

Conditions are currently in a drought state; however, we have the Turbo Rain or watering tank in the van.

Other work at this site to be accomplished are walking path, the area that was seeded needs to be mowed to four to six inches, weeding, and creating new areas for planting. We are moving forward with the Pollinator Park Project.

Dana expressed sincere appreciation to Mark Roscoe and Public Works for picking up the debris and chipping it. Additionally, our sincere appreciation for Mark placing the order for additional bags of soil on a rush basis. Thank you!

Arlington Countryside Storm Sewer System Project

Dana and Jill surveyed the Arlington Countryside neighborhood and took an inventory of the culverts, vacant properties, and houses, and located potential properties or areas for detention facilities. We passed on our concerns to Joe Wade who has informed the Engineer. The Engineer is preparing a presentation for another public meeting where our concerns will be addressed. We do not yet have a date for this meeting.

The Engineer is driving the date for the meeting.

This is an important issue, so it is important that we all attend. We might also want to inform neighbors downstream of the Project.

Prospect Heights Public Library/Park District Events

The Prospect Heights Public Library officially opened on June 5, 2021 following eight months of renovations.

The PHNRC Plant Give-away will be conducted on Saturday, June 19, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the PHPL. Residents will receive a six-pack of native flowers for planting after providing their name and e:mail address for our volunteer records. However, if existing volunteers are present, they will also receive a six pack of flowers; no one will be denied. Agnes said that Milkweed is always available!

This is a Library initiative, and they have advertised it in the PHPL June 2021 Newsletter.

Nature Speaks Program

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.

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 will forward information to Ed Madden for a Press Release.

The second Spring Bird Walk was rescheduled from May 29 to Saturday, June 5, 2021 due to forecasted rain. The Bird Walk was low key but had good attendance and was a lot of fun.

The Slough had little water. The first Bird Walk showed an influx of shoreline birds that were migrating through. At one point, 40 shoreline birds were observed.

Dana said that at least four female Wood Duck and their broods were present, which is a success.

Dana said the fall Bird Walks might be problematic because Mary Lou Mellon is contemplating a birding trip to Spain, so she may be unavailable. Mary Lou is working with Cyndi Lubecke, who has filled in before. Cyndi is a terrific replacement.

Slough Boardwalk Project and Funding

Agnes said we are approaching mid-June, and should hear about the Grant by mid-July, if not before our July 8 PHNRC meeting.

The Grant total match is \$12,000 - \$6,000 from us collectively and \$6,000 from ComEd. However, Dana will check his notes.

Agnes said we have spoken with Felix, who was busy with school and final exams. Flex is back on track and is getting his Eagle Scout Project together.

The Slough Boardwalk Project may occur on a volunteer workday or be a special workday, like Sam's Nature Preserve Step Project where a large crew of 40 volunteers were present. It could also occur over two weekends. The workday structure is to be determined.

Pollinator Park Project Update

The Pollinator Park Project needs to be finished by December 31, 2022.

The wrap-up expose that is part of the Project needs to be submitted to ComEd. It is crunch time. Dana has the list of references for type signage preferred by residents and will provide copy to Commissioners for review and approval. If anyone has any ideas or want to participate or assist Dana, please advise.

John inquired if funds were available for coconut rolls for shoreline restoration? No.

Dana feels as this shoreline restoration progresses over the summer, we could get together with Mark Roscoe and Joe Wade and review the benefits of the installation of coconut rolls for erosion prevention and look for funds. The far North end needs it immediately. There is two feet of land left before the water touches the road.

Agnes and the interns were reviewing a section planted with native grasses by the Garden Club about 10 or 15 years ago. One can readily see the difference within two feet of where the grasses are growing versus where it goes up to turf. The erosion is very pronounced. There is no culvert or more water flowing. It is the vegetation on the shoreline that is making the difference.

District 214 Micro-Internships

Dana said that Allison (Allie) and Lauren have completed the micro-internship. Both were exceptionally good workers. In fact, Allie has become a regular volunteer and is an extremely hard worker. Seth observed her work ethic in action, and she has shown great progress and promise.

District 214 contacted PHNRC and asked if we were interested in taking on two more interns for the summer (30 hours). However, Dana said we declined because the summer interns are well into the Summer Internship Program, and to catch-up the two new micro-interns would be impossible. However, we would consider the fall.

2021 Summer Interns

Agnes said that our summer interns, Blair and Colin, are a great team, have good chemistry and are super-smart. They both work hard and are currently eradicating the Reed Canary Grass and conducting trail maintenance. Agnes regularly copies Commissioners on the Weekly Intern Schedule. Changes that occur are mostly due to weather conditions.

Also, regarding summer work, Dana and Agnes expressed sincere appreciation to Commissioner Pete Hahn. Peter is unable to attend regularly scheduled volunteer workdays because of his work schedule. However, every chance available, Peter has been working in the prairies with the backpack spraying Hairy Vetch Crop Cover, Canada Thistle and other invasives. Agnes said getting the invasives early is what makes a difference. Pete is out there working for hours on end. Thank you, Pete! Bravo!

NEW BUSINESS

Friends of Tully Park

Wendy Dewar, Mary Ellen Siemens, and Dee Munroe were present from Friends of Tully Park regarding an issue confronting the neighborhood.

Background: In 2015, the Prospect Heights Park District had plans to transfer Tully Park to The Bridge Church so the church could ultimately build a parking lot. Tully Park residents rallied and expressed their concerns and reservations to the PHPD and ultimately changed their decision. The residents requested that they be allowed to convert the park grounds into a nature preserve containing native plants and prairie grasses with the assistance of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission (PHNRC).

Since then, friends, neighbors, volunteers and the PHNRC have worked tirelessly to remove the bad invasive plants, re-vegetate the eroding creek banks, plant native grasses, trees, and flowers, and gather and redistribute the seeds from our plantings. Each year, residents have worked to convert more and more of the existing turf grass to native prairie. A conservative estimate of the time spent to revitalize Tully Park over the last six years is 5,000 volunteer hours.

Because of the time, commitment and results of this hard work, the park property now helps mitigate flooding in the park and neighboring yards, provides a place for dogs to run and people to congregate and enjoy the peacefulness of a nature preserve.

Tully Park residents fully believed that the PHPD was also supportive of this plan as it benefits our local community, preserves open green spaces, and essentially require minimal maintenance; however, this does not seem to be the case.

Current Events: Recently, Tully Park residents became aware that the Prospect Heights Park District is considering accepting a donation of a 5-on-5 modular soccer field from The Bridge Church to be located at Tully Park.

The description of the Soccer Field is 50' x 80' with sidewalls, lights, an impervious surface, crash mat underneath, sand finish with artificial turf on top and drainage tiles. Placement of bleachers, garbage cans, restrooms, bike racks around the with the modular soccer field were requested items in their letter to the PHPD Executive Director.

The target audience for use of the Soccer Field are the children across the street in the Boxwood Apartments. This is an admirable idea; however, Friends of Tully Park feel the Modular Soccer Field will not help Tully Park. It is too large for the park and will, most likely, cause drainage problems.

The Bridge Church is seeking donations to build this soccer facility by selling advertising that will be displayed on the walls of the field along with LED lighting. They are selling this advertising based on an estimate of 160 to 300 people that will visit the park as either spectators or players each day.

Rod Siemens provided a Google Earth picture to demonstrate that placement of the modular soccer field in the park does not leave room to continue the nature preserve and enjoyment by the taxpayers who have provided it, nurtured it, planted it, and use the park daily. Our open park land will be taken away, adversely impacting the drainage issues in the area.

Wendy said The Bridge Church will donate this modular soccer field to the PHPD, and the PHPD will own and maintain it. The Bridge Church would have exclusive use of the park for four days per week.

Friends of the Tully Park will attend the PHPD Board Meeting of June 22 to voice their concerns and ask questions. One of the questions is how does this project further the Park District's mission of being well informed and aware of the needs of the community considering this project was not discussed with the directly impacted members of the community surrounding Tully Park?

The PHPD Master Plan of 2017-2018 states its desire to create a Master Plan for Tully Park; however, a Master Plan for Tully Park is not on the PHPD website.

This project goes beyond the natural resource issue now because we are unable to do our ultimate plan of naturalizing the park, which will help drainage and create useful green space. Friends of Tully Park are respectful of the current park district's maintenance program.

An auxiliary issue exists of a home on Wheeling Road that is in the City Council meeting minutes with a plan to purchase the home because it has flooded six times. Therefore, the MWRD has applied to purchase the home, and the land would be owned by the Park District and become part of Tully Park. Is this connected to the soccer field proposal? Wendy spoke with the homeowner who said the process just started and may take two years.

Mary Ellen said during the residents' objective to save the park in 2015, the PHPD Executive Director was a great advocate; however, currently, residents feel abandoned. Mary Ellen asked if the PHNRC had suggestions for them in approaching the PHPD with their concerns. The residents feel the intention for this project is admirable, but it does not work for our neighborhood or for a park that is landlocked.

Dana said the PHNRC was completely unaware of this project. Tully Park is a tertiary PHNRC worksite, so we are inherently connected with the Friends of Tully Park as they are our volunteers, and we provide maintenance, plants, prescribed burns, and additional volunteers for scheduled workdays.

No one bothered to ask our opinion or what would be the effects of this project; no dialogue exists. We are presented with the fact that this project is a fete acompli and will happen.

We cannot imagine the placement of a recreation facility in the middle of a natural area that is small, landlocked, ringed by residences who have lived in the neighborhood for years with potential impact in changing the entire neighborhood and residents' lives. It is difficult to believe after reclaiming the area, naturalizing it, and placing it as a connective green space with ecological biodiversity that becomes part of the corridor plan to link the green spaces of Prospect Heights to have this project usurp these objectives.

That said, we must work with everyone, hear the other side, and support the Friends of Tully Park.

Mary Ellen said the Friends of Tully Park simply want to understand the reason behind the Project. It is very disruptive.

Mary Ellen asked if the city is part of the Project. The PHPD acts separately from the city.

Is the Park zoned recreational? It is unlikely the City has any restrictions on the park.

For clarification, the people in the community across the street and the church are in Mount Prospect and part of the River Trails Park District. Therefore, this is a different community and park district using our park. When asked of the PHPD Executive Director, she replied that Tully Park is a public park and can be used by anyone.

Seth learned that the church would have use of the park certain days of the week. Wendy replied that the Executive Director is recommending to the Board upon presentation that the church would have use of the park four days per week and the PHPD would have use of the park three days a week.

Seth further stated that a private institution and religious institution would have exclusive use of a public property. If so, he would be surprised to learn if this is legal. Tully Park is a public space, but they are giving away exclusive use.

The current Park Board is different than the 2015 Park Board; therefore, they may not know the history of Tully Park. Wendy plans to inquire: How many of you have been to Tully Park? How many of you have been to Tully Park after it rains? It is pretty much trapped in water. How many of you have engaged in the people who live in the community around Tully Park? Have you seen the proposed structure?

Where would participants park? The only real access is via foot. Then ADA concerns are a consideration.

Is the structure permanent? No; it is guaranteed for 10 years and does not have a foundation but sits on top of the ground. It is basically an impervious surface. Grading and a building permit may be necessary, which will involve the city.

How much of the park land does it take up? With the structure in place, less than a half-acre of land is available as open space.

Commissioners appreciated Wendy, Mary Ellen and Dee attending our meeting to bring their concerns forward. PHNRC will attend the PHPD Board Meeting to understand the Project and offer support to the Friends of Tully Park.

Prospect Heights Park District Block Party – August 28, 2021

Jill reported that in the Prospect Heights Park District meeting of April 27, 2021, if the State of Illinois moves to Phase 5, which may be as soon as June 11, 2021, there is a good possibility that the Park District will conduct the Block Party on Saturday, August 28, 2021. If so, it would be great if the PHNRC could participate as in previous years.

Path Maintenance at Worksites

Agnes reported that the only path that had not been maintained was Heron Pond; therefore, the interns worked there today, June 10, to clear it and clean it up.

Dana and Agnes expressed appreciation to Seth who took the initiative to work with Colin prior to Blair starting. Seth and Colin worked three days to work on the paths clearing and string trimming. Greatly appreciated!

Seed/Greenhouse Program

Agnes reported that we have over 20,000 plants. All the plants are growing but are dry all the time due to major lack of rain; therefore, the plants are watered twice per day.

Poplar Creek Prairie Stewards were by the other day to transplant their plants, which are doing well.

Agnes expressed appreciate to Jill coming by on her Sundays off to assist Agnes with soil, transplanting and other tasks.

Commissioners' Site Monitoring Reports

ComEd Seeded Prairie (Dana Sievertson)

East End: Dana recently toured the ComEd Seeded Prairie, and the first thing that strikes you is how short everything is. Dana attributes this to the complete lack of rain. Sort of mimicking a gravel hill prairie. Whether this will impact the species diversity this year remains to be seen. The second thing you notice is the large number of butterflies. At least 10 Monarchs furiously laying eggs, scores of Cabbage Whites and perhaps Skippers or Sulfurs. The final immediate recognition is the hundreds of nesting Redwing Blackbirds. Dana was not pecked or threatened but remarked how very loud the Redwing Blackbirds were.

Dana walked the east prairie first. It looks fairly good until you get to almost the first tower and the Eurasian grasses take over for intermittent moments. The prairie has clearly benefitted from the mowing that Stantec did in lieu of burning. The enormous volume of calorie pear is gone, as is the majority of buckthorn and weed trees. Cup plants and rattlesnake master are thriving in and amongst the grasses. Dana was pleased to see that the Canadian Wild Rye seems to be out competing with the Eurasian grasses in spotty patches. Very cool! On the north side of the trail, there is a sizable stand of lettuce that needs to be nuked, as well as the poison hemlock that never was nuked. It is now blooming and getting ready to go to seed.

Penstemon is the star of the show and is having a great time at both far ends of the east and west prairies from midway on. Much more than last year. As you approach the second tower, there is an increase in cup plants and rattlesnake master.

At the east entrance, there is track evidence that someone has been driving on the prairie to short cut over to the north buffer or perhaps they were just joy riding. Who will ever know how insensitive people will be? The triangle at Elmhurst Road that was never really ours but is, is giving us a bad name. It looks bad, really bad. We need to reclaim and reprogram it.

West End: The west end is different. Still has the butterflies and blackbirds but the species are more diverse. There are more species on the West Side than the East Side. An abundance of prairie doc greets you as you walk in. Dana did not recall seeing any on the east. Just like the east end, there is a mass of penstemon on the far west end. Interesting that it located at both ends from mid-way on. It may have something to do with drainage, both start up on the side of a ridge and get stronger as it tapers off. Dana will note the typography next time and see if there is commonality that might explain it.

The far west is still noticeably short and has lots of RSM. Considering there was no burn again this year, Dana feels we are in fairly good shape with but a few hot spots to get under control.

Heron Pond (John Kamysz)

Heron Pond paths are overgrown, the grass paths are not mowed. I believe the Do Not Mow signs are misinterpreted by city works as they do not mow the path anymore. Buckthorn resprouts aplenty. Nice Blue Flag Irises along the shoreline.

Hillcrest Lake (John Kamysz)

We did a big buckthorn cut last week. The city picked up and ground all the branches, yay! Penstemon and spiderwort blooming nicely. Seeded areas are sprouting, but so are the weeds.

Nature Preserve (Gary Morava) (Pete Hahn)

Toured the Nature Preserve today, found nothing unusual. Creek is exceptionally low, hardly any water flowing. Mostly green vegetation, with little flowering. Did notice a large branch in the creek just past the steppingstones. Very dry soils where they are exposed to sun. May have to water some of the oak plantings soon. Mr. Rich Berhman from the Girl Scout Troop has replanted an oak where one died. We have talked about this and the need for watering if this drought continues. The paths have been line trimmed and are very passable.

Remnant Sedge Meadow (Jill Moskal)

Common Milkweed is starting to show. Dudley's Rush and Spike Rush are present.

Yellow Loosestrife is not yet blooming. Yellow Loosestrife blooms from late spring to late summer. Yellow Loosestrife was presently identified between Electrical Towers 2 and 3 by the cattails (north side).

Invasive woody species, like Dogwood, have leafed and are growing.

Callery Pear (*Pyrus Calleryana*) is present at the Remnant Sedge Meadow. Callery Pear is a species of pear tree native to China and Vietnam, in the family Rosaceae. It is most known for its cultivar "Bradford," widely planted throughout the United States and increasingly regarded as an invasive species.

Ox-Eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) is growing at the Remnant Sedge Meadow. Ox-Eye Daisy is a widespread flowering plant native to Europe and the temperate regions of Asia, and an introduced plant to North America, Australia, and New Zealand.

Saint Alphonsus (Ed Madden)

Ed reported that the prairie at St. Al's looks good. New growth and the retention area by their parking lot.

Slough

Looks great. Really dry. Worry about the frogs and turtles. Reed canary grass is everywhere, not even near getting the cattails. Interns are working hard.

Ed noticed the carp in the south slough. Is that what is introduced from upstream? Yes. Wonder if we trapped some when we put up the fencing. in the possible but there is a lot this year. Spoke with Mark Roscoe who has been at other sites looking at the creeks that also flow into the slough he had noted many adult carps in 5 inches of water. Creeks and channels. Stuck in the slough. We should try to do both sides next year.

Last year was so successful with the carp enclosures. Vegetation was flourishing at the shoreline. But this year, there are at least 100 carps.

John said dead turtles reported in the Lake and Slough. John observed a gigantic dead turtle in the lake; unsure of cause of death. Rarely see a dead turtle and then that came up. A few were reported this year.

Maybe it is drought related, never saw so many turtles laying eggs. Sees at least one turtle per day more so than other years. Agnes and Dana have observed it, too.

Is there is any chance turtles feed on alodium? Carp feed on it. Ask our next speak, Alison, at the Sept 23 nature Speaks.

Tully Park (Jill Moskal/Wendy Dewar)

There is no real change at Tully Park for the month of May/early June 2021 except Spider Wort will soon bloom.

Thistle needs to be pulled, but what we really need rain for that.

Per Jill, the PHPD Board Minutes of April 27, 2021, highlighted a discussion about the proposed donation/gift of a modular professional grade mini soccer field from The Bridge Community Church to the Park District for Tully Park. The Board was in favor of accepting the donation pending a gift acceptance and facility usage agreements. Provided with this Monitoring Report is a packet of information that Jill received from Christina Ferraro, Executive Director of the PHPD.

PHNRC Treasurer's Report and Budget 2021-2022

John Kamysz provided Commissioners with the latest budget numbers from the city.

Our net operating budget for the PHNRC is \$14,261.00 for the year. We spent some of that already. As of the printing of the budget, it was down to \$13,621.90 left to spend but did spend money for the purchase of soil. will markedly go down when interns start receiving regular paychecks.

The Pollinator Park Project is separate budget of \$8,000. Currently, we have \$5,500 to work with for signage, benches, shrubs, soil, plants, plugs, garbage cans, etc. Dana will resend the entire package to everyone.

A separate part listed that is provided by the city is the 2021 River Walk Revenue, the Slough Boardwalk Project. It is listed as a revenue item, but we do not have this money yet.

City Civic Meetings and PHNRC Representation

Jill provided notes from the following April and May City Council and May PHPD Board meetings:

City Council of Prospect Heights, Illinois – May 10, 2021 Meeting

Presentation: Alderman Ward 4, Danielle Dash, was sworn into office by Mayor Helmer.

Appointments: Mr. Zygmunt Rygiel was appointed to the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals. Mayor Helmer had interviewed Mr. Rygiel and felt that his background made him a great fit for the PZBA. Mr. Rygiel was currently on a tour of duty; therefore, he was not present at the meeting.

Alderman Dolick moved to approve the appointment of Zygmunt Rygiel to the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals. There was unanimous approval.

Reports: City Administrator Joe Wade expressed appreciation to the City Council and Staff for the preliminary engineering work that has been approved thus allowing projects that were ready to proceed and eligibility for Grant money.

The city will be receiving \$2 million for the Arlington Countryside project from the Covid stimulus money and from the State's Rebuild Illinois. Arlington Countryside is a \$3 million project. The city will receive a refund from the Federal Government, but cash flow is a consideration. Also, it is important that the City go to bid at the right time.

City of Prospect Heights Capital Projects Report: City Engineer, Pat Glenn, of Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc., provide the following update:

Arlington Countryside Storm Sewer System Progress Report: Engineer Glenn said that the scope of the Project includes a pump that can handle 6,700 gallons per minute pumping station and a mile of stormwater force main.

Engineer Glenn said that he is ready to go out to bid when directed to do so. Some federal funding will not come through until next year, but the City can move forward with the funds it has to bridge the gap. The timing of the construction bid can affect pricing. It is not ideal to take a project out to bid in June. He suggested the bid be opened in late winter for construction to begin in March/April 2022. He noted that there was some risk in waiting as the federal government might pass an infrastructure bill that would drive construction prices up considerably.

Engineer Glenn said that the Council needed to decide if they wanted to contract directly with Metropolitan Pump Company or wait for the contractor to order the pump. The lead time for the pump delivery is six to nine months; therefore, if the city orders directly, the pump will be ready when the contractor is hired. He also noted that the contractor typically adds a mark-up for any supplies that they order directly.

The two key issues that need Council direction is the timing of the bids and whether to have a direct contact with Metropolitan Pump Company.

Engineer Glenn suggested to open the bids in February and start constructions in late April. He will compose details and cost of the pump. He hopes to have the pump contracted for by July 2021.

Alderman Dolick asked that the City Engineer be directed to detail costs and the next step in the process. He asked that the project be greenlighted to move quickly towards a March construction bid award and the city directly purchasing the pump from Metropolitan Pump Company. This will be voted on for approval at the May 24, 2021, City Council Meeting. Unanimous consensus was received from all five aldermen.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Flood-Prone Property Purchase Program, Report and Request for Direction – 214 South Wheeling Road: Engineer Glenn said the property at 214 Wheeling Road floods. An IGA will come before Council in which the MWRD Flood-prone property purchase program will allow the property to be purchased and ultimately owned and maintained by the Park District.

City Administrator Wade said that the property has flooded six times; therefore, it qualifies to be purchased and become part of Tully Park. It will have public access.

Alderman Morgan-Adams asked if 214 Wheeling Road property would be done within the next month. Engineer Glenn said it depended on the Council.

City Administrator Wade said that to move the MWRD forward, the city must show that it is moving forward. The city will not be the landholder.

When asked how a price was determined, Engineer Glenn replied that there would be two appraisals. He said that the city was working out details with the MWRD before bringing the IGA to the Council.

Greater Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry: Mayor Helmer said that he had spoken with City Clerk Prisiajniouk, and it had been decided to receive more information and discuss this topic at the first meeting in June. Alderman Morgan-Adams said that the bylaws of the current chamber require that the city have a seat on the Board. She asked if the City Clerk was still on the Board. City Clerk Prisiajniouk said that she was still on the Board; however, the new President of the Chamber, Neena Pottoore, did not have her e:mail address.

This topic was tabled.

In-Person and/or Hybrid Council Meetings: Mayor Helmer said there were still 2,000 COVID cases every day.

Mayor Helmer noted that very few residents attend meetings that are held in the Council Chambers; however, more attend meetings via Zoom. Mayor Helmer suggested that the Council wait to talk about returning to the Council Chambers until the first meeting in July and then vote on during the second meeting of July.

Mayor Helmer added that the city can have hybrid meetings. Alderman Dolick said that he was fine with waiting until June or July.

Treasurer Tibbits said the Audio/Visual Department has been planning and are ready for hybrid meetings for six months. He said that the dais would be people sitting at every other seat and the Staff would sit at a table below the dais. Presentations can be accommodated with Zoom. The Public would dial into Zoom.

City Council of Prospect Heights, Illinois – May 24, 2021, Meeting

Appointment of Bruce Mellen as Chairperson of the Plan/Zoning Board of Appeals: Mayor Helmer feels Mr. Mellen is the right person for this job. Alderman Dash said she has had the pleasure of working with Mr. Mellen and is pleased to have him as her replacement on the PZBA. Mr. Mellen has a substantial amount of experience of serving on the Board and his professional experience makes him uniquely qualified. Mr. Mellen resides in Arlington Countryside, our targeted area.

Chicago Executive Airport Monthly Update by Director Kiefer: Director Kiefer stated things are going well at the Airport. The Chicago Executive Airport Board has returned to in-person meetings. The financial outlook is well; flight operations are up; and the Airport has recuperated from COVID well. The Customs Building is well, and the grand opening is late July. Atlantic Air's new hanger will be completed in late August. ARSP residential sound proofing has 445 applicants. They will start with 10 pilot projects or 10 first homes this summer. RSIP meeting is June 2.

The accountant at the Airport has received an award by the Government Finance Officer Association (GFOA).

Rock the Runway will be held August 21.

The Airport is searching for a new Executive Director, utilizing ATK, ACS and Government HR. It is a 12-week progress and hope to have a new Executive Director installed in late fall/early winter 2021.

An Open House will be conducted on May 27 from 12:30-1:30 pm to recognize Jamie Adams and his achievements. Mr. Adams was well respected and will do well in other enterprises.

April Treasurer's Report by Finance Director, Cheri Graefen: The books closed on April 30, 2021, and the numbers are preliminary. Now preparing for the Audit, which will be conducted in July. Revenue budgeted as 116%, and 90% of our expenses. This leaves us with one million dollars plus in funds and our budget. We received unexpected Grant money.

Our income taxes are our highest budget stream and are 130% collected. The bigger revenue streams came in strong. Our non-home rule budget is 112% of which \$230,000 is budgeted. Low for food and beverage.

We maintained expenses in the general funds. Most departments are 90% expenditure level. Members kept the costs contained.

City Independence Day Parade: City Administrator, Joe Wade, said the staff met and reviewed conducting a 4th of July parade this year. It will be nice to get back to normal activities, but concerns persist.

Chief Zawlocki, Mark Roscoe, Director of Public Works, Peter Falcone, Joe Wade, Deputy Clerk Karen Schultheis are recommending a hybrid parade on Saturday, July 3, 2021. The staging area would be the St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish parking lot. Masses are held on Sunday, July 4; therefore, Saturday, July 3 is best. The parade route is departing St. Al's to old Willow Road to Schoenbeck Road and end at School District 23 on Schoenbeck Road (Betsy Ross School).

The committee looked at the train station, but safety concerns are present with crossing the railroad crossing twice.

The Hebron Church will not be providing lunch at the conclusion of the parade.

The parade would be strictly motorized with no walkers.

Alderman Morgan-Adams asked if dropping candy and dog bones would be permissible. Can we expand the area of the parade into other residential areas or other Wards?

Exposure of Covid is normally through the air instead of contact plus with so many groups of people attending the parade, it would be difficult to stop the procedure; therefore, dropping candy and dog bones will be allowed. However, the proximity of people to the parade is a safety concern but not dropping candy.

Alderman Cameron was in favor of having walkers. City Administrator Wade said it is a judgment call for walkers. He does not support total elimination of walkers. Vaccinations are available. How much of a path for walking? Staff is recommending this evening to eliminate walkers from the parade.

Alderman Dash felt walking should be permitted. Passengers in a car is limited.

Alderman Quinn likes the idea of walking. The staff puts in an incredible amount of work. We could scale things down for overall safety. We can reach out to organization on what they would want. You can keep the walkers to sports teams and kids. However, if you have walkers, you cannot spread the parade throughout the community.

Have you reached out to organization that previously had walkers? No. The staff thought they would get feedback from the Council first. A long lead time is not required to get groups organized.

Deputy Clerk Karen Shultheis: In the past, we always ended at the Hebron Church, and they provided lunch. However, this year, the parade concludes at District 23. We have received their approval. If we do have walkers and end at District 23, no lunch unless we want to provide something.

Mayor Helmer: People will walk whether we want them to do so or not. If there is too much walking, people will step out of the parade.

Alderman Dolick: If he had a choice between walkers and expanding the parade route, he would be in favor of expanding the parade route, if we have a motorized parade. Many people came out in the front lines and were excited to see the Holiday parade. Alderman Dolick would like to see the expanded parade route into City neighborhoods; cover the city.

Alderman Quinn: The 4th of July Parade would be the first live event in the community in over one year. Being able to see dressed up vehicles might be an inspiring and a happy moment for everyone. We must choose a safe route. Is it possible to have refreshments and food provided at the conclusion of the parade perhaps in the form of food trucks and/or vendors?

We can encourage residents to come to their favorite restaurant after the Parade if the parade route concludes at Prospect Crossing. We could also have coupon tables and incentives.

What is the exact mileage of the route in previous years and this year? The longest route in the past is from the Metra train station parking lot to the Hebron Church. Length of current parade route is 1.5 miles. The parade would be one hour in length if the route includes the East side of the city. The Holiday parade concluded at Pal-Waukeek Plaza. It moves much faster than walkers could keep up with, but they hit all the City's neighborhoods.

We may be better off expanding the parade to more areas of the city for resident participation. What is in Wards 1, 2 or 5 to use as the staging area?

Planning of the parade route will be determined by the Staff. Availability of food and refreshments at the conclusion of the parade must be determined.

City Mask Policy Report: Assistant City Administrator, Peter Falcone, said the State of Illinois and the Centers for Disease Control adjusted guidelines for COVID safety practices. Therefore, Mr. Falcone sought direction from the Council. The city has followed all CDD and State of Illinois Guidelines. All staff have and all visitors were required to wear facial coverings when social distancing was unavailable. Fully vaccinated persons no longer need to follow mask requirements and socially distance. However, businesses may impose certain requirements. For example, Walgreens states if you are fully vaccinated, customers do not need to wear a mask.

Staff is now seeking the City Council to see if you have any issues with the Staff following updated CDC guidelines or stay with restricted guidelines where masking is required. Would put out a proposal notification. Go on the Honor System.

Passport Services: Alderman Quinn said Passport Services were available in the lobby of City Hall. However, the Library is opening with construction ending and is ready for full occupancy and transitioning to full services. The Public Library aid people may continue to wear a mask if they wish for their own safety.

Elected Officers and Staff Reports: Izaak Walton park has a show of artwork from Kate Tully and Maura. It is a beautiful display of art within the park. Please take a moment and venture there. It is right on the Slough. As a city, we must promote this. It is a beautiful respite.

City Administrator Joe Wade is concerned about the loss of hotel/motel revenue and restricted use. LGDF – \$160 or 170,000 losses to the city.

There is one open position at the Police Department because of the COVID Pandemic.

Next City Council Meeting: The next meeting of the City Council will be a Workshop Meeting on Monday, June 14, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Newly appointed Board Member, Steve Messer, was inducted. Mr. Messer will serve through April 2023.

Financial Audit FY 2020, Anthony Cervini, Sikich LLP. Mr. Cervini presented the PHPD Financial Audit for the Full Year of 2020. Mr. Cervini highlighted net income for the year of \$378,791, and a pension obligation funding at 98.42%.

PHPD Treasurer's Report – Cash Report #4, dated April 27, 2021, was in the amount of \$4,497,734.48 and approved by a voice vote with one absent (Commissioner Jackson).

PHPD Annual Block Party: Executive Director, Christina Ferraro, stated that planning for the annual Block Party will occur as Covid restrictions loosen. Further details forthcoming.

The newly-elected Park Board Commissioners – Tim Jones, Karl Jackson, Eric Kirste and Betty Cloud – will be sworn in at the May 2021 meeting.

Superintendent of Recreation, Julie Caporusso, expressed excitement when she announced that Izaak Walton Park will house an Art Walk: pop-up exhibit through the summer.

Superintendent of Facilities and Parks, Dino Squiers, reported that Lions Field is ready for the season, and staff is working on the Pool opening.

Committees of the Board: GMRC Feasibility Committee members, Ellen Avery, and Betty Cloud, reported that the Committee has worked with Christina and the staff. The discussion has been about “What is exactly encompassed in this renovation? What is the path towards this referendum?” They discussed what the cost would be to renovate, and the additional cost should the pool be included. They discussed the approximate amount it would cost per year per household should there be a referendum. They asked the Board to consider adding the pool with the renovation. They discussed whether an actual assessment, “existing conditions report” should be completed to see what is salvageable. There will be continued discussion at the next board meeting.

Unfinished/Ongoing Business Consideration of Agreement for Exchange of Land at/adjacent to Muir Park. Executive Director Christina Ferraro reported there is no new information at this time. Christina will schedule a meeting with Lexington. Staff will survey neighbors to see what amenities they want to see at that park.

Acceptance of Donation/Gift from The Bridge Community Church: There was discussion about the proposed donation/gift of a modular professional grade mini soccer field from The Bridge Community Church to the Park District for Tully Park. The Board was in favor of accepting the donation pending a gift acceptance and facility usage agreements.

Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of May 25, 2021

I was unable to attend the May 25 PHPD Board Meeting. However, after posting of meeting minutes, I will provide an update.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled PHPD Board Meeting is Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Gary Morava Recreation Center.

Return to Conducting Meetings in City Council Chambers

Jill advised that the City Council is reviewing the possibility of returning to City Council Chambers to conduct their meetings. If so, the meetings would be conducted in City Council Chambers along with Zoom Meeting capability.

Jill asked Patrick Colvin of his thoughts and preferences, and Patrick said he would work with the PHNRC on whatever method we choose – via Zoom Meeting, in City Council Chambers or a hybrid meeting venue. Therefore, the PHNRC will follow the City Council’s example once decided.

City of Prospect Heights Independence Day Parade

Jill reported that the City Council discussed conducting a City of Prospect heights Independence Day Parade on Saturday, July 3, 2021. The parade would be strictly motorized, no walkers and possible kiosks available at the end of the parade at Betsey Ross School, District 23, Palatine and Schoenbeck Roads. The city is still discussing the parade route, but thought of covering all the neighborhoods, like the Holiday Parade in December 2020.

The parade staging area would be St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish parking lot.

Jill checked with Fast Signs so that if we have several cars, we could have magnets as decorations and advertising on our cars with the theme of our worksites, our Commission symbol, and our Commission website. Then we could have a kiosk at the end of the parade to hand out plants, stickers and simply have a chance to further connect with the community.

Commissioners are interested in participating in the parade.

Announcements to the Public

None.

Visitors' Comments

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission is July 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the meeting. Therefore, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary