

None of this could be accomplished or sustained without the support and goodwill of the late Mayor Helmer, the Aldermen, City Council and support staff, Public Works, the Park District, and the Public Library all of Prospect Heights.

A huge thank you goes out to all the Private Donors that have repeatedly made contributions to projects that would not have happened without their generous gifts and to ComEd for their amazing four (4) grants that we have been awarded over the past eight (8) years.

Finally, and most importantly, we wish to thank and sing the praises of our wonderful volunteers who have made it all happen on the ground where it matters most. Your hard work and sustained commitment to the mission have undeniably changed the green spaces of Prospect Heights for the better, for wildlife, insects, birds, and humanity.

You have our sincere commitment, and we are looking forward to the next eight (8) years of making Prospect Heights a leader as a green community. Thank you!

Several Commissioners offered personal messages.

Dana stated he seconds the statement just read. Dana feels it has been an incredible ride and offered sincere appreciation to everyone that is part of it.

John Kamysz expressed appreciation to all and the PHNRC. John is grateful to be able to participate as a commissioner of this organization, providing him an opportunity to give back to the community. The support from our Mayor, Aldermen and our volunteers is appreciated.

Ed Madden said he is unable to participate in all the Commission's activities, but proud of what the PHNRC has created. Ed was involved with several predecessor organizations and city missions, such as, when Agnes and Ed monitored McDonald Creek for the citizen science project and participated in the Nature Palooza Event. Agnes and Ed co-founded Friends of McDonald Creek to specifically monitor the creek for flooding hazards during strong storm events. Ed said what the PHNRC has accomplished to date is made possible from the amazing leadership of Agnes. Ed deems Agnes the Energizer Bunny of natural area restoration. The PHNRC organization has matured and has a synergy that cannot be adequately described. Further, the PHNRC is honored to be highlighted as the logo for the 2022 city sticker.

Seth expressed that it is an honor to work with every Commissioner and a joy to know and work with all of us. Our volunteers make things possible and are happy with what we produce. The city, the park district, the community and the community response has been wonderful for what we have done. Seth felt strongly that we must be stewards of the Earth. What we are doing is quite small for the earth, but we are trying to be helpful.

Jill feels that our Commission is thriving due to the wonderful leadership and strong knowledge base of natural area management from Agnes. Our Commission is based on collaboration and teamwork, particularly with our community, our civic leaders and the park district; accountability; transparency; thinking broadly; a strong willingness to learn; and recognition of contributions both literally (our wonderful volunteers) and financially (the amazing generosity of donors).

Meeting Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 13, 2022

The minutes of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission Board Meeting of January 13, 2022, were reviewed, and two corrections were noted: On Page 2, David Schwaegler is with Lake in the Hills Fen, and on page 4 under Pollinator Park Project, the name of the nursery is Spence Nursery. The January 13, 2022 meeting minutes were approved as amended.

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteer Workdays

The volunteer workday of February 6, 2022 was conducted at the southeast area of the Slough along Willow Road for buckthorn invasion removal. Many new volunteers were present.

The volunteer workday of February 20, 2022 will be scheduled in the same area.

Prospect Heights Public Library/Park District Events

Nature Speaks Program

Dana said the video presentation by Dr. Alice Bell of January 20, 2022 entitled “Our Biggest Experiment – The Epic History of the Climate Crisis” is posted on our website.

The next Nature Speaks Program presentation will be by David Schwaegler on “Lake in the Hills Fen” via Zoom Meeting on April 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Central Time. His presentation will unravel and expose the unparalleled beauty and complexity of this most magnificent and best kept secret in Illinois. As a Master Photographer and Storyteller, Dr. Schwaegler will take us on a guided pictorial tour through the unique and other worldly landscape of Lake in the Hills Fen. Attendees will learn first-hand about the history and the people who fought so hard to preserve it and just how special it is. Attendees will be totally amazed that such a treasure is so near.

Like many of the Illinois natural areas, Lake in the Hill Fen is a 500-acre site that has had a tremulous path to becoming a preserved natural area despite the rare and irreplaceable flora and fauna that exist in this rare treasure. Lake in the Hill Fen boasts nine distinct native communities that make up this incredible and dynamic ecosystem: a calcareous floating mat, a graminoid fen, a low shrub fen, a hanging fen, a calcareous seep, sedge meadows and marsh, perennial stream,, a dry gravel prairie, and a mesic gravel prairie.

Over 400 species of plants, 80 species of birds, and 40 species of butterflies call the Lake in the Hills Fen their home.

David Schwaegler has been a volunteer at Lake in the Hills Fen since the late 1980s before it achieved Illinois Nature Preserve status. His numerous roles include bird and butterfly monitoring, conducting plants’ inventories, phenology studies, tour guide and Steward, among other things. In 1987, he was introduced to the Spring Hill Farm Fen, now Lake in the Hills Fen, by noted naturalist,

Wayne Schennum. It was a revelation to Dr. Schwaegler, and soon after, he was recruited by The Nature Conservancy as a volunteer. Thus began his over 30 years of work at the site with increasing knowledge and responsibility.

Dr. Schwaegler has held a lifelong interest in nature and two careers before devoting his time fully to nature photography and natural areas restoration.

Dr. Schwaegler holds a bachelor's degree in music education and a master's degree in performance from Northwestern University. Dr. Schwaegler spent 12 years as a band director in Streamwood, Illinois. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa and became a professor of music education.

As a photographer, Dr. Schwaegler's world class photographs speak for themselves. His work presents an intimate and personal portrait into the unique landscapes, flora and fauna of Lake in the Hills Fen.

Currently, Dr. Schwaegler monitors rare plants for the Chicago Botanic Garden Plants of Concern organization; monitors birds for the Bird Conservation Network; and monitors butterflies for the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD). As a Steward, he organizes volunteers for invasive plant removal, seed collecting and seed dispersal.

Dr. Schwaegler also gathers bloom time data for the long-term phenology study sponsored by MCCD.

An array of Dr. Schwaegler's master photography is displayed on the PHNRC website under "Nature Speaks."

Spring Fling – Prospect Heights Park District

On Saturday, April 16, 2022 from 9:00am – 12 Noon, the Prospect Heights Park District will host a Spring Fling at the Gary Morava Recreation Center. The Lions Club will host a Pancake Breakfast from 9:00am – 12 Noon. A \$5.00 donation per person is suggested. At 10:00am, an Egg Hunt will begin. Children must bring their own Easter basket.

Following the Egg Hunt, the PHNRC will be present to conduct tours of the Nature Preserve and present "Skins and Skulls."

The Easter Bunny will be available to greet children and have their picture taken with him.

In addition to the above, Fly a Kite Day will occur. The kites will include the PHNRC logo. John and Seth will manage the "Skins and Skulls" presentation. We need to plan with River Trails to retrieve the props.

Dana and Agnes have contributed \$150 for production of the kites with the PHNRC logo recognition.

Tree Planting Day

Tree Planting Day is planned for Friday, May 27, 2022 from 9:00am – 12 Noon and will be a community-wide event program. Registration is required for participation through Event Brite.

The trees that were a gift from the Morton Arboretum must be planted on May 27, although we had hoped to have done so during a scheduled volunteer workday on May 29, 2022.

We received two Bald Cypress, five Swamp Oaks, and six Shag Bark Hickory from the Morton Arboretum measuring 1.5' x 1.5' root ball and three or four inches in circumference. Agnes said it is a total of 15 trees for the natural areas around the Slough and six areas the Park District will determine.

Our participation would involve using the eight-inch auger to drill holes for planting, clean debris from the newly dug hole, plant the trees and water the trees. We will water from a normal water tank.

Dana will contact Aris at the Morton Arboretum for copy type for the announcement and how to set up for Event Brite. Dana will then provide for Commissioner review before release.

Everyone's participation would be appreciated.

Slough Boardwalk Project

The full run of the Boardwalk has been installed. We are awaiting winter's end to revisit the condition of the Boardwalk and then level it. Our next steps are restoration work: cattail eradication in certain areas, plantings, and signage. We have 1.5 years left of this project.

The foot traffic on the Boardwalk has been amazing! It occurs from dawn to dusk each day. Some people jog on the Boardwalk. Others are walking their dogs. Sometimes a "dog jam" occurs. A lot of activity is occurring from the installation of the Board Walk.

John noticed sand on the trail. Dana said one of our volunteers spread sand on icy locations for traction. A 40 lb. bag has been left by the trail.

Pollinator Park – Landscaping Design

Since our last meeting, Seth, John, and Dana met at Hillcrest Lake and brainstormed on the design and installation of a path and landscaping design for Pollinator Park and the Hillcrest Lake area. It is difficult to envision landscaping with a snow-covered ground. However, initially look at the track of the path, which will evolve as we start to plant.

The biggest development is the purchase and placement of boulders for a seating area. If we follow the circle of the solstice and create a miniature Stonehenge that you can actually sit on. John drew diagrams showing the appropriate angle is a 14-foot diameter circle of stones to mark winter and summer solstice and, of course, North, South, East, and West. Next week, John and Dana will purchase the boulders from Schwake Stone.

The boulders will be delivered and roughly installed on the west side of the Lake just north of Old Willow Road. As the ground thaws in the spring, the boulders will then be shimmied into place. This should create a nice sitting area and more to think about and appreciate on those particular days of the year. Also, it will be a nice addition to the Pollinator Park.

Dana said that \$357.60 remains and in the Pollinator Park Budget that should have been spent by December 31, 2021, but we were unable to do so because of Schwake. With an extra \$583.00 in our regular operational budget, funds totaling \$940 are available for use with this objective.

The area in front of Lou's house was prepared last fall and is ready for seeding. When the weather warms, plants will be installed.

John said a tree has fallen on the west side of the Lake. During the winter season, you can see the tree trunks better. In the northeast corner, most of the trees are titling toward the Lake. This should be a second area of priority in restoring the shoreline and tree planting in these areas. We are definitely going to lose trees. For the next tree event, perhaps accept a donation and plant trees in these areas.

Shoreline Restoration Project 2022

Dana and Agnes met with Joe Wade a few days ago and talked about appropriating funding for the Shoreline Restoration Project. Joe decided that this Project will be considered a capital budget item; therefore, the amount of \$35,000 for the interim will be allocated over six years. The first area of restoration is the 265 feet of shoreline slated to be restored. A real concern is the availability of labor to proceed.

What will be restored will be based on what we may purchase for the allotment for the particular year of the Project. Therefore, we will seek the worst areas and address them in the first phase of the first years of the Project.

Dana said we also have 30 to 40 native shrubs to be planted in Pollinator Park. The shrubs are currently in storage at 9 Marion and will be planted as soon as the ground thaws.

Prospect Heights Park District and Budget/Funding Status

Agnes reported that the Prospect Heights Park District approved funding to the PHNRC of \$6,000, which includes \$5,000 for our budget and \$1,000 for Nature Camp (August 2022).

Path Maintenance at Worksite

Dana will be maintaining the paths on the Slough and Pollinator Park. The Interns will continue to do so during the summer. Anyone available to assist is welcomed to participate. Currently, most paths are ice covered because of great foot traffic on the paths.

John mentioned an icy patch located on a section of the Slough path by Hillside and Maple, southeast area. A drainage pipe creates a 20-foot length of ice, making it difficult to walk. When not cold, the water puddles on the path. Placing a short boardwalk in this area would be helpful to get up and over the drainage pipe and avoid ice and water.

Spring Prescribed Burns

Dana reported we are planning prescribed burns for the spring season. We have a full slate of burns to conduct due to inability to perform prescribed burns in the spring and fall of 2021. As soon as conditions are right, prescribed burns will be scheduled.

Dana and Agnes received an article today from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources stating they burn their cattails in the winter. The benefit in doing so is the ability to walk through a cattail area and cut down cattails located under the electrical wires. Once Dana reads and assesses the information from the article, he will confer with Commissioners on perhaps conducting a controlled burn during the cold weather. Conducting a prescribed burn of cattails in the spring and fall is unsafe and tricky.

Does it promote spring growth? Cattails are rhizomatous perennial tall stiff plants. When they are cut back, rosettes form, which can then be herbicided. It is a good management tool and holds promise.

Also, Dana reported that many of our volunteers have expressed interest in becoming burn certified to assist with prescribed burns.

Seed/Greenhouse Program

Agnes has propagated all the seeds. As soon as possible, the seedlings will be transplanted from the germination trays into small cups. We have received many requests for plants from the Grow It, Don't Mow It Program. Dana believes the output will be close to 40,000 plants with 80 different species. Agnes is defining the species' lists and what to propagate.

Collected seed is ready to be distributed in certain areas.

Dana stated we have a lot of work to accomplish this coming growing season.

NEW BUSINESS

Buffalo Grove High School Environmental Group

Agnes provided a presentation to the Buffalo Grove High School Environmental Group on February 9, 2022. It was a genuinely nice presentation. The students in this Group are terrific. They have a very good teacher that is managing the program. The Group is proposing to transform a small area of their campus into a prairie. Ari has been volunteering with us for a long time and has brought many students to our workdays. We would like to offer as much expertise and help as possible with their project.

Gift Donation

The gift donation from the Hyndman Family is \$3,000. Dana provided Commissioners with further information on the best way to utilize the gift donation.

Plum Grove: Public Works and the Park District have approved planting a Plum Grove (trees) along Route 83 (Elmhurst Road) and the Slough along the sidewalk provided we follow specific guidelines and plant a certain footage from Elmhurst Road. Residents complained that removal of buckthorn destroyed a privacy shield. Therefore, planting a Plum Grove will re-establish a privacy shield and provide beauty when the trees bloom in the spring. Planting Plum Trees also provides value to birds and wildlife. Also, a small plaque will state “Hyndman Plum Grove.”

Possibility Place Nursery in Monee, Illinois do not have a complete inventory of five-gallon containers. Therefore, they proposed that we purchase one-gallon containers to replace the difference. The purchase would be 55, one-gallon Prunus Americana and 45, five-gallon Prunus Americana for a total cost, including freight charges, of \$1, 858.00.

Possibility Place Nursery stated there is very little difference between a one-gallon and five-gallon plant. We can adjust all when planting. Further, the Nursery does not take advanced payment. The gift is in our budget; therefore, it must be spent before the next fiscal year.

Possibility Place will freeze inventory and hold stock as soon as we provide a verbal commitment. Payment may be made before the deadline to spend funds. Dana and Agnes propose paying the freight costs of \$378 so that the PHNRC may maximize funds.

The discussion involved expending of funds. Therefore, a roll-call vote was conducted. Commissioners voted 6 to 0; therefore, purchase of a Plum Grove was approved.

Educational Outreach: Dana is awaiting further information from the University of Illinois-Champaign on the purchase of educational outreach materials for purchase at a discounted rate.

Dana said the materials are of a high quality, laminated and in deck form so portable. The information may be geared toward children, but can be used by all, especially the plant and insect identification cards. Types of materials available are Bug Card Set – Good Guys 1 & 2, Ugly Guys (4 sets) and A Selection of the Common, Unusual and Rare Plants of Illinois; The Common, Unusual and Rare Insects of Illinois; Illinois Habitat Poster Set of 3; Reptiles, Birds, etc. of Illinois.

Is our intention to give the educational outreach materials away? It depends on the circumstances and scenarios, such as, giveaways during Community Days, Nature Camp, the Block Party, during classes provided on native plants, etc. If we did, the cost could be \$1.00 each.

Dana requested Commissioners to review the U of I website and provide their thoughts.

Signage and Banners: Dana provided Commissioners with examples of the types of banners and signs available from both Vista Prints and Fast Signs. The cost is inexpensive with reasonable quality; however, Fast Signs cost a bit more, but the quality is excellent.

2022 Budget

Agnes and Dana met with Joe Wade, and Joe stated we must submit our proposed 2022-2023 budget by February 24, 2022.

Commissioners held a detailed discussion on the summer intern hourly wage, weighing the current job market and lack of labor force plus the increased minimum wage at some establishments. Jill recommended an hourly rate of \$15.00 instead of \$12.00 to stay competitive and retain quality help.

The summer intern salary is funded by the PHPD and the City. If the intern salary is raised from \$12 to \$15 per hour, it equates to \$2,400 more in salary.

Agnes said the position is an internship and not a job per se. Two hours of educational training on average are conducted on Wednesday and Friday mornings along with performing natural areas management work. Therefore, our interns receive a well-rounded, extensive experience.

Seth felt we should view the interns' salary in terms of what they are doing. We should not brush aside that they work in all types of weather and conditions, such as mosquitos, weather, herbiciding, etc. It is a labor-intensive position. A number of companies in the area, like Target, offer \$15 as a starting wage, and working conditions are more comfortable. It would be a shame if prospective interns turned down the PHNRC internship due to lack of adequate pay and for economic reasons.

Dana agrees with Seth and Jill. Fifteen dollars an hour is a livable wage; however, a large component of the internship is education, and it has its cost. On average, the interns are not working when attending the educational sessions. Perhaps we could consider \$13 or \$14 an hour.

Seth said in terms of what the interns are doing, the educational component is excellent, valuable and important. Regarding the work component, it's not kid's stuff. It is hard, physical labor and serious work often under a hot sun, mosquitos, poison ivy, herbicides, etc. How many people would work under these conditions?

Agnes said the actual 30 hours of physical labor equals \$15 an hour. The 10 hours of education is \$11.25 per hour when divided by a workweek of 40 hours. The interns, thus, are probably making \$16.00 an hour.

Pete Hahn said he favors \$15.00 per hour; however, he said both interns should receive the same pay. If your fellow intern is doing the same type of work but receiving \$1.00 more per hour, it is disheartening to the intern receiving \$10.00 or \$11.00 per hour.

Ed said the way to structure the pay is to identify working hours as \$15.00 per hour and identify the education component. Most of us pay a lot to educate ourselves and our children. Semantics can be important and note the value of what they are getting at no cost.

Seth said the internship position is a legal job offered by the City of Prospect Heights. Therefore, wages are reported to the Government for a 40 hour per week job. During those 40 hours some involves education. However, it is not optional that the intern does not attend the educational classes. The intern is required to be present for all 40 hours. Therefore, pay accordingly.

Agnes said the interns receive credit, a certified letter, and are furthering their education. Some internships are unpaid, so we could end up with no intern.

Jill asked if a bonus paid at the conclusion of the internship is an option. Peter Falcone said paying bonuses is not done by the city. If considering a bonus, it must be provided from your own financial resources.

After levying a motion, Commissioners approved submitting in our budget a summer intern hourly rate of \$15.00 for the 2022 season. Peter Falcone offered that the total salary cost at \$15.00 per hour for two interns working 800 hours is \$6,500 per intern. Therefore, we should budget the hourly rate at \$16.15. If not accepted, we'll adjust the number.

The roll call vote reflected five in agreement for \$15.00 an hour and two nays from Agnes and Ed. The motion passed.

Comprehensive Equipment List

Commissioners presume that supplies and expenses will be like last year to keep our Commission functioning and our worksites in good shape. Agnes will look at the Greenhouse expenses. We will be increasing the number of plants grown to meet demands. Our inventory of pots and extra soil is satisfactory.

We do not need any additional capital equipment. We have a good inventory of loppers and a few rakes.

A preliminary budget will be prepared by Agnes and Dana and sent to Commissioners for review.

Seth said every year, Dana and Agnes give money from their own personal account to make our organization to optimally operate. This happens on a regular basis, and we are incredibly thankful. However, Commissioners providing additional funds for our organization to function optimally should be revisited. We should ask for more money in our budget proposal but define our needs well and honestly. We spend our funds wisely. It should be clearly stated what money is spent.

Dana and Agnes will put receipts together, categorize and add line items to the proposed budget. However, Agnes and Dana do not mind picking up circumstantial expenses.

Can there be a certain amount of discretionary spending? If so, could the PHNRC budget have this line item? Will it get funded? Do not know. We must be realistic on how much work is being done and how much money is being spent to accomplish this work.

Treasurer's Report

John provided a current budget received from Peter Falcone to Commissioners prior to the meeting.

We have a balance of about \$3,600, three thousand of which is the gift donation. Therefore, we have about \$600 to spend before the end of April 2022.

Expenses for the bottom-line net are \$357, if we purchase the granite boulders. Extra funds (from \$583) will be spent on regular operating items.

Agnes will take a serious assessment of the Greenhouse expense numbers. Our inventory of pots and extra soil is solid. However, the Greenhouse costs will be steady because of the number of plants to provide.

There is no need for additional equipment. Our lopper inventory is sold, and although we purchased a few more rakes, the rakes keep vanishing.

For our budget, Interns are a major consideration because Agnes cannot take off 80 hours per week from her day profession to work on Commission projects.

Seth expressed concern of the amount of funds Agnes and Dana routinely absorb to keep our organization operating. This is conducted on a regular basis and something we are all greatly appreciate. Agnes and Dana's dedication to our organization is blood, sweat, tears and cash. Should that be an expectation to make things work – that Commissioners provide additional funding?

We may ask for more money in our budget, but it must be defined. Dana will be reviewing expense receipts and place into a worksheet to reflect how the money was spent and on what items.

Agnes said things arise. We experience unexpected happenings, such as a new project or we run out of something. Agnes and Dana willing make up for it.

John said to please consider that it is real dollars being spent. It should be ultimately clear of extra supplies, soil, Kielbasa to feed our volunteers, etc. It keeps our organization operating and should be a factor in our budget. If it occurs every year, then we are not accurately figuring our expenses. We have accomplished a lot, and there is value in the end result.

Agnes said it is not true all the way, and she enjoys donating to the Commission. She enjoys providing a volunteer with five plants, if that keeps the volunteer's enthusiasm for native plantings and being engaged.

City Civic Meetings and PHNRC Representation

Jill highlighted notes from the following January 2022 City Council and PHPD Board meetings:

City Council of Prospect Heights, Illinois – January 10, 2022 Workshop Meeting

Mayor Nicholas Helmer was absent. Therefore, the pro tem presider for this meeting was Wendy Morgan Adams, Alderman Ward 3.

Resolution: Chicago Executive Airport purchase of approximately 3.37 acres of property formerly known as the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant. The City is joint owner with the Village of Wheeling of the Chicago Executive Airport and are party to an intergovernmental Agreement governing the operation of the airport. Therefore, the City and Village must approve land purchases. The Airport believes the acquisition of approximately 3.37 acres of property, informally known as the former 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant location will benefit the future development of the Airport. The purchase price from Signature Flight Support, LLC is \$1,100,00.00. Motion carried.

Update: Arlington Countryside Storm Water Management Improvement Project. Joe Wade reported that an easement agreement must be obtained from School District 23 for placement of the storm sewer between the sidewalk and parking lot in front of the school along Camp McDonald Road. The School District Board Meeting will discuss this topic this week. Joe is confident it will be approved because the city has attempted to accommodate all of District 23 concerns. Once approved, the city will go out to bid. It takes about one month for reply from vendors for the market to respond. Joe anticipates providing an update to the City Council in late February/early March for bid approval with construction starting this spring.

Metropolitan Pump will be constructing the pumping station, which is manufactured in Germany. The city anticipates delivery and evacuation for the storm sewer pipe in the summer. This is a summer project, but we have a short window of construction because the district 23 has active summer school projects.

Water Survey (Lake Water). Joe Wade reported that Staff followed up with engineering firm of Baxter and Woodman, who conducted the previous water study. The first step is to meet with them for a proposal of what it may cost and entail to update the study. Staff anticipates having further information to provide the City Council soon.

Assistant Finance Director Bob Tannehill: The 2022 budget process will start in a few weeks.

Joe Wade said the 2022 City Stickers are at the printers, and the emblem will be the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission logo. The PHNRC is honored.

City Newsletter: Wendy proposed discussing the length of the newsletter. After further comments, Alderpersons wish to have a broader discussion of the entire newsletter. Therefore, a survey will be sent to the community for their input.

City Council of Prospect Heights, Illinois – January 24, 2022 City Council Meeting

Mayor Nicholas Helmer was absent. Therefore, the pro tem presider for this meeting was Kathleen Quinn, Alderman Ward 2.

A presentation on the Creation of a Local “708” Wheeling Township Mental Health Board was provided by Arlen Gould, Lorri Grainawi and Hugh Brad.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting of the City Council will be a Workshop Meeting on February 14, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. The next scheduled City Council Regular Meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Prospect Heights Park District – Board Meeting of January 25, 2022

Executive Director Report: Following are highlights from Christina Ferraro’s report:

STAFFING

Both the Superintendent of Finance and Superintendent of Recreation positions have been posted. The new Superintendent of Finance will also manage HR and IT. She is scheduled to begin Feb 1, 2022. The Superintendent of Recreation position should be in place in March.

FLOOD PRONE PROPERTY AT 214 S. WHEELING ROAD

The City is responsible for appraisals, offers, closing on property, demolition and then restoration. We anticipate the completion of the project at the end of the year.

FY22 Look Ahead – Highlights: The Izaak Walton shelter will be tuckpointed, and the roof will be replaced. The tree management plan will be finalized with a formal budget to contract a vendor to enhance the tree pruning, planting and removal schedule. A slight reorganization of Staff includes the hiring of a full-time Human Resources/Payroll Coordinator and a full-time Marketing employee.

2022 BUDGET

Staff presented the District’s FY22 budget draft, including capital and debt, at the Finance Committee meeting on December 07, 2021 and then at the December 14, 2021 Board Meeting.

The Budget and Appropriation Ordinance was post on the District’s website for public inspection and notice of public hearing has been posted in January 12, 2022 Journal & Topics.

The 2022 Budget Booklet is attached for review. The booklet will be posted on the website.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the Combined Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #01.25.2022 for fiscal year January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

The Prospect Heights Park District is supporting the NRC with continued restoration work throughout the parks. The NRC will, again, share their knowledge with camp participants; therefore, \$1,000 has been allocate for programming supplies.

Resolution determining the confidentiality of Closed Session Minutes by the Prospect Heights Park District, Cook County, Illinois: The PHPD Board has a resolution that closed session meeting minutes will remain confidential and not be released to the general public.

Executive Session – Board Members Only: One of the two topics to be discussed during the Executive Session is setting a price for District property sale or lease.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled PHPD Board Meeting is Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gary Morava Recreation Center on Camp McDonald Road in Prospect Heights, IL.

Announcements to the Public

Seth stated that one of our natural resources is water. When washing dishes, it is more economical to utilize a modern dishwasher than to hand wash dishes. Running water for two minutes uses four gallons of water. It takes less water to run a dishwasher, no matter the load, than to wash dishes by hand.

What about electricity usage? There are always trade-offs. However, we must remember to be stewards of the Earth.

Visitors' Comments

No visitors were present to comment.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission is March 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the meeting. Therefore, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Jill E. Moskal, CPS
PHNRC Commissioner and Recording Secretary