

CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 17, 2021

Present: Peter Hahn  
Ed Madden  
Jill Moskal, Acting Chairperson and Recordkeeper  
Seth Marcus

Attendees: Maria Ampulski, Volunteer  
Peter Falcone, Assistant City Administrator

NOTE: Meeting held virtually via Zoom. Meeting ID: 842 1167 4858

OPENING ITEMS

Motion for Meeting Chairperson

Both Agnes Wojnarski, Chairperson, and Dana Sievertson were not in attendance. Therefore, members present voted for Jill Moskal to Chair the meeting.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. CDT by Jill Moskal.

Roll Call

Roll Call proceeded. Four Commissioners were present; therefore, a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 8, 2021

The minutes of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission Board Meeting of July 8, 2021, were approved. No corrections or additions were noted.

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteer Workdays

Jill reported that since our last meeting of July 8, the following volunteer workdays were held :

July 11, 2021 (Sunday) – The Pollinator Park – planting native plants and invasive special management: The goal was to plant nearly 3,000 native plugs and manage invasives to continue to turn Hillcrest Lake into Pollinator Park. The work was accomplished by 114/116 Hillcrest Drive.

July 14, 2021 (Weds.) – Special Seed Collection Wednesday at the Remnant Sedge Meadow was cancelled and rescheduled to July 18, 2021 (Sunday afternoon). Seed collection of sedges and rushes were disappointing, and we suspect the reason was the lack of rain in the spring and summer seasons.

July 25, 2021 (Sunday) – The ComEd Seeded Prairie – Clip aggressive Golden Rod and remove a few woody invasive plants.

August 8, 2021 (Sunday) - The Pollinator Park – Site preparation and planting. The base for the workday was 414 Hillcrest Drive where the north plantings were located. The goal was to finish planting native plants. At 408 Hillcrest Drive, clearing the last remnants of buckthorn from the shoreline down south to Willow Road.

August 22, 2021 (Sunday) – Our summer interns cut and cleared cattails in the west Slough shoreline; therefore, the workday on August 22 will involve plugging/planting riparian buffers.

On Sunday, August 15, 2021, Terry Miese, a past Nature Speaks Program presenter on Pollinators, conducted a pollinator ID and count at the ComEd Seeded Prairie. The report will reflect the immense increase of pollinators (30 to 40% Bombus). Native bees! Agnes said the bees live underground, and in doing so, change the soil in such a way that aids the plants which increases their numbers and, thereby, increasing the bee population.

On Saturday evening, August 14, Dana and Agnes hosted a “moth” party, outdoors with masks. The purpose was to conduct a Moth ID and Count by two Moth experts. Also present was Viola, their neighborhood “bug’ girl.

#### Arlington Countryside Storm Sewer System Project

Peter Falcone provided an Update. The engineering study is not finalized; therefore, the Arlington Countryside Storm Water Management presentation has been rescheduled from August 23 to the September 13, 2021 City Council Meeting.

#### Prospect Heights Public Library/Park District Events

##### Nature Speaks Program

In conversation with Dana during Nature Camp, Jill learned that Dana has lined up speakers through the summer of 2022.

Our next Nature Speaks Program is scheduled for September 23, 2021 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. via Zoom where Allison Sacerdote-Velat will present 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 has contacted two people for the winter Nature Speaks Program: Alice Bell, an English author who wrote “Our Biggest Experiment – An Epic History of the Climate Crises.” Ms. Bell said the discovery of climate change arrived slowly over many centuries of lesser-known findings. Ms. Bell traces how we built systems, technologies, and deeply embedded cultures for the burning of coal, gas, and oil at scale to track how we discovered the climate crisis was happening in the first place. Ms. Bell makes a convincing case that to effectively deal with climate change, people must understand how the world got to this point. Ms. Bell feels that we have inherited many tools that could help us and others survive through modern climate science.

Dana had also contacted 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 shows a connection between improved health and time spent outdoors in natural settings.

#### Fall Bird Walks

The Fall Bird Walks have been scheduled on Saturday, September 25, 2021 and Saturday, October 9, 2021 with Mary Lou Mellon of Bird Conservation Network. The September 25 Bird Walk will be our anchor event for Illinois Prairie Week.

#### Prospect Heights Park District Nature Camp – August 11, 2021

Jill reported that Mother Nature dictated the day with the weather starting the day hot and humid by thunderstorms, which deterred Nature Camp from outside to the inside gym of the Gary Morava Recreation Center. Then the power was lost at 11:00 a.m.

Jill learned that Christina Ferraro, Executive Director, sent a note of appreciation saying she felt the Nature Camp worked well and appreciated our flexibility with the weather and power lost by continuing Nature Camp inside flawlessly and without missing a beat.

Seth felt Nature Camp went well. We had 58 campers and five different stations with a mix of educational materials based on nature. The children were enthusiastic and well behaved.

Pete felt it was unusual to host a Nature Camp in a gymnasium, but we got things done.

Ed managed the station in the creek water and said the leeches were, once again, a big hit, as well as other critters that crawled out from under rocks.

Jill felt use of the microscopes brings education on nature to a new level providing plenty of details about flower structure, insects, etc.

PHNRC was appreciative of Kate Tully and Mara Lovisetto managed the craft station. Kate and Mara truly designed wonderful crafts for the children to create, such as butterflies and bookmarks.

### Slough Boardwalk Project and Funding

Dana and Agnes were not present to provide an Update. Agnes suggested via text message to Jill during the meeting to hold a Special Meeting the week of August 23 to vote on the Slough Boardwalk Proposals. Upon inquiring of Peter Falcone if this was possible, Peter said it depends on what day and time. Therefore, Dana and Agnes will advise Commissioners via e:mail message.

Ed said that Dana provided material quotes for the Boardwalk Project; however, costs are tentative.

### Pollinator Park Project Update

Dana provided Commissioners with a material quotes document for the Boardwalk and signage concepts for the Pollinator Park project. We are moving forward on the Project.

### Update: ROW (Right of Way)

Dana was not present at the meeting to provide an Update on Right of Way, a subject first mentioned at the PHNRC July 8, 2021 meeting.

### Summer Interns 2021

Jill reported that Blair and Colin have completed their PHNRC Summer Internship. The Internship was a success. Jill read the note of appreciation Blair provided to Dana and Agnes. The note was homemade, and Blair provided heartfelt gratitude for all she learned and how her enthusiasm for environmental science has been increased from her experience with the PHNRC.

Seth was able to spend time with both Blair and Colin, saying it was great what they were able to accomplish, and much is evident to showcase their efforts. They both learned a lot. We were fortunate to have had their labor and consideration.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Prospect Heights Park District Block Party

The PHPD will conduct their Block Party on Saturday, August 28, 2021 from 3:00 – 10:00 p.m. The swimming pool will be closed by August 28. Events planned are a Pet Pageant, Bingo, GOT TALENT competition, Kidz Zone with inflatables and a gaming truck with onsite video games and consoles, virtual gaming, online gaming. Etc., the two bands on stage will be Cowboy Jukebox (Country) at 6:00 p.m. and Run Forest Run (90's music) at 8:30 p.m.

Currently, Food Trucks confirmed are Mario's Kart, Kona Ice and maybe Culinary Gangster. A beer/wine garden will be available.

The Park District is aware that Mount Prospect is also conducting their Downtown Block Party on August 28.

Agnes, Dana, and Jill are available to work our table at the Block Party. Ed will be present as much as possible. John and Seth will be out of town, and Peter will be working in the morning.

Due to the time of the year, PHNRC is unable to give-away 6-packs of prairie plants; therefore, instead we will give-away a Swamp Milkweed plant.

### Illinois Prairie Week

Illinois Prairie Week is scheduled by the State of Illinois for the week of September 19, 2021. Jill sent a suggested timeline of activities for PHNRC to highlight this week:

<u>Sept 19 (Sunday) - 9:00am – 12 Noon</u>	Volunteer Workday
<u>Sept 20 (Monday)</u>	Commissioners Artwork Display and PHNRC representation in Library display cases for the month of September.
<u>Sept 21 (Tuesday) - Evening</u>	Slough 101 Presentation (Update)
<u>Sept 22 (Wednesday) - Evening</u>	Tour of the Slough and Hillcrest Lake – Pollinator Park Project Special invitations sent to City Officials, etc. Special Seed Collection Wednesdays – 5:00 pm to Dusk
<u>Sept 23 (Thursday) - 7:00 – 8:30pm</u>	Nature Speaks Program at the Library
<u>Sept 24 (Friday) - Early Evening</u>	Outdoor Reception at Hillcrest Lake for Residents and Artists
<u>Sept 25 (Saturday) - 7:30 – 9:30 am</u>	Bird Walk with Bird Conservation Network

We will finalize our Illinois Prairie Week activities at our September 9 meeting.

### Special Seed Collection Wednesdays

The PHNRC will start Special Seed Collection Wednesdays on August 25, 2021 until October 27, 2021. The start time is 5:30 pm until dusk.

The location of the Special Seed Collection Wednesdays is communicated via e:mail to all volunteers and subscribers.

### Path Maintenance at Worksite

Pete said that he is unaware of who is doing the work, but the path in the Nature Preserve at Gary Morava is being maintained, is in good shape and passable.

### Prescribed Burns and Permit Renewal

Dana will provide an update at the September 9 meeting. Difficult to believe that we're heading into the fall season, but it is time to plan ahead.

### Seed/Greenhouse Program

Agnes to provide an update at the September 9 meeting. However, Jill commented that she has been spending extra hours at Agnes and Dana's home and cannot believe the quantity of plants we have grown and are available for planting.

### Commissioners' Site Monitoring Reports

#### ComEd Seeded Prairie (Dana Sievertson)

An updated Site Monitoring Report will be provided by Dana by the September 9 meeting.

#### Heron Pond (John Kamysz)

John said that a large tree fell during the week of August 2 and is in the "park area," not the restored area by the pond itself. Otherwise, heron Pond is looking pretty good with tons of growth.

#### Hillcrest Lake (John Kamysz)

Please refer to Pollinator Park Update on page 4 of these minutes.

#### Nature Preserve (Gary Morava) (Pete Hahn)

Pete observed many native plants flowering all over the Nature Preserve. Everything is green and lush. The paths are being trimmed and maintained, and they are very passable for visitors.

The creek is flowing except where fallen branches have restricted flow. One large branch is down due to recent storms but is not a safety issue. Several dead and decaying trees need to be removed as they are a safety issue.

In summary, the Nature Preserve is a great place to visit and enjoy nature.

#### Remnant Prairie (Seth Marcus)

Seth reported the following:

Invasives: A fairly small amount of Teasel and what Seth believes are Phragmites on the north end. (Not yet sent out their seeds.) It is a good time to pursue both while there are still small quantities. BFT at the very north tip triangle and bleeding down south from there; we should go after it. Purple Loosestrife seems to be expanding its territory.

Natives: Quite a bit of Grass leaf Goldenrod and huge amounts of Canada Golden Rod. Plenty of Prairie Dock and a fair amount of Boneset.

The North end has a huge section of Panic Grass, so if we are looking to collect this type of plant, here is the spot!

What is most impressive is that the woody plants are almost completely gone!

Remnant Sedge Meadow (Jill Moskal)

A Special Seed Collection was attempted at the Remnant Sedge Meadow on Sunday afternoon, July 18, 2021. The seed collection area was from Old Willow Road south but not quite to the large cattail area.

Seed collection of sedges and rushes' seeds were disappointing and attributed to the lack of rain in the spring and summer seasons.

Types of seeds that we were able to collect in small quantities on July 18 were Dark Green Bulrush, Nodding Bulrush and Blue Vervain.

Saint Alphonsus (Ed Madden)

Ed reported that the prairie at St. Al's is doing very well overall with full growth throughout. Flowers blooming are Echinacea and Lazy Susan. St. Al's prairie has recovered from the initial drought or lack of rain.

Slough (Agnes Wojnarski)

An updated Monitoring Report will be provided by Agnes at the September 9 meeting.

Ed observed that the aquatic plants in the south Slough have recovered very well from the lack of water or low water levels with the onset of rain recently. Ed also said a White Heron convention was held today at the Slough.

Tully Park (Jill Moskal/Wendy Dewar)

Meeting with the PHPD

Rick Dewar, Matt Plischke and Mary Ellen Siemens met with Christina Ferraro, Executive Director of the PHPD, and Julie Caporusso, Superintendent of Recreation, on Monday, July 26, 2021.

Daniel (Dani) Martinez, Assistant Pastor of The Bridge Community Church, has not received a response from Euclid Elementary School regarding his proposal for connections Field. The PHPD is currently not moving forward due to (1) Dani's lack of funds; (2) Dani's marketing material on social media that is out of line with what the PHPD would agree to uphold, (i.e., exterior signage from sponsors), and (3) the appeal to sponsors (promising 300 people is unrealistic). Next Steps are not scheduled; however, Tully Park will be on the August 24 PHPD Board Agenda and formal action would be taken either to move forward or not.

PHPD Board was disappointed to learn during their June 22 meeting that Dani was communicating on his social media channels that Tully Park was a finalized decision for the location of Connections Field.

The PHPD would appreciate Friends of Tully Park to develop a plan on their vision for Tully Park.

### Tully Park

A large cottonwood branch fell into the park vegetation near the bridge. Wendy removed small branches, but the remainder is too large for her to manage. Therefore, could the PHPD help?

Blooming at Tully Park are Monarda, Rudbeckia, Tall Blue Bell Flower, Obedient Plant, Cardinal Flower, Iron Weed, and plenty of yellow flowers that Wendy is unable to identify.

There is very little Milkweed this year, likely due to the drought.

Sedges and grasses are not ready to gather seeds, but soon. The new area added along the north side did not do very well. Wendy said reseeding must be accomplished to eliminate lots of weeds.

Soccer games seem to be occurring regularly on Monday evenings; looks like it works with present park designs just fine.

### PHNRC Treasurer's Report and Budget 2021-2022

John Kamysz received the current budget numbers from Peter Falcone or the city. In John's absence, Jill reported that the PHNRC had four supply expenses May through July and intern salaries hit our budget. Therefore, our current net revenues are \$5,078.77.

### ROW (Right of Way)

Dana was not present at our meeting to provide an update on ROW (Right of Way). Dana previously said he would advise of more specifics as he learns of them.

### City Civic Meetings and PHNRC Representation

Jill provided notes from the following July City Council and June PHPD Board meetings:

#### City Council of Prospect Heights, Illinois – August 9, 2021 Meeting

The City Council was on summer break; therefore, a City Council Meeting was not conducted on August 9, 2021.

#### City Council of Prospect Heights, Illinois – August 23, 2021 Meeting

Appointments/Confirmations and Proclamations: A Proclamation Honoring Jerome Meyer for his Service on the Police Fire Commission was conducted. Jerry Meyer was Mayor of the City of Prospect Heights from March 1989 through March 1991; was one of the Founding Fathers of the Prospect Heights Police Department, playing a vital role in its inception in 1990; has been a Commissioner and Chairman of the Fire Police Commission from 2011 – 2021 and assisted in the appointment of all members of the Police Department of the City except the Chief of Police, the Deputy Chief, part-time Police Officers, and non-sworn personnel. Jerry Meyer was recognized as one of the most active volunteers and most respected residents having been awarded Citizen of the Year in 2001. Jerry Meyer was appointed in 2018 to the Prospect Heights Redevelopment Commission to discuss the City's redevelopment initiatives.

Appointment of Hymen Riebman to the Police Fire Commission was conducted and became effective on August 23, 2021. Mr. Riebman wrote Mayor Helmer, expressing interest in becoming a member of the Police and fire Commission. Mr. Riebman has been a resident of Prospect Heights since 2008. Mr. Riebman was a practicing lawyer from 1978 until 2001. During that period, he was Assistant State's Attorney and later in private practice. Mr. Riebman became a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County in 2001 and retired from this position in 2018. Currently, Mr. Riebman is a partner of the law firm of Grund & Leavitt and a Wheeling Village prosecutor.

Staff, Elected officials, and Commission Reports:

Chicago Executive Airport Monthly Update was provided by Director, Scott Saewert.

Rock 'n Run the Runway at the Chicago Executive Airport was held on August 21, 2021. The day held great weather. Scott expressed appreciation to the Airport Staff, Public Works Department, the Police Department, Elected Officials, and residents who participated. The maximum number of runners were 500 with 125 participants who walked the runway.

Customs Building: Scott stated that the CEA is on track for the ribbon cutting ceremony to open the Customs Building on September 23, 2021. Several airport operations are starting to decrease; namely, Customs because of Canada opening up.

Budget: Scott mentioned that 25% of the whole year was 3% higher than budget figures and 28% of the whole year shows 5% lower than budget expenses. Good news.

The Airport is still pursuing to fill the position of Executive Director. Interviews will begin in early September.

Joint Meeting: Hoping to conduct a Joint Meeting soon. Tentative date is September 22, 2021.

July Treasurer's Report presented by Bob Tannehill, Assistant Finance Director: Mr. Tannehill presented the Treasurer's Report for three months ending July 31, 2021. With 25% of the year having passed, for all funds combined, the City's total revenues represent 22.9% of budget, and total expenses reflect 11.7% of budget. The new revenue stream from the January Zen Leaf Cannabis revenue tax has resulted in \$119,000 revenues, and the Video Gaming Tax has resulted in a strong revenue stream.

The Staff has applied for the American Rescue Plan and anticipate a first installment within the next 30 days.

The Finance Department has completed the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Book, which will become available on the City's website. The 2022 Budget Book is a useful tool and resource during the year to maintain fiscal responsibility for the city.

Alderman Dolick requested that the Ad Hoc Committee on Council Meetings schedule a meeting because many of the statistics are doing in a negative direction and concerns all of us. The Committee would discuss additional possibilities either in person or hybrid meetings. The Ad Hoc Committee on Council Meetings should meet before the City Council Meeting of September 13, 2021.

Treasurer Tibbetts: Treasurer Tibbetts had an opportunity to speak with Congressman Brad Schneider when present for the showing of the Sidewalk Project in Ward 2. Treasurer Tibbetts spoke about water.

About 2,500 different homes in our community are on a well system. We must build out our water system as the cost keeps escalating. Treasurer Tibbetts spoke with several Aldermen for ideas, and Treasurer Tibbetts suggest purchasing Illinois American, a private utility.

Illinois American provides water to the east side of town, but they are an expensive source of water. Perhaps presenting an offer to purchase might be attractive. They provide their service at full cost. Many think that municipalities that supply portable water to their communities subsidize the cost through other sources of revenue. However, this is untrue. It's reverse, but difficult to prove. Therefore, it should be investigated.

Illinois American, as a private company, pays costs that we would not have to pay, such as taxes and profits to their investors. In our case, if we owned a water system, which, in fact, we already own part of our water system, our investors are the residents. That is what people miss. Once you invest and pay off the cost, you own it ,and you own it forever.

Treasurer Tibbetts would appreciate a discussion on owning our own water system as a potential workshop agenda item at a future Council Meeting. Eventually, the topic of water will occur, and it is important to take a long-term approach.

Police Chief Jim Zawlocki: Police Chief Zawlocki reported that one police position is open, and his objective is to hire a Police Officer by Dec 2021 or January 2022. The Department's Outreach Program for this year concluded on August 6. National Night Out was held on August 3, 2021, at the Gary Morava Recreation Center. The Citizen Police Academy is starting October 4 until November 22, 2021, on Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. At the conclusion, participants may become a Police Volunteer.

Dan Peterson, Building and Zoning Department: Pliteck, LLC is relocating their light manufacturing business to 35 East Piper Lane in Prospect Heights. One-hundred employees will be transferring from Des Plaines to the Prospect Heights location. Mr. Taylor, Assistant Director, is retiring, and Dan's objective is to fill the position soon.

Mark Roscoe, Public Works: The surface reconstruction of Old Willow Road is nearing completion.

City of Prospect Heights, Illinois – Ad Hoc Committee on Council Meetings - August 30, 2021, Meeting

Chairpersons: Wendy Morgan Adams and Matthew Dolick

Three possibilities: Total in person; totally remote; hybrid (in person and virtual). The Ad Hoc Committee investigated conducting City Council Meetings in a hybrid version.

Recommendations provided by Attorney Hess stipulate that hybrid meeting may be conducted if the recommendations by the Governor have not expired. All Council Members would have a choice to attend either in person or remotely, but certain staff officials would have to be on site, including the City Administrator.

Notice must be provided to Joe Wade 48 hours in advance or by end of the day (5:00 p m) on a Thursday, if a council member will not attend live. City Council members attending a Live Meeting must wear a mask and in compliance with State recommendations. Staff needs to know how to set up the meeting room to ensure safety and spacing along with AV issues.

Mayor Helmer recognizes that at certain meetings for ceremonial purposes, it would be preferred to have all Aldermen present.

Conducting hybrid City Council Meeting may occur only while the Governor's Disaster Proclamation is current.

The Ad Hoc Committee will continue to meet. Alderman Dolick suggested every two months. Alderman Morgan Adams suggested an October meeting.

Alderman Dolick mentioned that the first meeting in December include conducting Police Awards, which always includes many attendees. Perhaps this ceremony could start early in the evening and be held at Gary Morava then City Council Members would return to Council Chambers to conduct the City Council Meeting.

Attorney Hess suggested providing Joe Wade with a written recommendation that he would send to the Mayor and Aldermen via e:mail message for a straw vote. The recommendation is to conduct the City Council Sept 13 meeting as a hybrid meeting.

Summary: Ad Hoc Committee on Council Meetings recommendations or proposals, per Wendy Morgan Adams:

The City Council Meetings would be held via hybrid in person virtual format with in person attendance being voluntary for all elected officials, staff, and members of the public. All others may attend via Zoom.

Elected Officials and Staff attending remotely must provide advance notice to Joe Wade by the Thursday before the meeting to adequately prepare or initiate adequate preparations for the meeting room and meeting method. However, in the event of an emergency on the day of the meeting, said emergency will not prohibit Elected Officials or Staff from attending via Zoom.

The Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations adopted on July 12, 2021, will remain effective for those attending in person.

The duration of the hybrid meeting format is limited to the duration of the Governor's IDPH Disaster Declaration or until the City Council determines otherwise.

If the disaster duration is lifted, the City Council will return to in-person meetings pursuant to the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations adopted on July 12, 2021.

The Ad Hoc Committee will meet every two months to evaluate effectiveness of meetings and suggested notifications.

Resident submissions must be sent to Peter Falcone and the City Clerk since many of the residents submit their forms via in-person at the last meeting. If a submission is submitted via chat, we would not deny them.

The occupancy in the meeting room during a meeting is 20 people. Chief Police Zawlocki would monitor room occupancy for City Council Meetings.

#### Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of July 27, 2021

Additional Information:

##### **New Business**

Frank Parisi of Williams Architect led the discussion regarding the Feasibility Study including Lions Pool. Frank shared information from the recent focus groups and stakeholder meetings regarding the potential renovation of Lions Park Pool and Gary Morava Recreation Center. He discussed the upcoming Open House that will be scheduled which will include a "dotting exercise" where everyone will have the opportunity to vote on their preferred programs.

The Park Board Commissioners were asked the following questions:

- What Recreation facility(ies) do they use and how do they use them;

- What are the park district's strengths in terms of facilities and programs;
- What aquatics programs should be offered and what amenities do they need most at the pool;
- What recreational programs should be offered at GMRC and what recreational spaces are most needed;
- What would be the most critical element in getting this Pool and Recreation Center reimaged and built and what ideas do they have for funding these ideas and operations

This topic will continue to be discussed at future Board Meetings.

**Approve Resolution 07.27.2021B: ComEd Green Region Grant Resolution of Authorization to accept funds for the Pollinator Boardwalk for the Prospect Heights Slough**

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloud and seconded by Commissioner Kirste to approve 07.27.2021B: ComEd Green Region Grant Resolution of Authorization to accept funds for the Pollinator Boardwalk for the Prospect Heights Slough as submitted. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Cloud, Jackson, Jones, Kirste, Messer

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**Memorandum of Understanding for Prospect Heights TreeKeepers Chapter**

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloud and seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Prospect Heights Park District, Openlands, and Prospect Heights TreeKeepers. as submitted. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Cloud, Jackson, Jones, Kirste, Messer

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**Special Events**

National Night Out was held on Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had a dozen community partners along the perimeter of the the pool offering freebies and services to our attendees. Everyone enjoyed a complimentary hot dog/chip/drink/ice-cream, swimming, and pool games. We had 281 people attend the event. Coca-Cola and Gordon Foods provided the food items at no cost to the event. The Chik Fil A mascot was a hit with all who attended.

Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of August 24, 2021

Prospect Heights Park District Block Party of August 28, 2021: Christina Ferraro reported that Senator Ann Gillespie will be present and introduced during the Block Party.

Annette Curtis, Superintendent of Finance and Planning, stated that the fall season will be very busy in the Accounting Office with the following meeting scheduled:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
9/28/2021	7:00pm	<b>BINA Hearing</b> For 2021-2023 Issues
10/26/2021	7:00pm	<i>Board Meeting - 2021 Bond Ordinance</i>
11/16/21	7:00pm	<i>Board Meeting Levy Truth in Taxation</i>
12/7/2021	6:00pm	<b>Finance Committee BUDGET review.</b>
12/14/2021	7:00pm	<i>Board Meeting FY 2022 Budget Presentation</i>
12/14/21	7:00pm	<i>Board Meeting to approve Annual Tax Levy Ordinance</i>
12/17/2021		<b>FY 2022 BUDGET</b> available for public inspection
1/25/2022	7:00pm	<b>Public Hearing on FY 2022 BUDGET</b>
1/25/2022	7:00pm	<i>Board Meeting to approve FY 2022 Budget</i>

Prospect Heights Park District Block Party of August 28, 2021: Christina Ferraro reported that Senator Ann Gillespie will be present and introduced during the Block Party.

Committee Appointments: Christina Ferraro reported that per the Board Manual, the election of board officers occurs at the May Board Meeting for one-year terms, and the assigned chairs of standing committees are established at the June meeting.

Due to board vacancies, the board officers were reassigned in January 2021. A full board is now in place. Therefore, board members may be assigned to Committees:

Current Board Officers to remain in their office until the May 2022 Board meeting:

Tim Jones, President  
Ellen Avery, Vice President  
Betty Cloud, Secretary  
Eric Kirste, Treasurer

Next, appointment of current board members to the following standing committees must occur. The appointees will serve until the June 2022 Board Meeting:

Finance Committee: Eric Kriste and Vacant Spot  
Personnel and Planning Committee: Ellen Avery and Vacant Spot  
Policy and Procedure Committee: Ellen Avery and Betty Cloud  
Recreation Facilities, Parks & Maintenance Committee: Tim Jones  
Recreation Programs & Resident Relations Committee: Eric Kirste & Betty Cloud  
OCC Programs, Facilities, Grounds & Maintenance Committee: Karl and Tim Jones

Tim stated that the Board needs to fill the Committees' vacant positions and vote on Board officers. Steve will join the Finance Committee; Stacie will join the Personnel and Planning Committee; and Paul will join the Recreation Facilities, Parks & Maintenance Committee.

Committee context:

Finance Committee the Finance Committee shall be comprised of the Board Treasurer as chairperson, and one other Board member. The Board President, the Executive Director, and the Business Manager shall be ex-officio members of this committee. This committee is charged with the consideration of and recommendations to the Board regarding issues relating to budgets, finance, strategic planning, policy, computer technology, personnel, insurance, and related matters. Currently: Eric & VACANT

**Personnel and Planning Committee:** The Personnel and Planning Committee is charged with consideration of and recommendations to the Board regarding all employee and workplace policies. In addition, matters related to the District's Master Plan. Currently: Ellen & VACANT

**Policy and Procedure Committee:** The Policy and Procedure Committee is charged with consideration of and recommendations to the Board regarding District policies and procedures, including review, revision, adopting ordinances and policy consistent with Illinois law and recommendations of Risk Management Agency. Currently: Ellen & Betty

**Recreation Facilities, Parks & Maintenance Committee:** The Recreation Facilities, Parks & Maintenance Committee is charged with consideration of and recommendations to the Board regarding facility usage, park properties, land acquisition and development, buildings and grounds maintenance, historic preservation, capital projects, and related matters. Currently: Tim

**Recreation Programs & Resident Relations Committee:** The Recreation Programs & Resident Relations Committee is charged with consideration of and recommendations to the Board regarding all relating to, recreational programming, communications, marketing, and related matters. Currently: Eric & Betty

**OCCC Programs, Facilities, Grounds & Maintenance Committee** OCCC Programs, Facilities, Grounds & Maintenance Committee is charged with consideration of and recommendations to the Board regarding the golf operations, golf course property, design and development, buildings and grounds maintenance, capital projects, and related matters. Currently: Karl & Tim

The President of the Board shall serve as an ex-officio member of all Committees.

Feasibility Study Update: Christina Ferraro, Executive Director, reported that Staff continues to work with Williams Architects on the Feasibility Study. Stakeholders were interviewed, and focus groups were held to discuss the pool being included in the potential recreation center renovation.

An Open House will be held on September 14, 2021, at 6:30 pm at the Gary Morava Recreation Center to receive additional input from the community. Imagery Boards will be available to assist with the programming of the facilities.

A community survey is scheduled for the fall. Williams Architects will then prepare a conceptual design with the input received from interviews, focus groups, an Open House and survey. The designs will be shared in the Spring at another Open House where the community can offer feedback for refinements to the plan.

Williams Architects will provide a final presentation on the Feasibility Study to the Board at the July 2022 meeting.

Tully Park Update: Christina Ferraro, Executive Director, said in April, the Park Board approved the acceptance of a donation/gift of a soccer structure from The Bridge Community Church pending the agreement between the park district and the church; the neighbors of Tully Park voiced their dismay at the June Park Board meeting.

Staff met with several Tully Park neighbors in July regarding protocol of approving park projects. The neighbors briefly discussed potential plans for Tully, which they prefer, such as pollinator gardens, walking paths, native plantings, and open space. Detailed plans by the neighbors will be prepared.

The Bridge Community Church is discussing alternate placement of the soccer structure at Euclid Elementary School, 1211 North Wheeling Road, Mt. Prospect. Meanwhile the church group continues to host soccer games at both Euclid School and Tully Park with portable nets and goals.

Tim Jones, President, said the Board wants to put this issue “to bed” until they see how the 214 South Wheeling Road property develops.

At the September Park Board Meeting, Friends of Tully Park’s Strategic Plan for Tully Park will be presented. The Strategic Plan will include ideas for an open/natural area. At the October Park Board Meeting, the Board will discuss the 214 South Wheeling Road property.

The Park Board needs to discuss how to redevelop Tully Park over time but officially, no structure. The Park board also does not see a big development for the 214 South Wheeling Road property.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled PHPD Board Meeting is September 28, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Gary Morava Recreation Center on Camp McDonald Road in Prospect Heights, IL.

### Announcements to the Public

Seth encouraged all residents to plant a native garden. The flowers return every year, it is easy to maintain, and it is a gift to nature.

The public can plant a native garden in their own yard. It is very simple to do. The concept of build it and they will come is shown by the beautiful Swallow Tail Butterfly and other pollinators attracted to native plants.

Seth shared his computer screen to show the native plants in his 8’ x 8’ native garden: Prairie Blazing Star, Black-Eyed Susan, Blue Vervain, Yellow Coneflower, Wing Stem (a yellow flower), Rattlesnake master and grasses, such as, Canada Wild Rye and Prairie Drop Seed.

A former Nature Speaks Program presenter, Doug Tallamy, said that so much of America’s landscape is lawn; however, if we would change the environment to a natural area, this change alone would make our environment better.

### Visitors’ Comments

No visitors were present to comment.

### OTHER BUSINESS

#### Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission is September 9, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.

### ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the meeting. Therefore, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS  
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary