



The shoulders were replaced with new material. However, Mark stated the material used was junk; it resembled sand and not what PHPW expected. Within two days of putting down the material, Mark realized it was not right. Within 24 hours, PHPW received complaints. Testing determined it is not the IDOT-approved granules. The material is easily displaced with folks stepping on it and driving onto it because the material is like sand.

The PHPW engineer worked with the builder, and they will manage removal and replacement in the Spring 2019. PHPW will monitor to ensure the replaced material is IDOT-approved material.

How to remove it? It will be removed in the same way that the existing two-foot shoulder was removed with grade-all type machinery. The material will be placed down then tamped down then rolled.

Mark realizes there are hard feelings about the road reconstruction, in general, such as the City does it too often. Other folks are appreciative the City is proactive and that we do not end up in the gravel road phase like a few years' ago. As the current road project progressed, the expected outcome was a nice smooth road. However, the material utilized added more pain to the process of road reconstruction.

Mark expressed frustration because he would have liked to see the project completed. However, now it must be redone in the Spring with possible damage to the new roads due to more machinery on the new roads and inconvenience to residents. Currently, because of the poor quality of material, we are faced with run-off issues, residents driving off it, residents plowing snow into it and pushing it into the banks.

In areas of town where we have drainage, such as storm culverts, curb and gutter areas, our system now has a collection of this debris in it, which will have to be removed either by heavy rainfall, flood waters washing it out but not washing it into the creek or cleaning out the catch basins to get the debris down to an area of what they were designed to do, which is catch debris and sediment.

Dana said the concerns of PHNRC is the debris has already migrated well into the vegetation. We are not sure we want the same contractors who placed the inadequate material to replace it and cause destruction to things already planted.

Mark commented that Dana and he already had the same type of conversation at the end of the Illinois Route 83 road work and the new plantings by the Izaak Walton sign. This project was accomplished before our contractor. Basically, the way contractors restore is to scrape everything off the top and restore, perhaps using turf grass. In this case, Mark said we could talk about individual areas and certain spots for extra removal or stick with them with the two-foot and try not to do anything else.

Dana said we need to make sure that when no one is looking someone puts down 20 pounds of grass seed or sod. The possibility of this happening is endless. What has already migrated into the plantings is another big concern. We need to go back out and look at it this Sunday at our workday. Essentially, we are not sure we would want them to remove and restore the areas.

Mark said another solution would be to let it lay and let Mother Nature do her thing. “The cure is worse than the disease.” Mark is not a fan of “let it go,” but with the work already done by PHNRC, it may be common sense not to disturb.

Alternatively, as they come through and do the work, we can map out areas of any damaged vegetation and instruct them not to perform any restoration around the Slough and Lake area. We can discuss with the PHNRC and highlight areas on a map.

Do we know what is in the material chemically? No. But it is road grindings – gravel, rock. What is currently there is not so much the composition but the size of the aggregate, which does not meet the specs; it is too fine. The new aggregate will be larger than gravel.

John made a request to inform us when this work occurs, and PHNRC could help monitor the work.

Peter is concerned because that area is environmentally sensitive. Road grindings contain a lot of oil, which will be washed into the Slough. Any product available that could be substituted for road grindings?

Mark said he does not know of anything different. The road grindings will be utilized because of the original contract agreement. Next year may have a different product for certain areas. Mark understands our concerns.

Petroleum-based product is utilized for the roads to drive on; it is a standard product. The extra two-foot shoulder on each side is part of the roadway structure. Mark is unaware of other options. If we move to a concrete roadway, it changes everything.

Mark stated that Steve is very conscious of things, such as permeable or environmentally-friendly material, and he can speak about it for projects going forward.

The conclusion of this 2018 road project will be the IDOT-approved product that is designed and spec to everything that was done and used in town for years. Mark can inquire for something different around the Lake. Unfortunately, it is not isolated to that area of town. We still maintain those same issues with roads that intersect because some crossroads have drainage and are part of the watershed.

Seth wanted to clarify what we are tasking PHPW with regarding the existing run-off. Dana said he will go out and evaluate it. There are certain conditions. There are areas where there is a major amount of stuff there or splayed out very finely. Do we want the original contractors to do the work or should we do it? We would get back to Mark.

Mark said timing-wise it needs to be evaluated within one or two weeks prior to work done. Between now and March 15, we will have additional residents drive off the road and additional damage to the soft areas. Mark is unsure of why Spring was noted to perform the corrected work, perhaps the availability of material and/or workforce. However, Mark knows the asphalt industry does not work or minimally works during the months of December, January and February.

Seth summarized the intent: The contractor will not do any work until PHNRC evaluates and identifies areas need to be corrected. Last week of February, Dana and Mark will touch base and review the areas of damage before the contractor is involved. Mark will speak with Steve Berez and express our intentions. Mark cannot guarantee it because the contractors do not work for him. However, Steve is a good liaison.

Seth wished to reiterate the same concerns as Peter that this is a very sensitive area. The timescale may be lost with this project to consider environmentally-sensitive materials, but as a general statement for the future, may we explore other materials to prevent run-off of oils, drainage problems, etc. Practically all the roads affect the watershed.

Additionally, we would like to ensure that the PHPW and PHNRC work together on future projects, affording PHNRC input, and do things prospectively.

Mark said the wrong material was used, and the current replacement fill will not be changed because it is City standard and IDOT specification. Negotiations have been completed to have the incorrect material removed and replaced, and Mark has no intention of changing it. The Project should have been completed by now, and it is late in the game.

Mark cares about the City and the environment and understands our concerns, but he must balance what we can do reasonably with the cost involved and economics of the City.

Seth said let us look at things before they happen. Maybe before the next project starts. We can talk options.

The engineering and design of new permeable parking lots have come so much farther than what people used to believe. Mark stated, however, that most City projects will not come before the PHNRC to talk about because the projects meet certain parameters, and this is the design of it. For example, the parking lot municipal lot across from fire and police departments may be a different context.

Dana, Mark and Steve Berez will meet on February 25, 2019 and/or a delegate elected by Steve who is monitoring the removal and replacement project.

#### Update: Workday Schedules

Agnes reported that our first workday of the New Year on January 13, 2019 was at the Nature Preserve where several of our volunteers were present. Seth managed a Creek clean-up, including removal of a large tree in the creek that was obstructing water flow.

We also put down seed and erosion control blankets on the shoreline plus burned a lot of brush and wood. A kielbasa roast was held at the conclusion of the workday.

Our next workday of January 27, 2019 will be held at the Slough at Elmhurst Road and Hillside Avenue. Many trees fell during the blizzard of November 25-26, 2018, so we will clean up the debris. We also will distribute a seed mix for the area, which we have opened it up for grass and vegetation.

#### Fall Prescribed Burns

Agnes stated that the fall weather only allowed us to perform a prescribed burn on one day of the burning season. We accomplished small burns, like at St. Alphonsus. The remnant seeded prairies are not on the ComEd burn schedule, and we are unsure if they are returning. ComEd operates on a three-year burn schedule, so a lot of our burns are left for the Spring.

Dana stated we applied and received a permit to perform a prescribed burn at the Prospect Heights Park District Golf Course, Hole #11, which is all phragmites. This will be a quick burn.

#### Outcome: Seed Processing and Volunteer Appreciation Day

PHNRC conducted their Seed Processing and Volunteer Appreciation Day on Sunday, November 18, 2018. PHNRC felt it was a great success, and it created a lot of good will. More than 30 people attended. Our volunteers processed over 50 pounds of seed.

For the first time we issued a Junior Volunteer Appreciation Award, and this year's recipient was Lauren Eisinger.

#### Status: Public Outreach – Wheeling and Hersey High Schools

Seth Marcus reported that he met with representatives of Wheeling High School administration and felt the meeting went very well. Seth promoted the idea of establishing a long-term relationship with the high school students and their working with the PHNRC. The students could get involved by providing physical labor working our project sites, research and data collection, and engage in science, educational and art projects. After winter break, Seth contacted them today and hopes to hear from them.

Seth did not contact the S.O.S. (Service Over Self Program) at Hersey High School.

#### Library/Park District Program: Nature Speaks Program

Dana stated that two Spring Bird Walks are scheduled for March 2019.

The Nature Speaks Program speaker for January 24, 2019 is Dan Thompson, Wildlife Ecologist with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. His presentation is entitled "On the Brink of Extinction: Efforts to Save the Endangered Blanding's Turtle in DuPage County." The Blanding's Turtle is an Illinois state endangered species. The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County started efforts to save this reptile in 1996.

Ed Madden will prepare a press release for submission to the *Daily Herald* newspaper.

