

McDonald Creek Commission

Meeting Minutes for Jan. 23, 2018

Present: Commissioners Harold Kargenian, Jan Fuller, Jon Kindseth, Rick Hartke, Cathy Brady; volunteer Nancy Lutton; Jill Moskal, PHNRC representative; Curtis Watson, Arlington Hts. creekside resident

I. OPENING ITEMS

- A. Roll call - All commissioners agreed to meet half-hour earlier than usual to accommodate the PHNRC's "Nature Talks" lecture at the library.
- B. Minutes of 10/24/17 meeting approved as written. November and December meetings were cancelled due to holidays.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Education and outreach efforts - Brochure (Cathy) -- A revised 4-fold brochure to hand out to residents was approved, with a couple suggestions:
 - Add a mention of rain barrels available from MWRD.
 - Add a reminder that the city garbage collector will pick up landscape too.Cost to print about 200, 4-color, folded brochures is less than \$100, so per Jon, Joe Wade or Peter Falcone could approve that expenditure; we wouldn't have to request it from City Council.

Participation in public events -- The June community block party at Morava, the spring Garden Club sale, or the Backbones 5K at Country Gardens Park in late April would be possibilities to distribute brochures and talk to residents.

Newspaper article -- The Journal & Topics interviewed Jan and used information sent by Cathy for an article published Jan. 12.

- B. Easements - report on creek owners' deeds (Hart) -- City Code Title 4-7b2/5 addresses easements and rights of way. Your plat of survey shows utility easements. The easement is between the homeowner and the city. Public works will not access the property without permission unless it's an emergency.
- C. City website - Jon has digital copies of Lake County SMC pamphlets and will send those to city administrator Peter Falcone to post on the website this month. The MCC page on the website is laid out to be consistent with other city pages.
- D. Presentation at a City Council Workshop Meeting - Jon will set this up.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Report on Woodland Trails creekside restoration - Jan researched the River Trails creek restoration project. MWRD paid for the whole project, including some improvements to private property. MWRD has programs to improve waterways and stormwater management, but the city has to request a MWRD project. The Creek Commission should research these programs and suggest grant opportunities as part of Jon's city council presentation.
- B. Report on MWRD Small Streams Maintenance Program - Rick made some contacts at MWRD (George B., Brian Levy, Justin Kirk) and suggested we have a MWRD representative speak at our next meeting. Questions: Does MWRD prefer smaller projects or multi-jurisdictional ones? Would we be eligible for more funding, or more likely to be funded, if we cooperated on a project with Wheeling, Mt. Prospect and/or Arlington Hts.?
- C. Creekside invasive removals - Majority sentiment was not now; we should focus on outreach and clean-up days this year. If we decide to do this next year, we should try to work with PHNRC, PH Garden Club or other existing groups. NOTE: If we plan any kind of workdays with volunteers, we will need a volunteer waiver.
- D. Discussion of Strategic Plans draft -- (See above - C.) Jan would like to see some involvement, support and enthusiasm from aldermen. They should know who lives along the creek and be able to introduce us to creek property owners who might be interested in working with us. Hart thought we could encourage more helpfulness by reminding aldermen that the creek is infrastructure. Jon summarized:
- Focus on clean-up and education this year.
 - Involve aldermen more.
 - Understand how this commission can support city departments.
 - Provide information to aldermen on grants available, best practices for bank stabilization, etc.
 - Work with PHNRC.

IV. CLOSING ITEMS

- A. Next meeting date will be 6 pm Tuesday, Feb. 27
- B. Adjourned 6:50 pm