

Agnes said we have other encompassing tasks to accomplish during our volunteer workdays, such as trail maintenance at the Nature Preserve and continue working on the Pollinator Park Project. Special workdays may need to be scheduled or split up a workday to divide and conquer.

Special Seed Collection Wednesdays

Special Seed Collection Wednesdays have started and are well attended. The total seed collected to date on our own and at the special workdays is between 10 and 15 pounds.

Slough Boardwalk Project and Funding

Project

PHNRC has started on construction of the Slough Boardwalk Project. At our workday of September 19, we will focus on the construction of the Boardwalk units that will be placed at 9 Marion and proceed south to Izaak Walton Park.

Special appreciation to John Kamysz and Chris Wood for their dedicated time, craftsmanship and work to complete 20 frames.

John Weirich's son, Felix, is the Eagle Scout managing this project. John has been fully present with the tools, knowledge and unprecedented talent and work ethic. Over a four-day timeframe, John and Commissioner Sievertson cut all of the material for the Boardwalk. Everything is cut and ready to be assembled.

Dana has approached the John Hersey Wrestling Club for their assistance in carrying the wood frames from 9 Marion into the field. They are always looking for unique workouts, and they need service hours. Having the Wrestling Club's assistance would be a real asset to the Project.

Installation of the Slough Boardwalk Project is proposed for October 3 and October 17. October 2 is also a consideration.

John Kamysz expressed concerns of the multiple straight sections that will be laid down and transitioning as the boardwalk winds through the area. He understands the wish for esthetics of laying the sections at right angles at the turns in the path, but this is less optimal. John suggested planning for intersections as the path winds through the area. John supplied photos with curved sections connecting straight sections for reference. Also, how will we level the walk?

Dana said one of the reasons we have the exemption for all the ADA regulations is due to the rough terrain; therefore, we cannot grade it and make it perfect. If we do this, then we are responsible for making the path ADA compliant which we cannot do. It is also not part of the program.

John understands. However, he wonders how each section will match up with the other on the unsteady ground. Dana said once we get out into the field and start assembling, we will know what is necessary.

The thought is the far end sections may be carriageable together so they can conform to the high points of the plain and equalize. Carriage bolts are part of the equation.

The path has curves as well as turns and angles. We may have to modify sections of the basin where the boardwalk will be placed. We could make it a straight path and plug on both sides with plants. Putting a section with a turn or angle or something else let us do that in the field as we get there. No way to anticipate what it will look like. The boardwalk will be placed to the south side or slough side of the big tree or go around the tree and back up to the path. This is a good place to have a direct right angle.

Further on in the basin is where the path may curve. John has good ideas and will send photos for reference.

Several on-site discussions have been held, but the layout must be finalized, and Felix needs to be present because it is his project. The day to finalize will be held between the end of September and beginning of October when the boardwalk is actually installed.

We have three weeks to finalize the layout. Until then, material must be fabricated before it warps.

John Kamysz's preference would be that the path is not cingulated but a curved contour. You can achieve that with shorter angulations that esthetically will look like a curve but be angled. There should be an overall solid concept before moving things out into the field. We should construct a curve, so we know how best to produce it because it takes practice to get the process down. John suggested getting together within the next week or so and stake the path. There are many obstacles in the path that must be removed.

Funding

PHNRC has spent about \$7,000 for materials from Home Depot. Six deliveries were made. All materials have been received except the anchor posts to be received on September 29. There is money left for incidentals. We are in good shape. This is the fastest we have initiated and proceeded with a ComEd Project.

The PHPD have been terrific to work with in ordering and keeping track of materials. Annette Curtis has been Dana's contact and has been top draw all the way!

Arlington Countryside Storm Sewer System Project

Peter Falcone provided an Update. The engineer is awaiting more information before finalizing his presentation; therefore, this topic has been pulled from the September 13 City Council Meeting. The next anticipated presentation date is the City Council Meeting of September 27, 2021.

Further, it is unknown if the City Council Meeting of September 27 will be a hybrid meeting or in-person meeting. It depends on what the Governor extends the Executive Order.

Prospect Heights Public Library/Park District Events

Nature Speaks Program

Our next Nature Speaks Program current schedule is as follows:

September 23, 2021 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. via Zoom; Presenter: Allison Sacerdote-Velat.
Subject: Buckthorn.

January 2022: Presenter: Alice Bell, an English author who wrote “Our Biggest Experiment – An Epic History of the Climate Crises.”

April 2022 Earth Day: Presenter: David Swagler, a World Class Photographer. Subject: Lake in the Hills Fen History. David is also a world-class photographer.

Fall 2022: Dana has spoken with Bill Kleinman of the Nachusa Grasslands and is awaiting feedback.

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 Block Party – August 28, 2021

This year’s Block Party was great fun! A tremendous number of kids approached us and were very engaging. One young girl of 14 visited with us for almost one hour and was fascinated with viewing nature through use of the microscope. Therefore, Agnes gave the microscope to her.

We gave away Swamp Milkweed, and just as Agnes and Jill arranged the potted plants, as if on cue, a Monarch Butterfly appeared and started laying eggs.

Pollinator Park Project

PHNRC is entering the closing phased of the Project. We must spend all funds for the Project by December 31, 2021. During our Budget discussion, we will talk about moving funds that are currently in the regular budget but must be reported in the Pollinator Park Budget for accurate accounting. What was purchased was from our general budget for soil and Greenhouse supplies for the plugs that were planted but went to Pollinator Park. Other than that, just signage. The amount left in the Pollinator Park Budget is \$5,500.

Signage is the last significant expenditure, about \$2,500. Dana sent Commissioners interpretative signage samples for review and comment. Construction of a wooden waterproof structure to house 15 to 20 pamphlets explaining the project, what is occurring in the prairie at certain times of the year, bird migration, etc., was proposed by Peter.

Benches would be substituted with bollards and logs. Trash cans have been eliminated because of Public Works' concerns that the public would dump their home trash in the bins.

Joe Wade visited the Project to look at the possibility of conducting additional shoreline restoration around Hillcrest Lake. John has agreed to survey residents from Willow Road to Owen Court to see how many linear feet of restoration must be completed and determine prioritization over the next five years then produce a program to bring before Council and with a budget. One of the benefits is if a section is completed every year, it offers the summer interns at that time an experience in shoreline restoration that they normally would not experience.

Seth inquired of utilizing coconut rolls, again, and the budgeted money. John said this is idea is part of the proposal to the City Council for the five-year plan in restoring the shoreline. Can we do the whole shoreline with what we have left? No. Will the city fund it for us? John will estimate how much more linear footage of coconut roll is necessary and determine pricing, budget and a five-year plan.

The proposal to ComEd involved the original 120' of shoreline that we restored but was never an element of the project. We did it with an objective to prove that it works and then pitch it to the city. When Joe came out, he agreed it works. Joe said we are solving a 40-year problem and suggested utilizing original date, creating a five-year plan and creating a budget.

As far as the budgeted amount for the Pollinator Park, the plan is to create the buffers throughout. We need the seed and the soil. No extra funds for shoreline restoration currently exist.

The whole area southwest of where the plantings are in front of John's house where we took out the evergreens in front of Lou's house – it is the wrong time of the season to continue, but everything needs to be in place. We did not remove the other half of evergreens because it would create vulnerability to the shoreline over the winter. We will, however, put seed down.

We plugged a lot of areas, and they are doing great. John said the seeded areas are less attractive and loaded with Ragweed. Agnes said Ragweed is an annual and will go away. We have seeded the area and now wait. It just takes time. Anything that is problematic, Agnes cuts or mows. The early saving grace is the presence of Black-Eyed Susan's. Underneath all the natives are waiting for their time, which will be in one or two years. The seeds need to germinate, and we have been in a drought condition. Plugs are work and needed to be consistently watered.

Joe Wade suggested raising the subject of a boat launch area at Hillcrest Lake with the City Council. The area considered is to the immediate north of what used to be affectionately known as the Cormorant tree and taking a 10' x 10' section of the deck, grading it down and plant Buffalo Grass. Buffalo Grass is not native to this region but native to Illinois. It is durable, can be mowed and can stabilize the area because it has deep roots. Public Works has the equipment to break down the area to just above the water level to make easy access for people with kayaks and pontoon boats. Mark Roscoe, Public Works Director, is concern with placing gravel instead of Buffalo Grass because of the gravel falling into the Lake. Mark suggested placing shrubs to avoid powered vehicles and dropping off boats.

John inquired: What is the goal of a boat launch? There are multiple areas around Hillcrest Lake where a boat could be slipped into the water. Will this be a public boat launch? If so, residents would not be in favor. Public use access is easily available along Willow Road; however, very little boating occurs in the Lake. The water depth does not support a powered boat. John is unsure of our committing to a formal boat launch and advised to be careful how we market and advertise it. Signage would stipulate human powered boats only.

Slope it down and not advertise it. Access for residents who have their pontoon boats. If it turns into a huge public boat launch area, push back will occur from residents.

Summer Interns 2021

Our summer interns, Blair and Colin, have completed their PHNRC Summer Internship.

We will now conduct a mini internship with District 214 for the fall. We will have one or two interns, again, working 30 hours from 8:00-9:30 a.m. on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Colin and Felix were the first interns of the mini-internship program in the Fall of 2019.

Agnes said that Wheeling High School students came out yesterday, September 8 for one hour. Agnes provided a tour of the Slough. They will return in two weeks for another hour.

Also, a Brownie Troop will come out for a walk at the end of September on a Wednesday. If anyone would like to participate, please inform Agnes.

NEW BUSINESS

Illinois Prairie Week

Dana said Jill suggested modifying the timeline of activities for Illinois Prairie Week because there is much to be accomplished with our worksites at this time of the year and current Projects. Therefore, Illinois Prairie week will consist of the following:

- Sept 19 (Sunday): 9:00am – 12 Noon: Volunteer Workday
- Sept 22 (Weds.): 5:00-7:30 pm: Special Seed Collection Wednesdays
- Sept 23 (Thurs.): 7:00-8:30 pm: Nature Speaks Program at the Library
- Sept 25 (Saturday): 7:30-9:30 am: First Fall Bird Walk with Bird Conservation Network
- Sept 25 (Saturday): 10:00-11:00 am: Park District's Wildflower on Wood Painting Class with Kate Tully and Mara Lovisetto. Agnes will be present to talk about wildflowers.
- Sept 25 (Saturday): 11:00am – 4:30 pm: Pop-Up Art Sale of the artists involved at the Slough at Izaak Walton

Poplar Creek Prairie Stewards Seed Collection

Agnes has not yet arranged our one-day event in October with PCPS where we are invited to collect seed that we need, such as Indian Grass, and where Agnes may look for other native species we are interested in. Agnes will advise.

PHNRC Annual Seed Processing and Volunteer Appreciation Event

Dana queried if this year's Annual Seed Processing and Volunteer Appreciation Event be live with processing of seed, potluck and presentation of loppers or do we conduct a potluck and presentation of the Golden Loppers as a zoom event with seed processing as a guerilla activity?

Agnes felt conducting the seed processing to the end of October means working outside in the fresh air. Only 70 to 80% of seed would be collected; however, we will manage and figure out when to process the remaining 20 to 30% of seed.

After a brief discussion, Commissioners agreed to conduct the PHNRC Annual Seed Processing and Volunteer Appreciation Event on Sunday, October 24 and outdoors. Whether or not potluck would be offered would be determined.

Path Maintenance at Worksite

Agnes said we will determine a path maintenance schedule by corresponding via e:mail message on availability and, also, incorporate this work in our volunteer workdays.

Agnes will perform a bit of path maintenance this weekend and is aware that the Nature Preserve path needs work.

Prescribed Burns and Permit Renewal

Dana completed the burn permit application, and his contact in Springfield confirmed receipt. The burn permit is for one full year, which means it applies to both the fall and spring seasons for one year for all our sites.

Dana said the area north of 9 Marion that was never burned last year. Agnes said if we have an opportunity and great weather, we could do it.

Seth requested a conversation about our burn policy. Should we attempt to mostly burn in the spring and then also the fall or annually or biannually? How often should we burn if the fuel is available?

Agnes said we cannot have an exact plan because everything must be evaluated on a year-to-year basis. We cannot have a five-year plan for burning. We could have a good fall season for burning but a complete failure in the spring. Some of our sites do not burn well, so we already conduct a patchy burn. We also leave areas open for animals. We have never had a 100% full burn. We also do not have a 50-year mature prairie that is burned in sequences of thirds.

Each of our sites are given consideration based on their situation. For example, the ComEd Seeded Prairie is critical because it has not been burned in four years. The periphery of the Slough has never been burned 100%. Our sites have received patchy burns.

The fuel for a burn is dictated by the grasses or when too many shrubs are present.

John made a recommendation to refer to one of our Nature Speaks presenters who spoke about burning, over burning and wildlife. Dana said the speaker was Doug Tallamy and Gerard Wilhelm. John inquired if this fits into our equation for burning.

This discussion will be continued.

Seed/Greenhouse Program

Agnes has placed seed that we collected in the spring, summer and fall into pots for the fall and winter germination. We should grow a lot more forbs this fall.

Dana said if you look at our projects and what needs to be done that dictates the focus of the seed collection and what is grown. Last year was year of the sedge. This year already two or three people requested help with Grow It, Don't Mow it; therefore, forbs are needed.

Agnes said we will continue to develop Pollinator Park. Canada Golden Rod has over run all sites. What we collect and propagate is determined by current conditions and needs.

John said Pokeweed is everywhere; what do we do with it? Dana said we have already left sections of it, but there is no question it has overrun the Nature Preserve. Agnes said that Seth, the interns, and her spent a full Wednesday cutting, stacking and herbiciding Pokeweed at the Nature Preserve plus another day.

Comment was heard that children are eating the berries. Are the berries poisonous? Agnes said there are no reports of anyone dying from pokeweed poisoning. You could consume large quantities of it and suffer some common maladies. American Indians used to boil the root stock and use it. This is a controversial topic. Pokeweed is a native plant, and the Cedar Waxlings love it. But we contain it because it is aggressive, not invasive. People are worried about it, so we are trying to eliminate it by the trails and open areas.

This year has been the year of the Pokeweed and Obedient Plant. There are southern Illinois species that are appearing at the Slough. We have flooding one minute, drought the other and different things that we are not used to.

Pete asked if we could herbicide in the spring. Agnes, said yes, we cut and herbicided Pokeweed when it was first emerging. We did some last year and this year. That should work fairly well. It is a matter of who does it because we do not have interns in the spring. We also have Cattails, Canada Thistle and Reed Canary in the spring that must be managed as they emerge. Agnes said if only she could take three to four weeks in the spring, everything would be accomplished to satisfaction.

Commissioners' Site Monitoring Reports

ComEd Seeded Prairie (Dana Sievertson)

The prairie is in its autumn glory transitioning from the yellows to the purples. There is an abundance of seed available, and we collected our annual limit of Monarda the evening of September 8, 2021. Two weeks will see a huge increase of what is available to collect.

The paths are in good condition and about ready for a mow. The side buffers have been mowed.

Pollinators are winding down, and a full complement of butterflies remain in the area. A minimal amount of invasives exist, but an increase of aggressive species is present. A special workday should be organized to combat the Canadian Goldenrod as there are so few left in the year, and they are called for between the Slough Boardwalk and Pollinator Park projects. Seed collection was a throwback event and thoroughly enjoyable.

Heron Pond (John Kamysz)

Heron Pond trail is exploding with all our fall color and could use cutting and trimming of the trails. There is still a very large fallen tree in the "park" part of it, been there about six (6) weeks in John's estimation. Not sure when or if the Park District is going to get to this.

Hillcrest Lake (John Kamysz)

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

Nature Preserve (Gary Morava) (Pete Hahn)

Pete reported that the Nature Preserve is in a declining condition. Paths need to be trimmed back. Path edge border limbs are scattered about. A lot of Canadian Goldenrod and Thistle are overtaking our plantings. Pulp Weed is a problem that needs a management plan as it poisonous to humans.

The branch pile is exposed, and the area looks like a dumping ground.

Bur Oak plantings are doing well. In fact, our largest bur oak planted years ago has grown by three to five feet in heights this year.

In summary, the condition of the Nature Preserve is not ideal.

Remnant Prairie (Seth Marcus)

An updated report on the Remnant Prairie was not provided.

Remnant Sedge Meadow (Jill Moskal)

An update on the Remnant Sedge Meadow is to note that Boneset and Common Evening Primrose were present.

Saint Alphonsus (Ed Madden)

Ed reported that the prairie at St. Al's remains status quo. Ed noted that plants are going to seed and soon we should be collecting Cord Grass and False Aster.

Agnes stated that a meeting with the St. Alphonsus Landscaping & Gardening Ministry is planned for Monday evening, September 27 at 4:00 p.m. to review and assess the prairie garden in the front part of the church property.

Slough (Agnes Wojnarski)

Information on the Slough is provided with the Slough Boardwalk Project on pages 2 and 3 of these minutes.

Tully Park (Jill Moskal/Wendy Dewar)

Evening work was conducted during the week of August 23 and involved pulling and cutting weeds at Tully Park.

Seed Collection evenings will be scheduled in the future.

Master Plan and Five-Year Strategic Plan for Tully Park

Friends of Tully Park, especially Mary Ellen Siemens, Wendy Dewar, and Rick Dewar, constructed a Master Plan for Tully Park after receipt of input from interested neighbors and discussion with the PHNRC (Dana and Agnes). The Master Plan for Tully Park was included in the PHPD Board Book for the meeting of August 24, 2021.

The main objective of the Plan is for everyone/everything to win – the PHPD, the wildlife, the environment, the residents, the Bridge Community Church, and the community.

The vision is to enhance wildlife habit and diversity while maintaining open space for all to enjoy.

A proposed five-year Strategic Plan would include:

- Habitat development
- Walking paths
- Interpretive signage
- Grant requests that could assist the PHPD in beautifying the access of 214 South Wheeling Road, if this property is acquired by the PHPD.
- Engaging the community and organizations in educational projects, such as planting, creating pollinator and meditation gardens, building birds houses, butterfly houses, and a neighborhood library box, to name a few initiatives. The Friends of Tully Park see exciting opportunities in working with the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Eagle Scouts, Garden Clubs, the Bridge Community Church, and local grammar schools and high schools.
- Maintaining multi-use open green spaces sufficient for playing soccer and other sports, for exercising dogs, for family picnics, etc.

The PHNRC agreed to assist the Friends of Tully Park with their expertise, seeds and plants, annual prescribed burns, and the use of the PHNRC watering tank, if necessary.

PHNRC Treasurer’s Report and Budget 2021-2022

John Kamysz received the current budget numbers from Peter Falcone or the city and distributed information to the Commissioners.

John said that the Slough Boardwalk Project started at \$12,000. To date, \$7,000+ has been spent on lumber; Dana will submit the invoices. Therefore, about \$4,000 to \$5,000 remains in this budget.

The Pollinator Park budget was mentioned early in the meeting.

Dana reported a recent donation from Justin Silver of Performance Therapy of \$500 as his appreciation for Agnes and Dana planting for him as part of the Mow It, Don’t Grow It. Dana felt this was a very generous gesture.

Agnes said the Budget should reflect 400 hours exactly for the Interns for the summer of 2021. The interns each worked 40 hours per week for 10 weeks. Peter Falcone was under the impression the length of the summer internship was 9.5 weeks. Peter will check with Finance and the timesheets. Agnes said the total salary for Colin was \$4,500 and \$4,900 for Blair.

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.

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 within 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 reimagined 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 3rd. 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:

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

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
OCCC 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

None.

Visitors' Comments

No visitors were present to comment.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission is October 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the meeting. Therefore, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary