created along Maple to re-open that area by removing the snag that has fallen across the trail and the trail need to be realigned and brush cut. Nature Trail signs will be installed. The work we have accomplished in this area over the last three or four years is impressive.

The following workday will be work at Hillcrest Lake to plug the remainder of the second- and third-year plants in the area where we cleared buckthorn at the sandy north end of Hillcrest Lake. The plants are both shady and sun-loving prairie plants. Therefore, perhaps we could choose another area to plug the sun-loving prairie plants and delineate another path.

We must identify an area for future shoreline stabilization.

Reminder: The project at Hillcrest Lake must be completed this year by the terms of the Grant. We have a lot of work to accomplish, including Interpretative Signage.

Dana expressed appreciation for the articles published in local newspapers and Ed's managing of our press releases. Two separate reporters visited our workday of May 2, and the articles resulted in a lot of people walking the path – families, children, groups, birders, people with binoculars -and new volunteers joining the PHNRC. New volunteers are from Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Des Plaines, and Mount Prospect. They all expressed the same thing: "I had no idea this was here!" They are extremely happy to visit the area.

### Prospect Heights Public Library/Park District Events

#### Nature Speaks Program

The first bird walk for the Spring Season will be held on May 15 (Saturday) from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Mary Lou Mellon of the Bird Conservation will lead the Bird Walk and may request Cyndi Lubecke to be a substitute for Lee because Lee Ramsey is no longer participating.

Dana has arranged for Stan Temple from the University of Madison to present "Wilderness Preservation, Natural Resource management and harmony with Nature" as the summer Nature Speaks program on June 24, 2021, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Stanley Temple was inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame on April 24, 2021. Stanley Temple is a UW-Madison Professor who studied endangered birds, habitat fragmentation, invasive species, and other factors leading to species declines. Mr. Temple now serves as a Senior Fellow with The Aldo Leopold Foundation, researching, writing, and speaking about Leopold.

Dana has secured Allison Sacerdote-Velat for the fall Nature Speaks Program of September 23, 2021, an unbelievable presentation on buckthorn. The presentation is titled: “Direct effects of an invasive buckthorn metabolite on amphibian embryo survival and development.” Allison will cover the full gamut of buckthorn – how, why, what, where. Allison provided a buckthorn presentation at Fermilab about four years’ ago and has new material.

Dana felt this would be a remarkably interesting topic for our residents given how they ask the PHNRC about buckthorn, what can be done about it, etc.

For the winter speaker, Dana is seeking to enlist Dr. Robert Zarr, M.D., MPH, Founder and Medical Director, Park Rx America. For the past 19 years, Dr. Zarr has been practicing primary care pediatrics in a community health center in Washington, D.C. Dr. Zarr seeks opportunities to help his patients improve their lives and hoping to connect them with resources virtually in their “backyard.” Dr. Zarr prescribes parks because, for one, the preponderance of scientific studies show a connection between improved health and time spent outdoors in natural settings.

Over 400 correlational studies have thus far showed improved health outcomes related to time spent in nature, which is an accessible and inexpensive intervention that positively impacts a wide breadth of chronic disease, ranging from diabetes to high blood pressure to obesity to depression and many other serious mental illnesses found in all ages. This intervention also has few side effects.

Dr. Zarr is the founder and medical director of Park Rx America (formally DC Park Rx), a non-profit organization whose mission is to decrease the burden of chronic disease, increase health and happiness, and foster environmental stewardship by virtue of prescribing Nature during the routine delivery of healthcare. Park Rx America (PRA) works closely with managers of publicly accessible land and water, as well as directly with healthcare providers and their respective organization to “make it easy” to prescribe parks and other protected areas to their patients real-time in the clinical practice setting.

PRA has collaborated closely with park agencies, healthcare provider organizations, academic institutions, and Departments of Health to create a scalable park prescribing model, to bring to urban centers where concentrations of chronically ill and underutilized green space is found.

The PHPL has a standard about promoting health cures; therefore, it is unknown if we will be able to enlist Dr. Zarr at the winter speaker.

### Slough Boardwalk Project and Funding

Agnes restated that notice on funding will be provided late June or early July. Once approved, we may move forward with this Project.

### Earth Week Activities (April 18-24, 2021) and Outcome

Earth Week's activities planned for the week of April 18 were a lot of fun! Tours held end of the week were not well attended; however, the people who attend really appreciate the tour and signed up as volunteers with the PHNRC.

### Wheeling High School Program

Dana and Seth gave a presentation to the environmental studies class via Zoom Meeting. The presentation was well received. The presentation provided was like previous lectures and appears to be a biannual event. Four students have signed up for the Journal and e:mail notifications on volunteer workdays.

### District 214 Micro-Internships

Agnes reported that the two High School students, Allison Biewenga (John Hersey High School) and Lauren Steining (Prospect Heights High School), have been wonderful students and participants in the micro-internship program. Education, plant identification and tours highlighting invasives and issues are covered along with accomplishing work at our sites.

Allie has been attending our volunteer workdays.

The micro-internship with the PHNRC concludes on May 26, 2021 and has been a great experience.

### 2021 Summer Interns

Our 2021 Summer Interns are Blair Ripley, returning from the 2020 Summer Internship Program. Blair will be our senior intern and will start either the last week of May or after Memorial Day.

Colin will be our second 2021 Summer Intern. Colin has completed the physical exam and will be accomplishing the Herbicide Licensing Program next. Collin's first day will be Wednesday, May 26, 2021.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Prospect Heights Public Library Opening Event

Jill reported that the Prospect Heights Public Library will conduct a Celebration and Summer Reading Kickoff Event on Saturday, June 5, 2021, from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. Weather-permitting, the Event will be held in the parking lot and beautiful new courtyard. A Ribbon Cutting, Live Music, Games, Prizes & Activities, Summer Reading Sign-up, Kona Ice and Library Tours will be held

On Saturday, June 19, the PHNRC will host a prairie plant giveaway with Jill manning our table.

### City of Prospect Heights Community Days

Jill reported that typically the City of Prospect Heights has held Community Days the first Saturday of the month of June. Upon inquiry, Peter Falcone informed Jill that the Community Days' Committee has not conducted a planning meeting yet this year. Therefore, it is doubtful that Community Days will be held on June 5, 2021.

### Prospect Heights Park District Block Party – August 28, 2021

Jill said a PHPD Block Party on Saturday, August 28, 2021, was mentioned in the PHPD Summer Program Catalogue pending if the State of Illinois is in Phase 5.

Dana said the CDC removed the need to mandatorily wear a mask either indoors or outdoors, if fully vaccinated. Gov. Pritzker announced that we are entering a bridge phase end of this week. Gov. Pritzker's hope is to have entrance into Phase 5 by July.

### Path Maintenance at Worksites

Seth utilized the string trimmer on Weds., May 12 to clear growth overhang on paths. New trails have also been cleared. Now is the time of year to continually keep trails and paths clear.

The extra trail leg we installed by Elmhurst Road/Route 83 has seen overgrowth. Many stumps, brush and debris were cleared by Seth.

Seth and Agnes mowed on Hillside on Wednesday, May 5. The buffer around the Slough and along the road by the riparian buffers needs to be mowed. The paths close to Elmhurst Road and along the tiny area by the woodlands need to either be mowed or string trimmed. John will accomplish these tasks.

### Seed/Greenhouse Program

Agnes reported that half of the plants are in the Greenhouse and half are growing in pots outdoors. Every plant has germinated. What is placed outside is determined by the plant species. Some plants are not tolerant of temperature changes.

Overall, Agnes reported we have a ton of plants and great species. We are excited to introduce sedges around the Slough especially the areas prone to erosion. Plants for Hillcrest Lake are planned for the summer and fall.

Seth said a few areas at Hillcrest Lake and the Slough where buckthorn was removed have a bare shoreline. Agnes said these areas will be populated especially at the North End of the Lake; just needs site prep.

Peter Hahn has herbicided invasive species at all the worksites. Peter worked long and consistent hours at the ComEd Prairie, Remnant Prairie, the Remnant Sedge Meadow, and the Nature Preserve at Gary Morava. Peter is unable to attend scheduled volunteer workdays because of his work schedule, so he is using his available time to work at our sites. We greatly appreciate Peter's hard work and dedication.

Seth commented that the small section off Willow going toward John's house does not look stellar by removing the buckthorn and would be a nice area to plug with plants.

Dana said all those areas are to be riparian buffers. Agnes said we could do a walk-through of the area and plant full sun loving plants along with an installation of a path. We also have a lot of shrubs that are slated for the Project.

#### Commissioners' Site Monitoring Reports

##### ComEd Seeded Prairie (Dana Sievertson)

Dana toured the ComEd Seeded Prairie the afternoon of May 13. Dana provided a shout out to either Mark Rosco at Public Works or Dino Squires at the Park District for getting the path and side buffers mowed. It is greatly appreciated!

Dana reminded Commissioners that the prairie failed to burn this year again, and in its wake, ComEd had Stantec use their special flailing mower to cut and mulch the prairie to eight to 10 inches. The results are a welcome alternative to the burn. Not a substitute, but a very welcome alternative. Doing nothing again would have been a real setback. All the taller dead vegetation is gone, especially the proliferation of the dreaded calorie pears. Dana is certain they are still present, but significantly knocked back.

Dana was pleased to see the natives having a very easy time making their way through the stalks this time. It is encouraging. Rattlesnake Master seems to be gaining strength in both sectors. Dana also saw more cup plants and prairie dog growing.

Eurasian grass remains the bane of our existence there. There are largish patches scattered throughout the east and the west. As we saw in the spring test burn, fire is the only way to get rid of that as you can see evidenced in the large test burn that Stantec did do. It is free and clear of grass. Natives have already taken over, and there is clear evidence of the seeds that Agnes and the 412 interns put down are already coming up.

The ComEd Seeded Prairie simply must be burned next spring.

The Prairie, like everything, is extremely dry but there is no evidence of effect on the natives. One last and especially important shout out to Commissioner Hahn for his five-plus hours of time spent herbiciding the Prairie. Peter's efforts are clearly evident in the numbers of shriveled invasives. Great job, Peter!

Heron Pond (John Kamysz)

John reported that Heron Pond is sprouting nicely; however, a lot of the sprouts are buckthorn.

The water plants have not returned at this point. It looks like Blue Flag irises are growing. Garlic Mustard is sprouting and what John presumes is Yellow Rocket (as per Jill's posting.)

Hillcrest Lake (John Kamysz)

The plugged plants are growing nicely. The seeded areas look somewhat scrappy; not sure what is popping through at this point.

Resprouts of buckthorn where we cut are growing.

Shoreline erosion continues. Low water levels make the appearance more prominent.

Lots of gigantic turtles around, most are very alive, just moving a bit slow. Found one with a cracked shell and buoyancy issues. Also observed another turtle as roadkill about one or two weeks' ago.

Nothing is trapped in the carp enclosures.

Nature Preserve (Gary Morava) (Pete Hahn)

Pete toured the Nature Preserve on May 12, 2021, and observed many native plants beginning to emerge. It looks best where we burned and where there is more sunlight for plant growth and development.

Peter noticed a new teepee like hut being built near the wood pile. Probably the result of young residents playing around. However, a dead tree is hanging over this area. Peter reported before that dead, dying and dangerous trees need to be removed, and dead branches should also be removed all for obvious safety reasons. Hopefully, the Park District will take care of this.

The tree work should be contracted out as there are too many trees that need proper care. I believe that dangerous tree conditions need immediate action.

Remnant Prairie (Seth Marcus)

ComEd with their brush hog did tremendous progress in eradicating woody species. Huge number of ripped up stumps from the brush hog. Impressively most do not seem to be re-sprouting! The clearest view of the gully that Seth has ever seen.

Quite a bit of mustard/watercress, Golden Rod and Prairie Dock. Dame's Rocket and poison hemlock is also present.

Given the huge progress on the woody species it seems like a great opportunity to put in natives before invasives come back.

Somebody recently herbicided some of the crown vetch.

Plenty of fuel for a burn.

Ripe for a workday because the remaining woody species stand out prominently – easily seen. Garlic mustard needs to be pulled and in flower.

Bottom line: Tremendous progress, still needs a tremendous amount of work, and a huge opportunity to strike while the invasives have been beaten back. Agnes said we would plan a workday soon at the Remnant Prairie because the interns will be working and could water the plants installed at Hillcrest Lake. Very first thing the interns will do is herbicide the stumps.

South of where we work is all woody species.

#### Remnant Sedge Meadow (Jill Moskal)

Jill reported that base Turf Grass at the Remnant Sedge Meadow has greened and is growing.

Invasive woody species, like Dogwood, have leafed and are growing. Only a few Teasel invasive plants are noted.

Areas of Yellow Rocket (*Barbarea vulgaris*) are present in a few areas of the Meadow.

#### Saint Alphonsus (Ed Madden)

Ed reported that the prairie at St. Al's is just starting to come to life with new growth throughout. Most of the plants are about the same height; however, Ed expects that will change soon as the various species mature. Ed provided a few photos.

#### Tully Park (Jill Moskal/Wendy Dewar)

Golden Alexander and Purple Phlox are in bloom.

A lot of buckthorn and Canadian Thistle are present.

Creeping Charlie is also present but usually dissipates as the season progresses.

The grasses and many, many Asters are growing strong.

PHNRC Treasurer's Report and Budget 2021-2022

John Kamysz stated we now have funds and have not yet drawn on it.

Peter Falcone shared information.

The PHPD has funded \$5,000, and the City of Prospect Heights approved our budget of \$8,661. Therefore, our total current budget is \$13,661.00. Also, \$4,500 for each 2021 Summer Intern has been provided.

Dana notified Peter Falcone that the PHNRC received a \$200 donation from one of our volunteers. Peter will check.

Agnes said we must purchase soil. Peter Falcone said the funds were available now for spending. Therefore, Agnes will provide Peter Falcone with an order for soil, and he will also advise Public Works.

City Civic Meetings and PHNRC Representation

Jill summarized her notes from the following April and May meetings:

City Council of Prospect Heights, Illinois – April 12, 2021 Meeting

The City Council approved the Arbor Day Proclamation to commemorate Arbor Day on April 30, 2021.

The City Council approved the Proclamation Designating the Month of April as Sikh Awareness Month.

City Clerk Prisiainiuk said that the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce has been resurrected with a new Board, President and Vice President. Nothing has changed as far as adding Prospect Heights back to the name.

City Clerk Prisiainiuk noted that the Chamber will be a Workshop topic. She said that Prospect Heights has not been ousted but that the name has not been changed to add Prospect Heights back in.

At the May 10 Workshop Meeting, the topic of the Chamber of Commerce will be discussed.

Regarding the Staff Memo and Ordinance Adopting the FY2021-22 Budget for the City of Prospect Heights – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – City Administrator Wade said that there will be a public hearing before the April 26, 2021 City Council Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

City Council of Prospect Heights, Illinois – April 26, 2021 Meeting

March Treasurer's Report presented by Financial Director Cheri Graefen: The 2021-2022 Budget has been finalized. Cheri expressed appreciation to the City Council for their consideration and interest.

Cheri mentioned that the Audit for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2021 will start next month (May).

Cheri said the preliminary March numbers coming in reflecting the City hit 99% of their Revenue figures with 92% of the year to date. Significant revenue items are in and showing Use Tax, Sales Tax and Income Taxes exceeding 100% of Budget. Vehicle stickers final number are at 110% of budgeted numbers, and we have one month left. Revenue over Expenses is \$819,000. Cheri felt the City should close in a good position.

Dan Peterson, Building and Development Director: Preparing for the busy construction season. Dan reminded residents to please consult the City's web page and the section "I want to" for information on permits and information before starting building project. Contractors are required to be registered in the City of Prospect Heights.

Mark Roscoe, Public Works Director: The Public Works Department is in storm prep mode for Spring. They are getting Levy 37 squared away for the audit of Army Corp of Engineers and IL Dept of Natural Resources.

Chicago Executive Airport Monthly Report: Director Scott Saewart provided the report. Scott expressed appreciation to all elected officials for their support. COVID Operations have wrapped up considerably, so the Airport is seeing an upward trend in their operations. The Staff did a great job in belt tightening so operational expenses were down.

Regarding the US Customs Facility, a ribbon cutting ceremony is planned around July 4, 2021.

Regarding the RSIP – Residential Sound Improvement Program: Agents are now out in the field and have completed the first round of noise testing in homes in both Prospect Heights and Wheeling. Consultants will next take this data and compile a report on who is within the sight and sound guidelines. Receipt of reports is expected in early May. Eligible homes will be determined and path of construction of sound installation may occur around summer or early fall.

A Rock 'n Run the Runway is planned for August 21, 2021. The Airport is hopeful that local State and CDC guidelines will allow them to conduct the event.

Mayor Helmer has interviewed several people and will suggest to Council that they accept a person he feels will do a great job in filling the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals position, which was vacated by Danielle Dash. Danielle is now Alderman Ward 4. Appointment of the candidate will be managed at the City Council Workshop Meeting of May 10, 2021.

Consent Agenda – Item 6 contained items heard before. The City Council discussed the Budget at the previous three meetings with the second reading conducted this meeting.

**The Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission 2021-2022 proposed Budget was approved by the City Council.**

Next City Council Meeting: The next meeting of the City Council will be a Workshop Meeting on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of March 30, 2021

Correspondence: Executive Director, Christina Ferraro, announced that the Park District received an award letter from IAPD awarding the District with a \$1,000 PowerPlay! Grant.

Park District Treasurer's Report – Cash Report #3 – noted a total of \$3,639,499.57. The Treasurer's Report – Cash Report #3, dated March 30, 2021, and in the amount of \$3,639,499.57 was approved by a roll call vote.

Consideration of Agreement for Exchange of land at/adjacent to Muir Park: No action. Executive Director Christina Ferraro reported there is no new information at this time.

Approval of ComEd Green Region Grant Application for Boardwalk Project at the Slough: Staff recommended the approval of the submittal of the ComEd Green Region Grant Application for the Boardwalk Project at the Slough and committed \$500 to the Project in FY2022.

Approval of Appointment of New Board to replace Vicki Carney: Commissioner Tim Jones recommended the approval to appoint Steve Messer and to the Board to fill Vicki Carney's unexpired term through the April 2023 Consolidated Election. Approved.

Approval to Continue the GMRC Feasibility Study Process: Executive Director Christina Ferraro Commissioner recommended approval to continue the GMRC Feasibility Study Process to evaluate professional services for a public education campaign and market research. Approved.

Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of April 27, 2021

I was unable to attend the April 27 PHPD Board Meeting. However, I will provide commentary once the meeting minutes are posted.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled PHPD Board Meeting is Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Announcements to the Public

None.

Visitors' Comments

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission is June 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the meeting. Therefore, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS  
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary