



The work planned for October 17 for our regular volunteers is installing of 1,400 plugs.

We plan to rent a post hole setter for Saturday's work to be utilized instead of pounding the boardwalk posts into the ground. Once the posts are set, specific tasks, such as side straps and treads, will be identified for the Boy Scout volunteers present.

Installing the two remaining sections about 250 feet through the basin by Sunday night makes the Boardwalk passable. The tertiary event after that is to level the posts with the grinder and install the post caps. This task can also go outside of Felix's Scout Project.

John inquired if the posts could be leveled when they are installed instead of after. Makes sense to complete upfront. John observed that some workers are simply slapping the posts in. It only takes an extra 30 seconds to level the posts after installation, which saves grinding work.

The Slough Boardwalk Project has shown 100% community effort. There has been no reservation and no hesitation from Scout Leaders, neighbors and volunteers to work on this Project. We are especially appreciative of John Weirich's efforts. John has been cutting up and forming all the wood for the Project. John even took days off from his day job to keep to the deadline.

To date, we have logged 1,615 volunteer hours over the course of this year and with two more months of the year for volunteer workdays.

Our next volunteer workdays must be focused on our other sites, especially Pollinator Park. We must expend our funds from the Grant for the Pollinator Park Project by December 31, 2021.

#### Special Seed Collection Wednesdays

Agnes reported that we have not collect a lot of seed to date. We were unable to collect sedges from the Remnant Sedge Meadow this year. We have two more Special Seed Collection Wednesdays scheduled.

#### Poplar Creek Prairie Stewards Seed Collection Days

Poplar Creek is our main source for Indian Grass, and we typically go in the month of October to collect Indian Grass and other types of seeds that we require. Commissioners discussed when to schedule a seed collection day at Poplar Creek. We are far behind with working at our other sites. Trail maintenance is a task that cannot be completed by our volunteers but is a necessary task. In mid-November, brush control begins.

The Slough Boardwalk will be installed on October 16 and 17; our Seed Processing and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is scheduled October 24; and our volunteer workday of October 31 will be scheduled at Pollinator Park. Therefore, members decided to schedule a seed collection visit to Poplar Creek on Sunday, November 7. Agnes will contact the Poplar Creek Prairie Stewards.

#### Arlington Countryside Stormwater System Project Update

Dana, Agnes, Jill and John attended the City Council Meeting of September 27, 2021, specifically to be present during the Arlington Countryside Stormwater Management Improvement

Project Presentation by City Engineer, Patrick Glenn. It also afforded PHNRC an opportunity to talk with the City Engineer about our concerns.

Outcome: We left without a degree of confidence. Dana felt the Project is approved; therefore, we do not know what else we can do. We will remain guarded and observe. We are concerned with the rapid movement of water after installation of the pumping station to alleviate flooding in the Arlington Countryside neighborhood from the Slough to Hillcrest Lake increasing shoreline erosion.

John said if the theory that more water will be sloshing down and into the Slough then Hillcrest Lake, it is another argument for fixing the shoreline for the current proposal. It is theoretical but probable and will help with that argument to increase filtration.

Dana noted that the warrior sedges planted in the Slough itself is something to pay attention to. Water seems to disappear pretty quickly. Agnes said this fills a matrix and acts like a natural sponge.

Pete Hahn noted that the MWRD Permit is awaiting approval. What if they refuse? Dana said a shortage of pumps exists; therefore, the city proceeded to order the pumping station with a sense of urgency to ensure receipt. However, if the MWRD Permit is not obtained, we believe the city would simply sell the pumping station.

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

##### Nature Speaks Program

Dana commented that Allison Sacerdote-Velat's presentation on Buckthorn on September 23, 2021, was simply great.

Our next speaker is Dr. Alice Bell from England. Dana is quite pleased we were able to secure her because she has been in demand. Alice Bell is scheduled for January 20, 2022, Nature Speaks Program.

##### Fall Bird Walks

Our last Fall Bird Walk for the season was held on Saturday, October 9, 2021. The Bird Walks are always terrific. The birders or participants saw part of the Boardwalk installed, and everyone loved the design.

Mary Lou Mellon of the Bird Conservation Network confirmed her leadership of 2022 Prospect Heights Park District Bird Walks, the start of her seventh year!

The sightings of osprey that are frequently fishing prompted Mary Lou to provide an idea for us to locate an osprey pole to house a nesting platform. Agnes spoke with Mark Roscoe, and it might be important to get the residents involved and permits. A telephone pole exists in the Slough that might be a great tool for a raised platform. Therefore, Agnes will speak with Christina Ferraro and Joe Wade.

### Slough Boardwalk Project and Funding

#### Project

Dana started that everyone – Commissioners, volunteers, neighbors, school groups and the Boy Scouts – have poured their heart and soul into this Project. It is very gratifying. Everyone is on board, and it has been a well-organized machine that plowed right through.

Next, we will develop the area around the Boardwalk to augment and make it a good experience. Plants that are average in height will be planted right up to the Boardwalk to act as a buffer. If we do not plant up to the Boardwalk, something else will grow. We can clear the area once in a while. Agnes has left all the low growing sedges for last. The low growing sedges reach a height between two and three feet.

#### Funding

The final Project invoice is \$7,800, and that accounting is through the Park District. The second order was for the balance of materials is a cost of \$890. The final invoice and purchase receipts for the second order will be provided to John Kamysz. Currently, we have spent close to \$10,000 on this Project. Thinking we are in good shape one-half year into this Project.

### Pollinator Park Project

Dana said we are entering the second year in the Pollinator Park Project. We need to have the funds expended by December 31, 2021. Remaining tasks are interpretative signage, aquatics, herbicide sections and putting down more seed with general clean-up by winter. Next spring, we are planning to do a whole area of plantings, but that will be outside the budget and our normal work.

The Pollinator Park Project Budget is currently at \$3,600, which will cover all remaining costs.

Dana is developing a presentation for the City Council Meeting of October 25, 2021 to propose shoreline erosion maintenance at Hillcrest Lake.

Dana said that John Kamysz has surveyed the entire Hillcrest Lake shoreline of Hillcrest Drive. Most of the shoreline is in severe or moderate condition regarding erosion. There is a lot to do. Six different sections have been identified. We hope to make a proposal to restore the shoreline like we did the sample park area for Pollinator Park, which is currently the healthiest part of the shoreline. It is only one year old.

The proposal will be a multiple year proposal above and beyond what our normal budget can handle plus extra work in addition to our normal workload.

Various areas have been identified that should be addressed first. The different sections of shoreline will be prioritized. We would utilize three tiers of coconut rolls, back fill with dirt and plant shoreline-stabilizing plants. Some parts are so severe, you can see the roots underneath the trees at the bank. John would not like to see rip rap placed at the shoreline. It is so sterile and not good for the wildlife.

Hopefully, the city will help with funding.

Kudos for John for photographing the entire shoreline around the perimeter, splitting it into sections and grading it from severe to moderate erosion. Very comprehensive.

Volunteers logged 100 hours of planting the entire area of just the shoreline. Two days were spent with the summer interns and Peter Hahn planting the coconut rolls. It was a time commitment and heavy-duty work.

The overall scheme is a block of time that comes out of the annual workforce, but once installed, does not require maintenance. We would divide the proposal into six sections. Each year the City would fund a section, and we would develop another section depending on the erosion severity. The summer interns will have the benefit of learning how to do shoreline restoration, which is rare. It also speaks to why you want to come here and be an intern.

Hopefully, we have prepared a proposal package that makes sense to the city. There are a lot of variables. Before the presentation, Dana will send the Power Point presentation to Commissioners for comment.

#### Micro-Internship Fall 2021

Agnes reported that we initially had a student express interest in the micro-internship for the fall; however, currently, do not have a student from District 214 for the Fall Micro-Internship. We are unclear of what happened to change that status. We are hopeful that we will have one in Spring 2022.

Our Micro-Internship Program has had participation by two students for the last 1.5 years.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### PHNRC Annual Seed Processing and Volunteer Appreciation Event

The PHNRC will conduct the Annual Seed Processing and Volunteer Appreciation Event for Sunday, October 24, 2021. Seed Processing will be conducted from 9:00-11:00am in the area outside the garage at 9 Marion. Our Volunteer Appreciation Event will be held in the Izaak Walton Pavilion from 11:00am to 1:00 pm. The Event will be potluck with a kielbasa roast.

John suggested holding the Volunteer Appreciation Event at the Izaak Walton Pavilion. This space has two fireplaces, is underutilized and would be a very nice setting. Therefore, we will contact the PHPD for permission to use the Pavilion and the fireplaces. There are trees hanging over the outlets. Ed said they were functional not too long ago.

Seth mentioned that the PHPD is plans to remove trees on the roadside of the Pavilion. Agnes said this action is part of the Park District's tree maintenance and tree inventory program and, also, opens the area.

Also, Agnes wanted to meet with Dino and Annette Curtis and discuss their tree inventory and our future work around their sites. They have GPS'd all the trees and have a forestry maintenance plan. Agnes wanted to review out work sites, our winter workdays, removal of buckthorn and meteor species of trees, and be in line with them on their overall goal for tree maintenance.

Seth inquired of the Park District's philosophy on tree maintenance and if it considers native versus non-native species. Yes. The Park District has worked with the Morton Arboretum and several contractors plus they have an entire management plan for native, invasive and meteor tree species. Annette Curtis can provide the plan. They are also working on a tree ordinance.

Dana mentioned that the Oak Tree Plantings by the Girl Scouts are doing great. They are big! They are looking good. Pete said he is hopeful that with the Park District's forestry maintenance plan and tree inventory that a policy for weak, dangerous or dying trees for trimming or removal will be addressed. This should be a priority. Pete said we are inviting people to walk a trail but some of the trees are a little dangerous and require attention. Agnes said some of the trees will be addressed by the Park District and some can be addressed at some of our winter workdays.

#### Path Maintenance at Worksite

Seth recommended that we must step up our game for trail maintenance. Seth volunteered, and John is also available. Agnes agreed we should do more. It is difficult when the interns leave for the summer to continue to pick up this work.

#### Prescribed Burns and Permit Renewal

Dana reported that we have our burn permit from the EPA, and it is effective for one full year. We must review what we want to burn this fall and in the Spring 2022. November 1 is the start of the fall burn season.

The Spring2021 burns were incredibly successful. Dana anticipates splitting up the prescribed burn areas so that we do not do everything in the spring. There is much to discuss, such as habitat, when and where habitat is living, who is present, etc. A discussion must be held.

Dana contacted Aaron at Stantec to inquire of their Fall burn plans and if the ComEd Seeded Prairie is included in their plan. Agnes mentioned we would appreciate their brush cutting the Remnant Sedge Meadow in mid-Winter.

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.

Commissioners continued the discussion on Prescribed Burns and set procedures or a plan.

Seth requested a full discussion weighing all the issues about prescribed burns, specifically to answer the “can” and “should” questions and weighing the pros and cons. Seth requested a full discussion about how we figure it out, weight all the pros and cons, etc.

Everyone has an opinion of when and how to burn. The determining factors are fuel and temperature. Fuel is the driving force. Typically, in the fall, plants are still green at the root, and we do not have enough grasses in the mix for fuel. The discussion starts with an inventory of our sites and what is feasible.

Agnes said that across our Nature Preserves and natural areas management, it has been scientifically proven to burn . One of the most important tools is a prescribed burn to keep invasives and woody invasives controlled especially in areas where buckthorn was recently removed. Burning in the first few seasons after this action is important.

Agnes stated that we follow the examples of the Forest Preserves, Morton Arboretum, Fermilab and Nachusa Grasslands. We follow the prescribed burn guidelines and recent data.

Agnes stated that we always have patchy burns. We have never conducted a 100% prescribed burn. Wildlife factors into the timing of the burn along with when plants are down and dormant. All of the natural areas management studies look at prescribed burns for a large swath of land, such as 600 acres. Our sites are not large. For example, when burning the Slough, we burn 30% of the area. However, last year, we did not get a change to burn.

John asked if our sites need to be burned every six months? Dana said not really. We try to burn in the fall; but if not, then we try for the spring. We learned last spring that the spring burns are complete because fuel was present. Last fall, we did not burn at all, and we needed to rake thatch, which took hours to complete.

Seth said the butterfly and moth people state to burn once every three years. Seth was present during the Spring burn of the Slough and observed snake after snake jumping into the Slough.

Dana said we have sources to contact. Therefore, we will contact Jeff and Terri and ask how they think moths and insects would play into our smaller burns.

Agnes said the butterfly, bird, amphibian, etc., experts have recommendations. It is a balance. There are certain guidelines. Agnes stated we should follow the science. For example, birders say to leave the thickets and buckthorn because the birds like to eat the berries, and they need the habitat. However, natural areas management state to remove the buckthorn to restore the land to a native condition.

Agnes said we are aware of all habitats, not just butterflies. We weigh the pros and cons and make an educated and scientific decision every single year after evaluating every site. We cannot make a determination five years in advance. We must consider current conditions, such as, what was burned, what it responded to, the wildlife present – all factors are considered.

This past spring, the east side of the Slough was burned for the first time in six years.

Agnes provided another example. Our management for next year is to replace the cattails around the Slough Boardwalk, so it is a good idea to burn the cattails. Then this allows us to herbicide in the spring, plant all new plugs and replace the shoreline.

Each site has a different management tool. For example, the area around Elmhurst Road has buckthorn resprouts, but that area will not burn. However, there are other areas that have small buckthorn resprouts with grasses present; therefore, a good burn would be successful.

Agnes said she has the data, resources and a few blogs with different conversation and ecology groups to share with Commissioners. John suggested receipt of this data from all sources for Commissioners to review, sort through it and continue our discussion in an educated manner.

### Seed/Greenhouse Program

Agnes has already placed a lot of seeds away for the winter. Many more to come. This year there will be more Forbes in the Greenhouse for Pollinator Park and other areas along with a lot of sedges.

Germinated seedlings will be placed in the Greenhouse at end of February 2022.

Dana observed that seeds are delayed due to the warm weather. John said the whole dynamic of this year is off; plants are not as large, and the areas seem drier.

Boneset volume is huge! Agnes said plants are responsive to everything. For example, Agnes always places seeds in trays at the appropriate time of the year, so they lie dormant through the winter. However, they are already germinating. Agnes is worried about this because they may get top killed in the winter.

Everything has its cycle. Temperature is a huge impact. Dana said we have a Southern Illinois plant species at the Slough that simply appeared and started to grow. Agnes had it checked. Dana said we have already changed what we planted at the Slough five years ago based on what is successful and what is not successful.

### Commissioners' Site Monitoring Reports

#### ComEd Seeded Prairie (Dana Sievertson)

John visited the ComEd Seeded Prairie the week of October 4 and completely walked the site. Agnes said the weeds are dying down, and the Prairie was looking beautiful.

John said the trail is relatively well maintained, and many people are using it.

Agnes was contacted by the Sixth Grade Science Teacher at MacArthur Junior High requesting a walking tour and seed collection at the Prairie. The plan is to bring four groups of students for one hour each visit over one day.

Heron Pond (John Kamysz)

John reported that the giant downed tree has been cut and cleared.

John also reported that neighbors are dumping their yard waste and apples by the wood pile.

The trails are a bit overgrown and could use some trimming. Otherwise, the fall colors are amazing!

Hillcrest Lake (John Kamysz)

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

Nature Preserve (Gary Morava) (Pete Hahn)

Pete toured the Nature Preserve the afternoon of October 13, 2021.

Pete reported that most of the plants are in full seed. However, a lot of green vegetation is present.

The dumping area with the soil mounds has been leveled and spread out.

The creek is running about half capacity after recent rains. There is debris present in the creek.

Pete reported that the steppingstones need attention. Two steps are slanted, and the middle one moves when one steps onto it.

Pete noticed some dead trees that recently have died. The entire preserve is full of dead and dying trees. Pete is unsure of the policy for a Park District property that has dead, dying and dangerous trees but suggested we should bring this to the attention of the Park District so people using the Nature Preserve will be safe from dangerous trees.

Remnant Prairie (Seth Marcus)

An updated report on the Remnant Prairie was not provided.

Remnant Sedge Meadow (Jill Moskal)

Jill reported that, unfortunately, we were unable to collect sedges at the Remnant Sedge meadow this season due to the lack of availability of sedges and rushes' seeds, which we attribute to the lack of rain in the spring and summer seasons.

Saint Alphonsus (Ed Madden)

Ed reported that the retention area at St. Alphonsus is doing what is expected while things in the prairie wind down for the season.

Slough (Agnes Wojnarski)

Agnes said the Brownies were at the Slough today. They love the Boardwalk.

Agnes said the monarchs are almost all gone for the season. However, when the Brownies were at the look out, Agnes was talking about monarchs and the importance of milkweed. At that moment, a monarch flew by over their heads.

The trails at the Slough are grassy but passable. John said at the intersection at Hillside where the new wiggly park is located, the trail is tight and needs attention. It is tough to get through.

Tully Park (Jill Moskal/Wendy Dewar)

Prospect Heights Park District Board of Directors Meeting – September 28, 2021

Tully Park Update: Wendy Dewar and Mary Ellen Siemens represented the Friends of Tully Park to provide their thoughts to the PHPD Board on a Master Plan for Tully Park, which includes the nature preserve, an art gallery, and interpretative signage.

Tully Park is 1.5 acres contained within Tully Place. It is a neighborhood park. The main objective of the Friends of Tully Park is to utilize Tully Park as an open, natural space.

The Board provided Friends of Tully Park permission to work with the PHNRC. To date, over 5,000 hours of volunteer work by residents and PHNRC volunteers has been logged. A tremendous amount of buckthorn has been removed, and in its place, between 5,000 to 6,000 native prairie plants have been installed along with thousands of seeds for propagating. Specific deep-rooted native aquatic plants were installed on the creek walls to stabilize the creek banks.

The Friends of Tully Park's Master Plan for Tully Park is to keep the space open for passive recreations, such as impromptu soccer games, increase the natural habitat for birds and pollinators, engage organizations in the community, such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, school groups, etc.; interpretative signage which would include QR codes to provide a deep dive of information about the plants and area; walking trails; add in a mowed trail from 214 South Wheeling Road; keep the shaded area in the southeast corner of the Park; and install bird houses, benches, picnic tables and a book exchange box. A request for assistance from the Park District crew to remove snags, cut down large branches and chip these remnants to place as a base for the walking trails.

A specific Nature Speaks Program presentation entitled Direct Effects of Invasive Buckthorn was presented on September 23, 2021, and clearly reiterated the negative impact buckthorn has on our environment.

The Friends of Tully Park had a visual entitled Tully Park 5-Year Development Plan, dated September 23, 2021. The Key to the Proposed Plan outlined in yellow a nature trail (wood chip); green indicated expanded planting area boundaries; red indicated mow path/turf grass; and blue indicated yoga/exercise area.

The Key to Trees outlined keeping the existing Magnolia trees; keep and trim the existing centered Cottonwood tree; keep and trim the existing Cottonwood Trees on the Creek bank; keep the existing River Birch tree; and remove a buckthorn concentration.

Lastly, the visual provided a proposed parking surface solution for the 214 South Wheeling Road property: Plastic grid system filled with soil and medium, gravel or crushed limestone or Buffalo Grass.

The Friends of Tully Park were advised by the Executive Director that they could not apply for a ComEd Grant to assist in naturalizing and stabilizing land from 214 South Wheeling Road because the Friends of Tully Park is not a non-profit. However, the Park District could apply for it for the Friends of Tully Park Projects.

Next Steps: The Board will review the Friends of Tully Park proposal. At the October Meeting, the Board will discuss the 214 South Wheeling Road property.

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

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

John said that our main budget is \$4,100 and doing fairly well. Some postings shifted for reporting accuracy with the Pollinator Park Budget. The Pollinator Park budget is currently \$3,600. John did not receive the expenses for the Slough Boardwalk Project, and Dana and Agnes will provide. The net revenue for this budget was \$12,000, and we have spent \$9,500 to date. We have some money left and are close to completing the Pollinator Park Project. John said we are in good shape.

Agnes said it is time to start talking about budgeting with the Park District. Therefore, Agnes will prepare a spreadsheet outlining all the work and hours to date in preparation for a presentation to the Park District Board. Agnes will have this information prepared by November 1 and for discussion at our November 11 meeting.

#### City Civic Meetings and PHNRC Representation

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

##### City Council of Prospect Heights, Illinois – September 13, 2021, Meeting

Update: Ad Hoc Committee on Returning to In-Person Meetings Report – Chairperson Wendy Morgan Adams for Council Review and Determination.

Recommendations to the City Council are based on discussions with the City/Attorney, Staff, the Mayor and Aldermen.

City Council Meetings will be held via a hybrid in-person/virtual format. Attendance for in-person is voluntary for all elected officials, Staff members and the public. All others may attend via Zoom.

Elected officials and Staff attending remotely must provide advance notice to the City Administrator by 5:00 pm Thursday prior to the Monday Meeting for adequate preparation in City Council Chambers.

The notice for remote participation in the meeting does not preclude notice of non-attendance or request for remote participation for unplanned events, such as sickness, work obligations, and the like. As most Council Meetings are scheduled the second and fourth Monday of this month allows for advanced planning and notification.

The Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations shall remain in place for the duration of the Governor's Emergency declaration or until the City Council determines otherwise. When the declaration expires or is removed, the City Council will return to the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations adopted on July 12, 2021.

The Ad Hoc Committee will continue to meet to evaluate the effectiveness of hybrid meetings and suggestions modified, if needed.

In the event of large groups, there is the possibility of using other facilities. There is a limit of 20 audience members plus Council and Staff in the Council Chambers. Other audience members may be set up in the other conference room.

The City Clerk will be remote, and the Deputy Clerk will be with the mayor remotely. The Assistant City Administrator Falcone will handle in-person registrants who wish to speak during Public Comment. Residents may also request to speak on Zoom via Chat.

Chamber of Commerce Committee: Alderman Quinn said that Committee members continue to do their investigation on the options that are appropriate to support local businesses. The Committee is seeking tactics to support the businesses.

City Clerk Joanna Prisiajniouk reported that the Greater Wheeling Chamber of Commerce Director, Neena Pottoore, is constantly providing updates. The City Clerk then reports the information to staff, and that information is placed on the Enews.

Assistant Finance Director Bob Tannehill: Mr. Tannehill reported the Finance Department is working on sewer collections with large outstanding balances and pursuing the final bills. Mr. Tannehill reported the city has received the first installment of the American Rescue Plan money of just over \$1 million will be received the first week of September.

Alderman Morgan-Adams said in some towns, you must have approval from the town to sell your property only after all outstanding fees have been paid.

Director Peterson replied that the City of Prospect Heights is not Home Rule; therefore, it does not transfer stamp authority. He further stated that the city does not have access to information regarding when a person sells or buys their house. Alderman Morgan-Adams asked if the city could arrange a system of requiring a pre-condition to approve the title. Director Peterson was unaware of any such type of mechanism.

Director of Building and Development Peterson: Mr. Dan Peterson said that a new employee, Andrew Hart, has been hired today, September 13, 2021, to replace retiring Assistant Building and Development Director, Darrell Taylor. Mr. Hart had been a project manager for large construction firms.

Public Works Director Roscoe: Mr. Mark Roscoe said his department is working on Fall projects, which includes a few sanitary sewer repairs in 10 locations around the city.

Treasurer Tibbits: Mr. Richard Tibbits said it is challenging to conduct a hybrid meeting because speakers must be balanced. Mr. Tibbits also said that Public Works has moved one of the television sets to the lower-level conference room to allow an overflow audience to participate.

Permit Fee for Filming Purposes: In the past few months, the city has been approached by two filming production companies for permission to film within the city. Staff accommodated the requests, and in doing so, found that language in the City Code lacked the City's ability to regulate and permit filming activities. Therefore, Staff proposed passing an ordinance that provides the city with the ability to impose a permit fee to cover the City's administrative costs associated with filming activities in the city. The temporary filming permit fee is separate from any Building and Health Department requirements/fees and any reimbursement for Policy and Public Works personnel expenditures, which result from the filming activities.

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Compliance Permit Requirements and Gewalt Hamilton Services: The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System was initiated to regulate point sources of pollutants to the water of the United States. As the City operates a storm sewer system, it is subject to NPDES requirements, including the successful application for an MSA small systems storm sewer system permit.

The permit application requirement includes collection and sampling of storm water for water quality analysis, presentation of a storm water management plan, and presentation of other application data/information.

Compliance for NPDES is per the EPA requirement.

Successful application/reapplication for NPDES MS4 small systems storm sewer permit is a legal requirement. This effort will require specialized technical engineering services. Therefore, authorization of this contract to Gewalt Hamilton for \$2,520 was recommended and approved by the City Council.

#### City Council of Prospect Heights, Illinois – September 27, 2021 Meeting

Presentation: Arlington Countryside Stormwater Management Improvement Project Presentation by City Engineer, Patrick Glenn:

Arlington Countryside is a residential neighborhood of 100 homes located west of Rand Road and the location of the most problematic storm water management in the area. Yards flood, and property damage is frequent for 12 homes. This situation dates to the 1980s. Engineering studies have been completed on this situation, and one is presented this evening.

Two years' ago, Staff recommended to City Council to conduct a preliminary design and engineering work to solve the flooding situation in Arlington Countryside. The project cost is \$3 million.

The City Council voted at the May 10, 2021, City Council Workshop meeting to utilize the City's recent allotment of \$2,159,745.66 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to help finance the purchase of the pumping station and infrastructure for the Arlington Countryside storm water project.

Tonight, Pat Glenn provided an updated status report and consideration of the purchase of a prefabricate pumping station.

The project consists of the installation of 6,700 per meter pumping station on Forrest Avenue in the Arlington Countryside neighborhood and approximately 4,800 feet of 18-inch force main to Tributary A of McDonald Creek at Camp McDonald Road. This requires a great deal of permits from agencies with jurisdiction. Following is a status update:

Agency	Status
Arlington Heights	Plans Approved
Cook County DOTD	Plans Approved
IDNR-OWR	<u>Regional Permit</u>
IDOT	Plans Approved
Mt. Prospect	<u>Permit Issued</u>
MWRDGC	Plans Submitted
US Army Corps	Permit Issued

**Note:** Agencies shown as “Plans Approved” require bonds from the contractor before issuing permits.

Easements are required from two properties: (1) adjacent to the Forrest Avenue right of way a 1221 Forrest Avenue. The property owners have executed a Memorandum of Understanding ahead of receiving and executing an easement agreement. (2) a 10-foot strip adjacent to the Camp McDonald right of way along the frontage of Dwight D. Eisenhower School. The district has been made aware of this to allow temporary parking during construction.

The targeted schedule is a February 2022 bid opening with construction to commence in late winter/early Spring 2022 with completion targeted for late summer/early Fall 2022. Building cannot occur during winter. Additionally, the Project means lane closures.

The City’s capital projects typically follow a traditional design-bid-build delivery model. However, in this case, it is recommended that the City contract directly with Metropolitan Industries to manufacture and deliver the prefabricated pumping station and controls. This may take up to seven to eight months. Therefore, rather than start the process with the construction contract, it is better to start the process ahead of time so that the station may be delivered and installed with the rest of the construction.

The total project cost is \$2.95 million, and the pumping station cost is \$593,335.00.

Record rainfall has occurred in May for the past three years, but not this year. However, we must place our order now for timely receipt.

The Metro Pump is a \$600,000 cost. The city has already received payment of \$1 million from ARVA (Rebuild Illinois).

Next, Pat Glenn addressed concerns expressed in writing by the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission (PHNRC). The following information was contained in a letter to Joe Wade from Pat Glenn on September 23, 2021:

- 1) The mechanics of the plan crafted, the manufacturer of the pumps and the output specifications, such as CFM, speed and volume. Where would this station be located?

Detailed specs of the proposed pumping station were provided. The proposed location is the vicinity of 1214-1222 Forrest Avenue.

- 2) The diameter of the underground pipes down Rand Road to Camp McDonald Road; where will they be run? A map would be helpful. Where would they join Tributary A?

A current plan was provided.

- 3) How many times a year do you anticipate the system would be activated? Is there a historical record of annual flooding that would be pumped under this plan? Is there historical data on large vs. small events in terms of volume and frequency?

The station is designed to run only when flood levels begin to threaten adjacent structures. Under normal conditions, the existing storm water system will continue to function as it currently operates.

It is impossible to predict how many times the system may be activated in a particular year as this will be a function of the intensity and duration of the rain events.

The city has limited records of various past flood events. We have not performed an analysis of the volume of runoff from these events or the statistical frequency of occurrence.

- 4) All the culverts where this water would pass through on the way to the Slough are of small diameter. In a large rain event, they are already maxed out to the point of flooding the immediate area or causing severe erosion. Has this been considered, and what is the plan for these bottlenecks? Are they all intended to be replaced? The PHNRC sees this as a kick the can down the road solution to upstream flooding. These bottlenecks will experience increased flooding at the Nature Preserve, the surrounding area where the water goes under Pine Street and through the culverts going under Elmhurst Road and into the Slough.

Currently, when flooding occurs in the area, Public Works protocol is to set up a mobile pump to discharge into a storm sewer system separate from the system serving the area. This system also discharges into Tributary A.

During normal conditions, all drainage will continue to be through the existing storm sewer system. The intake structure for the pumping station will only take in flows when flood heights in the area begin to threaten adjacent structures. At this point, excess stormwater will be pumped out by a single pump, analogous to the current public works operation. With the addition of the fixed pump system, Public Works staff (and the mobile pump) will be available for flood fighting activities in other areas of the city, including downstream of the proposed discharge.

- 5) Have any environmental studies been conducted?

Erosion is a problem that the PHNRC has been fighting for seven (7) years at the Slough, Hillcrest Lake, and the Nature Preserve at Morava. It is the result of the normal increased flow during a rain event. Increasing the volume and speed of the flow will clearly increase the damage. Has the impact been investigated?

A detailed hydraulic and hydrologic study of the entire system has been performed. However, even with all three pumps running simultaneously, the discharge from the pumping station is less than 5% of the "100-year" flow in the Tributary at Elm Avenue. The station will be programmed to utilize only one-third of this capacity under normal operation.

- 6) One of the biggest problems that we see is during a heavy event where water is coming in faster than it can get out of Hillcrest Lake and for two reasons: (1) The exist culvert between the houses is too restrictive and (2) once the whole system is filled (McDonald Creek and the Des Plaines River), water flows back into Hillcrest lake as opposed to leaving it, which has increased the depth of the water in the wetland and the duration before it can get out.

*Comment noted.*

- 7) Climate Change has already changed the hydrology of the wetland with more frequent big events interspersed with prolonged periods of drought. The result has been that several species that were fine seven (7) years ago cannot tolerate the conditions of being underwater for seven to 10 days at a time. We have monitored and modified our species based on our observations. It is predictable that more water moving faster will increase the duration of plants being underwater.

*Comment noted.*

- 8) Because the water is moving to the wetland faster, there is less time to filter off pollutants on the way there. We believe this would be a major setback.

*Comment noted.* Also, further note: Because flows from the pumping station will be in a closed system until the point of discharge, there is less opportunity to pick up pollutants.

- 9) Has the area surrounding Arlington Countryside been looked at for detention possibilities? Are their opportunities for naturalizing the area to retain and absorb the water, paralleling the success that has happened at the wet prairie installed at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish four years ago?

Studies commissioned by the City following previous flood events have considered property acquisition for stormwater storage. Those studies concluded that storage alone, (i.e., without a conveyance improvement) would not eliminate flooding or level of inundation for large storm events.

- 10) The PHNRC has spent seven (7) years restoring the wetland and creating the Nature Preserve. Both areas are still vulnerable to what would clearly be a major change to the hydrology and environmental impact. We would like to see the City Council commission a study on this impact *before* it reaches a tipping point.

*Comment noted.*

The PHNRC's major concern is releasing all that extra flood water quicker into areas downstream that are prone to flooding. Mark Roscoe said the objective is not to drain the neighborhood of flood water but to keep the water below the troublesome level. The proposed pump station will have pumps structured to offset each other.

The PHNRC is concerned about the current diameter of existing culverts and increasing their size or detention. MWRD has been consulted and placing either a check valve or slough skate is considered.

PHNRC inquired if thought was given to naturalizing the detention basins in the neighborhood? Chris Berg's office conducted a study in 2012 and determined that even if one or two homes in the neighborhood would be purchased, it would not be enough land to change the infiltration of water into the soil. Pat Glenn is also aware of deep-rooted nature plants that help to stabilize the soil, but he felt it would take a long, long time to be effective because the ground in the neighborhood is glacier tilled soil

on an uphill slope. Therefore, the City would have to purchase 10 properties to have a basin large enough to retain flooded water.

Alderman Danielle Dash stated that purchasing half of Prospect Heights would be required to provide the proper detention needed; let us just be honest.

The City Council approved the Resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with Metropolitan Industries, Inc., for the fabrication and delivery of the Arlington Countryside Stormwater Pumping Station in an amount not to exceed \$593,335.00.

Specific facts on the pump station for reference:

Triplex Prefabricated Steel Lift Station with Valve Vault for Arlington Countryside Storm Water Pump Station, Prospect Heights, IL.

Manufacturer: Metropolitan Pump Company, Romeoville, IL.

The system has three submersible pumps with sealing flange, guide rails, discharge elbow, discharge piping, upper and lower guide rail supports, access frame with cover for each pump, wiring bracket as required, all installed in a fabricate steel basin. The system will also house the discharge piping and check values. The controls, variable frequency drives, manual transfer switch with generator receptable to be housed in a NEMA 1 enclosures that shall be located inside a Stainless-Steel Traffic Box Enclosure.

Wet Well & Valve Vault:

Fabricated steel basin – inside diameter of 12 feet, 0 inches. Piping – piping in the basin shall be 12-inch steel pipe. The valve vault shall include three, 12-inch check valves with outside lever and spring or weight. Inlet into basin shall be grout sleeves for 36-inch RCP influent pipe. The pump guide rails shall be 2-inch stainless steel pipe. Intermediate guide rail supports shall be used if basin is more than 15 feet deep.

Operating Conditions:

Each pump shall have a capacity of 2244 g.p.m. at a total head of 59 feet when operating at 1140 r.p.m. When three pumps are operating together, a total flow rate to be 6732 GPM. Pump motor shall be 54 HP, 1150 r.p.m., 3 phase, 460 volts, 60 Hz.

Note: Power to be confirmed prior to ordering of equipment. Engineer/Owner to confirm available power prior to ordering equipment.

Operation of System:

On sump level rise, the pressure shall energize and start lead pump. With lead pump operating sump level shall lower until the off level is reached, thereby de-energizing the lead pump. Alternating relay shall index on stopping of pump so that lag pump will start on next operation. If sump level continues to rise when lead pump is operating, the lag pump shall start upon reaching the override. Both lead and lag pump shall operate together until the off level is reached. If level continues to rise when both pumps are operating, the lag pump shall start up reaching the override. If the sump level continues to rise and the high level is reached, the high-level alarm shall be activated. If one pump shall fail for any reason, the second pump shall operate on the override control. All levels shall be adjustable through the Level Management System located in the control panel.

Alarms:

A caged alarm light shall be mounted on the traffic box. The alarm light shall always glow dim except under alarm conditions then light shall glow bright and flash. Alarm light shall have rest button. In case of power failure, alarm light shall be powered by a gel-cell battery.

Treasurer's Report by Cheri Graefen, Finance Director: A monthly Treasurer's Report was provided to the City Council in the meeting materials packet for four (4) months ending August 31, 2021. With 34% of the year having passed, for all funds combined, the City's total revenues represent 29.5% of budget, and the total expenses reflect 15.2% of budget, which is related to capital expenditures that have not occurred.

For higher dollar revenue items, the largest item is Property Taxes. They are showing at 27% because Cook County extended the due date for second installment property taxes. Therefore, the increase typically expected in August will arrive in September.

Income Taxes are at 57% of budget. Very strong receipts are coming in for that revenue stream.

Hotel Taxes are currently at 125%. The city has collected all past due hotel tax receipts from last fiscal year that we extended deferred payment plans to our hotel partners. All past due monies have been collected. Everyone's current for fiscal year 2022 tax payments.

The General Fund expenses by department are consistently under budget, and we are very fiscally responsible.

Chicago Executive Airport Report by Jim Kiefer, Member of the Board of Directors: The Grand Opening for the Customs Building is scheduled for October 5, 2021, at 10:30 am.

The Quieter Home Residential Sound Installation Program has been moved to the Spring of 2022 due to material shortage. Nine (9) homes are slated. The Program has 457 applicants with a total cost of \$4 million and all going to local contractors.

The Economic Impact Study is completed. The CEA produces a report for each community on what they pump into each community. They have over \$4.8 million going into property taxes alone. The airport generates 1,400 jobs indirectly with 720 jobs directly related to the airport. In summary, the airport's total economic impact is \$441 million per year.

The Atlantic Hangar #43 on the northwest corner is close to occupancy. A Grand Opening will be held.

In addition to the Channel 5 News helicopter, Channel 2 News helicopter is present.

Airport Operations reflect \$9,900 for the past month. Except for July 21, this is the highest revenue month since 2010.

Fuel pump flowage is up 8% over the record set 12 months' ago.

Customs is getting back to normal. A lot of our Customs has to do with Canada, and Canada is re-opening.

The position for a new Executive Director is down to four applicants. Within one month, a new Executive Director will be hired.

Are we waiting on a new ED before the Joint Meeting? Yes.

Wendy Morgan-Adams inquired of the fuel tax sales rebate that used to come to Wheeling and Prospect Heights and the change in FAA regulations. Has there been any new momentum? Jim could not provide an answer but will get back to the Council. Jim is aware this has been a concern for the past 2 years. The airport is still managing COVID FAA and IDOT issues and recirculation of funds.

Report from Alderman Ward 3, Wendy Morgan-Adams: Wendy reported meeting with Joe Wade, Agnes and Dana at Hillcrest Lake to discuss a PHNRC proposal for shoreline restoration. Wendy is excited about the Proposal, which will be presented to the Council in October.

Wendy attended the recent Northwest Municipal Conference Legislative Committee where a topic on Home Rule Definition was discussed. It is proposed to change the population requirement to 5,000 residents to enact Home Rule.

Director of Building and Development, Dan Peterson: Mr. Dan Peterson informed the City Council of the passing of Ken Black. Mr. Black was a member of the original Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals and drafted the original Ordinance in 1977 that is still in effect today. Mr. Black was 91 years old. Dan Peterson reported that Andrew Hart has been hired and doing well in the position of Assistant Building and Development Director. Mr. Hart had been a project manager for large construction firms.

Report from Rich Tibbitts, Treasurer: Mr. Tibbitts felt it would be helpful if the need for City Water would be a topic at a future City Council Workshop Meeting for the Council to become familiar with the issues. Mr. Tibbitts strongly feels that the city needs a city-wide water system.

Rob Roy Country Club and McDonald Creek: The City of Prospect Heights was approached by the Association Board of the Country Club Villas at Rob Roy (CCVRR) (Steve Biddle, Board of Directors) for assistance with their planned restoration project of the sections of McDonald Creek (south branch) that run through the CCVRR property – Euclid Avenue, Concord Way and Mulberry Drive. This is private property; therefore, the City is very limited in providing assistance. Therefore, Staff advised the Association to work with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD). MWRD offers creek restoration assistance for the CCVRR area. However, MWRD requires the city to serve as the applicant and submit the application on behalf of the CCVRR.

Staff has been working with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and confirmed that the city serving as the applicant for this project would not require the city to bear any costs or manpower. The district will provide all manpower and equipment for the restoration project at no cost to the city or the Country Club Villas at Rob Roy.

Project Description: Remove the cattails from the approximately 250 foot stretch from the entrance Eastward to the curve and two other spots on the Northern stretch in front of the culvert that leads into the lake. Stabilize approximately 300 feet of the South bank just East of the entrance and armor the corner where the creek turns North. Will use R4 grade stone on a 2:1 slope to stabilize the banks. Timing of Work and Completion: Fall of 2021

The City Council approved the Resolution supporting the Application Submission for the Country Club Villas at Rob Roy Creek Restoration project (on behalf of the Country Club Villas of Rob Roy) to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. This project is no cost to the city. It is a creek restoration request from the homeowners' association to the MWRD for their stream bank improvements program. This is a formality that requires the city to make this application.

**Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of September 28, 2021**

Prospect Heights Park District Executive Director Report: Christina Ferraro reported that the 2021 Block Party was held on August 28, 2021. Despite the temperature in the 90s and continued COVID fears, the event attendance, measured by the crowds and the revenue, was about half of what normal attendance has been.

The 2022 Block Party is planned for June 18, 2022, and will include the Lions Duck Race, free BINGO, Got Talent, Pet Pageant, inflatables, more food trucks plus the Park's concessions will be open.

Pop-Up Art Sale: On Saturday, September 25, 2021, from 11:00am to 4:30 pm, original art from over eight (8) artists will be on sale at Izaak Walton Park.

Marketing: Staff is developing the Winter/Spring Brochure, which will be published on the website on November 8, 2021.

Recreation Supervisor: Applications will be received to replace the current Recreation Supervisor position that is vacant. This position oversees preschool, KinderStop, a few summer camps and some special events. Interviews will be held in October with a November start date planned.

Elm Street Station: The underground drain tiles, static relief pressure water and pool all drain into the Elm Street pumping station. The pump would not always start due to a faulty lower float. The wiring from the master control was disconnected, and both floats were moved from the pit. Therefore, the supper and lower floats were changed at the same time.

Feasibility Study Update: Christina Ferraro, Executive Director, reported that the community meeting/Open House was held on September 14, 2021, at 6:30pm at the Gary Morava Recreation Center to receive additional input from the community. Over a dozen residents attended the meeting in addition to Park Board members.

The project was explained along with an update to the project's current status. Imagery boards were available to assist with the programming of the facilities. Each attendee received eight sticky dots – four blue (for Lions Pool) and four red (for the recreation center). Each person voted for their favorite vision elements by placing a dot next to the item on the imagery boards. Thereafter a questionnaire was distributed to attendees asking which amenities they preferred at Lions Pool and what programs/spaces they prefer at the Recreation Center. Half of the attendees completed the questionnaire onsite. E:mail messages were received by Christina, too, after the Open House.

Amenities preferred at Lion's Park Pool: Senior Center, meal site, zero depth pool, more shade, lap pool, adult lap lane times, drop slide, remove large slide.

Programs/space preferred at the Recreation Center: Senior, Tennis Courts, Pickle Ball Courts, baseball/softball fields, playground, bocce courts, walking track, gym (cardio and weights), yoga, Jazzercise, recital area, increase the footprint or build upwards, and please park vans and trucks elsewhere.

A community survey is scheduled for the fall. Williams Architects will then begin to prepare conceptual design options with the input they receive from the interviews, focus groups, 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.

William Architects will return to a Board Meeting in July 2022 for a final presentation on the feasibility study.

Tully Park Update: Wendy Dewar and Mary Ellen Siemens represented the Friends of Tully Park to provide their thoughts on a Master Plan for Tully Park, which includes the nature preserve, an art gallery, and interpretative signage.

Please refer to the Monitoring Report on Tully Park on pages 10 and 11 of these minutes for complete information.

Next Steps: The Board will review the Friends of Tully Park proposal. At the October Meeting, the Board will discuss the 214 South Wheeling Road property.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled PHPD Board Meeting is October 26, 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 November 11, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the meeting. Therefore, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS  
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary