



PUBLIC NOTICE

Agenda for the April 23, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting
Old Orchard Country Club
700 W Rand Road, Mount Prospect, IL 60056

- I. Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.
Roll Call
- II. Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda
- III. Introduction of Guests/Citizens
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Correspondence
- VI. Announcements (Meetings)
 - A. Regular Board Meeting – April 23, 2019 7:00 p.m. OOC
 - B. Committee of the Whole Parks Tour – May 23, 2019 4:00 p.m. OOC
 - C. Regular Board Meeting – May 28, 2019 7:00 p.m. GMRC
- VII. Presentation
PMA Financial Network, LLC - Municipal Investment Fund, IPRIME, Presentation
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
Chipping Area for Parks Department
- X. Adjournment

Noe 1: Meeting Location – Old Orchard Country Club, 700 W Rand Road, Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Note 2: If you would like to attend a Park Board meeting but require an auxiliary aid, such as a sign language interpreter, please contact the Executive Director, 847-394-2848, at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for all residents of the District through the development and maintenance of park lands and facilities utilizing available resources, as well as to promote community involvement through a variety of recreation programs, educational opportunities and special events.



April 23, 2019

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Christina Ferraro, Executive Director
Re: The Nature Preserve chipping area

The Nature Preserve is 1.6 acre property with a meandering creek that is tributary to McDonald Creek, eventually emptying into the Slough and Hillcrest Lake wetland. This project was awarded a ComEd Green Regions grant in 2016. The idea for the project was to create an interpretive nature park, providing ecological benefits and wildlife habitat while nurturing children's connection to nature through education. The parcel of land is adjacent to Gary Morava Recreation Center, across the street from the Prospect Heights Library District and within walking distance of Eisenhower Elementary School which is perfect for preschool, after school care, summer day camp, families and young children to enjoy the space

The NRC volunteers have been a tremendous help by doing the following:

- removed invasive buckthorn
- planted 500 native plugs and 5 pounds of native seed
- stabilized the shore line with native plugs
- created walking paths
- installed interpretative signage
- install stepping stone bridge
- created interactive nature areas
- created prairie area
- planted native shrubs and trees

This group performs continued maintenance and manages invasive plants in this area.

At the February 26, 2019 regular Park Board meeting, commissioners of the NRC were in attendance to begin a discussion with the Park Board about the nature preserve. The NRC spokesperson at the meeting, Seth Marcus, stated that the Park District tasked the PHNRC to manage the nature preserve and have concerns about the chipping area. He referred to area as "the dump" as there are more than leaves and branches in that area. He stated concrete and asphalt are also in that area now. He offered four solutions to transition the chipping area:

1. Move to another site
2. Contract yard waste company to remove the debris, branches, etc.
3. Limit the items permitted to be placed in the chipping area
4. Restrict the amount of area

Park staff met and decided there is not another site to use as a chipping area as it currently is in close proximity to the Parks Dept. and is less intrusive to the public than the other sites that may seem to have space. The chipping area has been in same location

for decades as it was isolated. The nature preserve brings more traffic to that location hence the chipping area is a distraction for some. Contracting a company to remove the debris is costly and cannot be afforded at this time. It is acknowledged that last year was unusual as many construction projects were underway in the park and contractors seem to unload their debris in that area. The amount of area required for the chipping area depends upon the season, weather conditions and work load. If a bad storm knocks down trees and branches, staff pick up from all par locations, deliver to the chipping area and chip when they have the time. The trees and branches may be in the area for several weeks. If the storm is strong, the amount in the area may be significant. It can be roped off but it may be unsightly to the public. Planting mature trees as a barrier around it may also "hide" the nature preserve in a sense.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. install a Park District sign at the beginning of the existing walking path (just south of chipping area). There is interpretive signage throughout the preserve with educational information. This sign would indicate there is a path and introduce the Nature Preserve. It may also draw more visitors. See photo below.
2. install a sign indicating chipping area for Park District use only. *"This area is for authorized personnel to grind down the remains of trees and branches to wood chips that may be used as ground cover. Wood chips preserve moisture, protect the soil and plants they surround, and soak up excess water that might otherwise over-water any surrounding plants. This is an efficient and ecologically friendly solution to handling fallen trees etc."*
3. relocate the walking path north of the chipping area so the entrance would be on Olive Street and include Park District sign at the beginning of that walking path
4. change the layout of the Nature Preserve on the east side of McDonald Creek