The next scheduled Program speaker is set for June 26, 2019. Bill Kleiman, Nachusa Grasslands Project Director will present “Nachusa Grasslands: 30 Years of Protecting and Restoring Habitat.” Thirty-years’ ago, it was a radical notion to attempt to purchase and restore a semblance of the lost Illinois landscape. Today because of the efforts of people like Bill Kleiman, it has become more commonplace. Under Kleiman’s guidance, Nachusa Grasslands, which is in Franklin Grove, Illinois, has grown to over 4,000 acres and has become a mecca for science.

Dana is still hoping to book two excellent speakers for April 2019: Terry Mizell and Seth’s guy with Lake County.

Dana is also hoping to book one of three authors of the very first State of the Grasslands Report. The author spoke on the January 7, 2019 segment of the Jerome McDonald Show with WBEZ Radio. Dana directed commissioners to the WBEZ Radio website where the shows are archived. Dana feels this author would make an excellent speaker for the Nature Speaks Program.

#### Nature Preserve – Interpretative Signage

Dana said the interpretative signage will be delivered in four to six weeks, but the shipment could be expedited. However, we cannot install the signs until the ground thaws. Therefore, installation of the signs will, most likely, occur during a Spring volunteer workday.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### PHPL Display Cases

Dana, Agnes and Seth designed the Prospect Heights Watershed Highlights display currently showing in the Prospect Heights Public Library Display Cases. This will be displayed during the month of January 2019.

##### 2019 PHNRC Budget

Dana distributed to Commissioners a proposed PHNRC 2018-2019 Budget based on recent discussions. Our budget for the year 2017-2018 was \$5,800, and we were requested to par it down last year.

Last year, we placed all our funds into the Internship Program so that we could pay for a summer intern. We had materials left over from previous years’ purchases, so we have enough supplies to get us through. However, for this year, we need to replenish our supplies.

The cost of potting soil and herbicides has risen. Work Gloves are expendable. We will always need chain saw blades. Our Chairperson purchased most supplies with her own money.

Other expenses are promotional materials, tool maintenance, fire starter logs, germination trays, aquatic plants, operational supplies, (i.e., gasoline, oil, trim string, etc.), carp enclosure materials, root stimulator, and safety glasses and personal protection from herbicides.

We are requesting three summer interns based on the amount of work to be accomplished as our projects keep expanding and the work that we have seen accomplished through utilizing two interns.

Previously, we received a donation for the Internship Program from an anonymous donor. Our minimum number of interns has been two.

There is a concern of our intern working project sites that are in a remote location, so personal safety, along with equipment safety, is a priority. Boredom of the repetitive work is also a concern.

Our total budget request for the year 2018-2019 is \$17,685. Ed feels it is all warranted but will be “sticker shock” as it is three-times more than the previous year. Therefore, we must be clear on our position, intentions and objectives.

Peter Falcone advised us to make our explanations clear on each expense/need and increase awareness of our personal contributions to the Commission. Attaching a cover letter is helpful. Fortunately, last year we had a lot of overstock on equipment and supplies, and we supplemented our supplies with personal money.

Peter also advised us to put in what we need, but always think of prioritization of the need. What is the most and least we need? If the City can only provide \$13,500, attempt budget discussions. This is what we need to provide the services we do. What is the most important and the least we need? What was utilized this year, contributions for payment of intern salary, extra supplies, additional donations, etc.? What is the most important thing we need to accomplish our mission and what can wait? Present a strong argument.

The important thing is presenting our case. Why are we going from \$5,800 to \$17,685? Our budget request has risen because we are requesting three interns. Plead our case on how valuable and indispensable the interns are and have depleted our supplies.

The PHPD did not contribute for an intern last year; just the year before. We asked and they refused. They are funding restoration of their playgrounds.

Agree upon and approve the final budget at our next meeting of February 14 then give to Peter to put in the budget process. Budget decisions are made before April 1 but voted on by the current Council by the date of May 1, 2019.

Agnes asked if the Council approves a certain amount, may we reallocate the funds? Peter said the City does not like to reallocate funds. When the Council decides on a budget, it is what is presented to them. However, there is leeway, not fudging the numbers. For example, you have money set aside and need more potting soil than yard tools. Last year, we shifted money over (\$1,300) from Supplies and funneled it into the Internship Program.

Seth mentioned an addition of a wheel barrel, and John will donate his own. Seth also suggested monies for renting equipment. Could we explore the possibility of having funds available for renting power equipment for the volunteer workdays? For example, utilizing a brush hog would save a tremendous amount of work hours.

Commissioners were advised to send all comments about the proposed budget before our next meeting where we will vote on the final budget.

#### PHNRC Strategic Plan

The PHNRC Strategic Plan is still a work-in-progress; therefore, there is nothing new to report.

#### City Civic Meetings and PHNRC Representation Reporting

Jill prepared a City of Prospect Heights 2019 Calendar of Civic Meetings showing 2019 meeting dates for the City Council, McDonald Creek Commission and Prospect Heights Park District. Except for the Prospect Heights Park District Board Meetings, all 2019 dates are tentative. Therefore, once dates are finalized, Jill will provide an updated 2019 Calendar.

#### New Items – Seth Marcus

Seth requested to address two new items.

City Elections in April 2019 are for Mayor, Aldermen and other City positions.

Seth said it is a common phenomenon in American elections when candidates are running for office to go before organizations where residents can ask questions and learn a candidate's viewpoint and position on items. This can occur before people take office. It is a way to establish a relationship.

We are a Commission of the City, and it would be beneficial to have the candidates present at our meeting where we can ask: What is your position on XYZ? We would also be able to establish a relationship early in the candidacy.

As a citizen, Seth tried to contact the candidates using the internet, but could not locate contact information. Seth next contacted the City, but to no avail. It is not easy access to a phone number and e:mail address. I want to talk to the candidate running for office.

Seth thought it would be great if we invite them to come to one of our next meetings and have pre-printed questions to ask them that are uniform for each candidate so there is no bias or have an open forum. Alternatively, a few Commissioners could meet with one or two candidates in their own home.

Peter Falcone said that as citizens, we could do anything we want. While candidates are running for a City office, the City does not get involved with the elections because the City serves the residents.

Peter cautioned us as a Commission to get involved. As a formal Commission, we are advisory to the City Council. Be cautious in inviting future candidates. It could be murky. We are an appointed office, so it could be perceived as us getting involved with politics.

Regular residents can meet with any of the candidates. Candidates running unopposed or currently serving the City have their contact information on the City website. However, contact information for people new to the political process is not on the City website. Perhaps the City Clerk has that information.

All elected officials are part-time, so they are not always at City Hall, but they are always accessible.

Seth inquired that after the election, may we have a discussion with an Alderman? Peter said for our Chairperson to contact either a current or newly-elected Alderman to a meeting of two Commissioners so we may have a dialogue.

Agnes said the PHNRC membership is now seven, so could three Commissioners be present for a meeting with an Alderman? Peter will check with the City Attorney. Two Commissioners present for a meeting is safe, and Peter likes to err on the side of caution.

Seth inquired how can we, as a Commission, establish a good relationship with our Alderman? Agnes said what the Commission has done in the past is invite an Alderman to one of our project sites. For example, Aldermen Dolick and Rosenthal were invited for a walk around the Slough, we have invited Aldermen to our workdays, and Ald. Dolick came to our Volunteer Appreciation Day in 2017.

John said it may be preferred to meet with an Alderman at one of our project sites for a casual encounter and discussion to understand and see our work. It would be post-election.

Jill suggested looking in the newspaper as we near the election because Libraries host public forums.

Seth next said there are three big organizations in our town – the City, PHPD and PHPW. They are involved in many projects. Seth would like to see how we could reinforce the thinking of PHNRC as a resource for all-things nature, trees, plants and animals. Seth feels we have become recognized as the expert organization in the City of Prospect Heights and, as such, a resource that all organizations in our town can go to if they have questions before City projects are completed.

For example, trees plants were planted in the reconstructed parking lot. Seth has a biology degree. He could have advised them against the trees they planted. Ornamental trees are important, but they are trendy and not really environmentally-correct.

Another example – the Hillside Road Project, which we spoke about earlier.

Going forward, it would be great if the City of Prospect Heights, the PHPD and PHPW all said there is a project coming up in six months that will involve the watershed, plantings in the park, etc., and ask the PHNRC. We do not have to win. Seth simply wants us to be consulted.

Should we write a letter and sign by all of us? Get our professional opinion before progressing.

John felt a reminder letter is a good idea. But he also feels that one of our ideas of attending City commission meetings is to show our presence. If they do not see us, they do not know us. John further said that we are consulted, so we have gained traction since our inception. We are legitimate, and it is going in the right direction.

Agnes said we cannot create a City-wide ordinance for them to consult us. It is a matter of how we can go about making them understand that we are a resource.

Dana said he had a conversation the other day with Mark Roscoe of PHPW. They discussed the vast expanses of turf grass and how Somerset Park could be a wet prairie and absorb all the storm water PHPW is trying to push down the creek. Next, they talked about landscaping at the Police Station. Dana inquired if we would be consulted, and the response was no, the project is already finalized. Ornamental plantings would be installed. Dana said that area is a detention pond and placing native plants will absorb the water. Mark said it was a done deal. Therefore, Dana feel Seth's point of sending a reminder letter is a good one.

Seth will create the first draft Reminder Letter for Commissioners' review.

#### McDonald Creek Commission Meeting – November 27, 2018

Jill Moskal, as PHNRC representative for the McDonald Creek Commission (MCC), listened to the official recording of the McDonald Creek Commission (MCC) meeting of November 27, 2018. NOTE: The MCC did not conduct a meeting in December on December 25, 2018.

McDonald Creek Commission is planning Creek Clean-Ups in the Spring and Fall 2019. The first Creek Clean-Up may be in April during Earth Week.

Jon Kindseth and Harold Kargenian will be requesting a meeting with Mark Roscoe of the Prospect Heights Public Works to (1) get a larger picture of PHPW's 2019 Strategy and understanding of their priorities; (2) drainage environment re: surface repaving and storm drains; and (3) input and increased awareness of Aldermen on MCC concerns, such as beavers and beaver dams in the Creek.

The beavers have currently created residence along the creek in Somerset Park, which is Park District property just north of Palatine Road and east of Schoenbeck Road. This is an unused park that is primarily floodplain surrounding the creek from Palatine North Frontage Road to Stonegate Road/Country Gardens Park.

Cathy Brady, Chairperson of the McDonald Creek Commission, has been monitoring the beaver activity for several months. Cathy composed and distributed a letter to a dozen homeowners whose properties back up to Somerset Park. The letter's purpose was to provide basic information about beavers.

Based on literature research, Cathy feels beavers should not be discouraged. Urban stream dynamics are complicated, but historically, beavers create ponds/wetlands, which enhance habitat and slow stream velocity. In an urban stream, that improves pollution filtration, reduces bank erosion and stream incision, and may prevent downstream flooding.

Beavers could potentially create a wetland instead of just a floodplain in Somerset Park. However, for that to be a quality wetland instead of an invasion of phragmites, RCG and cattails would probably require seeding. The property was agricultural for a century, so it is unlikely that a wetland seedbank still exists. Would the PHNRC be able to help with that and would it be worth the investment if the beavers do not stay?

In Somerset Park, the beavers have thinned the willow trees by about 50% to date. Unfortunately, they seem to dislike buckthorn and box elder. If their food source is depleted, will they be gone next year? Gone where? Somerset Park seems to be a rather ideal human/beaver compromise site. However, Cathy does not see how we can actively encourage them in the short term, other than to stop discouraging them by removing their dams.

The next McDonald Creek Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening, January 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Agnes and Peter commented on the Beaver situation. Somerset Park is Park District Property, and PHPD, MWRD and PHPW maintain the creek. MWRD has been on site and removed the beaver dams, and PHPW has removed the last beaver dam.

Has IDNR been contacted? Yes. What is their position?

Beavers can be removed if deemed a nuisance by landowners. In this case, PHPW. Beavers are a protected species. However, you can secure a permit to trap them to remove them.

John said they are treated as a nuisance animal, and there are not a lot of solutions in urban areas.

Jill stated that beavers are in the Des Plaines River, and she suggested trapping and taking the beavers to the River Trails Nature Center. However, Agnes said beavers cannot be relocated.

Jill inquired of the PHNRC to create an animal nature preserve as one of our strategies. Agnes said it is already part of our educational system, which we do every time we improve the wildlife habitat in Prospect Heights. Agnes said that problem with beavers is that not everyone understands them. They blame them for flooding, but they can help mitigate flooding.

Agnes said in this current situation, we were just informed last week. There is no way to change anyone's mind. The beavers will be removed.

Seth said this is another situation where PHNRC could have been consulted but was not. Seth understands the removal of the beavers' dams was ongoing, but had we been consulted a few months' ago when it was first recognized as a problem, we could have helped.

Agnes said there exists other options and techniques that wildlife managers use. Seth noted an option is to keep the dam and place a PCP pipe that goes below and past the dam in the creek to let the water through. Another option is Beaver Deceivers, who capture and sterilize the beavers. You do not have to kill them if they do not reproduce. Because they are not gone, new beavers do not move in. You will have a stable population.

Agnes said there could have been different solutions and method tried since October.

Seth said if you look at the site, the stream is in a gully then there is a depression up the hill and the house are far away. If you raise the stream even four feet, you're still far away from the houses. We understand the beavers could raise the water level a lot, but it is still far away from the houses.

John said this is a topic of education to the City and public. Residents do not understand it and don't want it. But it is their backyard and their trees are coming down. They report it to the City. The City must respond.

Dana said we did not observe a single tree that belonged to anyone that was mowed down. Agnes said the trees cut down by the beavers were weedy trees, types of trees we would have cut down as part of our natural area management. Seth said you simply place guards around your trees.

Peter Hahn said that Beavers are a Keystone Species, which means they are valuable. This is where the education comes in.

Cathy sent a hand-out to residents around the creek to educate them about the beavers. Soon after that, residents did not like hearing the beavers were around, and the beavers were removed.

Agnes and Seth gave a presentation to the Anne Sullivan Elementary Grade 4 Class, (20 students), on Wednesday, January 9, 2019. The presentation was on Winter Ecology and what animals, plants and wildlife do in the winter. Agnes said they also talked about beavers.

Seth felt it was a positive experience. The students enjoyed the presentation and asked us to return. Unfortunately, we could not come back next Wednesday because of school meetings and cannot return in two weeks because the beavers will be gone or euthanized. Therefore, Agnes and Seth are taking time off from work on Monday, January 14, 2019, to take the children on a walk to see the beavers before they are gone.

Seth requested to read an excerpt from a *Washington Post* article about beavers for the record:

*Castor canadensis*, the North American beaver, is the ultimate keystone species, that rare creature that supports an entire ecosystem. By building dams and forming ponds, beavers serve as bucktoothed housing developers, creating watery habitat for a menagerie of tenants. Songbirds nest in pondside willows, frogs breed in shallow canals, and trout shelter in cold pools. There's even a beaver beetle that eats the skin of you-know-what.

Modern beavers have been wandering North America for 7.5 million years, giving flora and fauna plenty of time to adapt. Willow, a favorite snack, resprouts multiple stems when it's gnawed down, like a hydra regrowing heads. Cottonwoods produce distasteful tannins to deter chewing. America's rarest butterfly, the St. Francis Satyr, eats little but sedges that grow in beaver wetlands. The evolutionary connection runs so deep it's often boiled down to a pithy bumper-sticker: "Beavers taught salmon to jump."

Peter asked are the beavers still there? Yes. It's a done deal? Yes. By whom? Peter wanted to go on record to note who was responsible. The village and residents should know who is responsible for the decision to remove the beavers. Agnes responded the Prospect Heights Public Works Department.

#### Wild Things Talk

In the interest of time, Dana requested tabling the discussion on the Wild Things Talk.

Dana provided a suggested presentation outline to Commissioners for their review. Dana requested Commissioners to review the outline and communicate via e:mail with their thoughts and comments.

#### Increased Public Access Plan for Hillcrest Lake and the Slough

The PHNRC needs to place specificity to the increased Public Access Plan for Hillcrest Lake and the Slough so we may have a dialogue with the City on grants and funding.

Are we going to propose boardwalk and where? How many interpretative signs? How many benches and where located?

Given permission, we could proceed with the Plan as part of our normal workload. We could have a conversation this weekend at our workday about the boardwalk.

We will continue to address the Plan at our February meeting.

### Presentation to the Park District on Nature Preserve Dumping

Seth suggested discussing whether we make a presentation to the PHPD on what is going on at the Nature Preserve.

The entire complex at Morava is a wonderful treasure of the Prospect Heights community. Behind the tennis courts and parking lot is a nice parcel of land owned by the Park District and managed by the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission. PHNRC has been tasked to maintain, restore and manage the natural area. In the short time that PHNRC has been involved, the land has substantially changed and has developed into a lovely park. Access and use of the area have increased, people are enjoying walking the nature trail, and interpretative signage will soon be installed to educate the public on the natural habitat.

Storyboards, created and managed by the PHPL, line the walking path providing a walking, learning and reading trail for children.

The site also holds a dumping area for the PHPD, which greatly alters the appearance, use and safety of the site.

The Park District mainly dumps vegetative materials (leaves, branches, logs), but asphalt, chunks of roadway material, etc., is also dumped at the site.

Proposals for consideration.

1. Find an alternative site for PHPD dump.
2. PHPD contract for vegetative waste pick-up.
3. If the site must be used for dumping by PHPD, limit to vegetative materials.
4. If the site must be used for dumping by PHPD, dumping should be limited in a distribution perimeter, and the perimeter must be clearly demarcated in a natural way.

The Nature Preserve has developed into a beautiful, educational and recreational Prospect Heights treasure, and we should all work to maintain this natural site.

Dana said Christina Ferraro invited us to give a presentation on January 22, 2019. Will we choose to do so?

Seth said he knows we want to work with the Park District and keep on good terms with them. We want to be collaborative and certainly not be confrontational.

Having a dump site in a pretty nature preserve is not optimal. Seth has provided four alternative considerations instead of dumping in the Nature Preserve. Let's make this a win/win situation.

Dana said the PHPD Board does set policy but do not make decision about dumping. That is decided by Christina and Dino. Christina and Dino serve the Board.

Ed feels we should start with the policy makers. They are the leadership. Ed encourages us to make a presentation. We do not want to ruffle feathers. Can the Board find a solution?

Seth said he was in the Nature Preserve and observed a dump truck dumping stuff right to the edge. One more dump, and it would have been in the stream. At what point do we not worry? Can they limit the breadth of their dumping to simply vegetative matter?

Seth said if PHNRC is tasked with maintaining the Nature Preserve. Agnes said it is an easy thing to ask them not to dump in the creek. They will agree to that; however, they have said no to major dumping.

Agnes said we have enjoyed a good relationship with the PHPD. They are not funding an intern. They are not providing funding to PHNRC. We work on multiple sites and multiple issues exist, so we must choose presentation of our concerns carefully and consider our relationship.

Ed said the Board does make day-to-day decisions, but if we have a concern, the PHPD Board is where to go. We must also remember our original agreement where we understood a dump would be on site. We must honor our agreement. However, we could request limiting permanent damage from rubble dumping.

John said he feels a presentation, or another appeal should be made, but also include safety and have a softer rhetoric and less demanding tone.

The Nature Preserve is surrounded by tennis courts, parks, etc., and large branches and rubble are dumped in the Preserve. Also, the size of the vegetative matter that is dumped is large and just as destructive as cement.

Dana does not have issue with vegetative matter being dumped, but he is ill at ease with the 60-plus yards of debris that has been dumped. PHNRC was originally informed the dump site would be a mound, but then was told it would be a dump and will be used whenever needed. This is different from the original charter we agreed to. PHPD needs to dump vegetative matter and occasionally it will be mulched.

Dana said we cannot ask PHPD to stop dumping, but we can cordon the area with plantings. We have planted hazelnuts, but they are slow growing. Perhaps a screen of either Elderberry or Pokeberry as a shield would be better.

What is the form of the presentation? Seth has a draft letter from the Commission and accompany with photos of the preserve's natural beauty along with photos of the dump. We should state our original understanding has changed in scope and the nature of its use. It would be great if the dump site could be relocated or limit the scope of what is dumped.

Dana does not feel there is adequate time to prepare a presentation for the January 22 PHPD meeting, so Dana will ask Christina to be placed on the February agenda.

Seth also expressed frustration that we, as a Commission, are unable to discuss concerns, projects, future concerns, etc., outside of a meeting due to the Open Meetings Act. Therefore, how can we cover every issue during a meeting? Agnes said we must plan the time for it.

We can meet in groups of three and have a point person for communication. We can send information, but to one person with the rest as blind copies.

Next Steps: Seth and John will work together on the draft letter presentation and send to Commissioners for review before our next meeting. Dana will contact Christina to present at the February 26, 2019 PHPD Board Meeting.

#### Visitor's Comments

Allan Lim of Boy Scout Troop 468 in Arlington Heights attended our meeting with his father, Myung Lim. Allan is pursuing his Merit Badge.

Allan inquired about the scheduling of our volunteer workdays, which are held biweekly on Sundays. Dana mentioned we welcome Eagle Scout Projects, and Allan knows Sam Sobczak.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

##### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission is scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the meeting. Therefore, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS  
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary