

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS
OF THE PROSPECT HEIGHTS PARK DISTRICT
GARY MORAVA RECREATION CENTER
110 W CAMP MCDONALD ROAD, PROSPECT HEIGHTS, IL 60070
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

Call to Order

Roll Call

Commissioner Avery called the Regular Board Meeting of the Prospect Heights Park District to order at 7:08 p.m.

Commissioners present:

Ellen Avery
Betty Cloud
Paul Fries
Karl Jackson
Eric Kirste
Steve Messer

Also Present:

Christina Ferraro – Executive Director
Julie Caporusso – Superintendent of Recreation
Dino Squiers – Superintendent of Facilities & Parks
Annette Curtis – Superintendent of Finance & Planning
Edlyn Castil – Admin Services Mgr./Recording Secretary

Commissioners absent:

Tim Jones

A quorum was present.

Corrections/Additions/Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Avery informed the board that Commissioner Jones is absent. She discussed amending the agenda to include appointing a commissioner as Board President Pro tem for this meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kirste and seconded by Commissioner Cloud to appoint Commissioner Avery Board President Pro tem for the September 28, 2021 regular board meeting. The motion was approved by a voice vote with one absent (Commissioner Jones). The motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloud and seconded by Commissioner Kirste to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was approved by a voice vote with one absent (Commissioner Jones). The motion carried.

Public Hearing

A motion was made by Commissioner Kirste and seconded by Commissioner Fries to open the Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m. so that residents, taxpayers and other interested persons have the opportunity to express their views for or against the proposed plan of financing, the issuance of the Bonds and

the purpose of the issuance of the Bonds. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Cloud, Fries, Jackson, Kirste, Messer

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Jones

The motion carried.

There were no comments from the public or the Board.

Public Hearing (continued)

There being no other comments or discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Kirste and seconded by Commissioner Fries to close the Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Cloud, Fries, Jackson, Kirste, Messer

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Jones

The motion carried.

Recognition/Welcome

The following residents attended: Ray/JoAnn Clow, Nancy Lutton, Jill Moskal Mary Ellen/Rod Siemens, Wendy/Rick Dewar, Matt Plischke, Deana McKavangh and Rafal Bonislowski. Tracey Crawford, Executive Director, NWSRA was also in attendance.

Public Comment

There was none.

Presentation: Tracey Crawford, Executive Director, NWSRA

Tracey Crawford, Executive Director, NWSRA presented the NWSRA 2020 Year in Review. She provided NWSRA's background, discussed their Mission, Vision and Values, services provided, 2021 programming and SLSF.

Consent Agenda

C. Approval of July 27, 2021 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

D. Approval of Treasurer's Report Cash Report #8 cash balance totaling \$4,569,641.56 as of July 31, 2021

E. Approval of Warrants totaling \$616,999.54 for the period ending July 31, 2021

Commissioner Jackson asked to pull Items VI A and VI B from the consent agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloud and seconded by Commissioner Messer to approve the Consent Agenda Items VI C, VI D and VI E. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Cloud, Fries, Jackson, Kirste, Messer

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Jones

The motion carried.

A. Approval of July 27, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Cloud and seconded by Commissioner Messer to approve the Consent Agenda Item VI A. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Cloud, Fries, Kirste, Messer

Nays: None

Abstain: Commissioner Jackson

Absent: Commissioner Jones

The motion carried.

B. Approval of July 27, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Messer and seconded by Commissioner Kirste to approve the Consent Agenda Item VI B. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Avery, Cloud, Fries, Kirste, Messer

Consent Agenda (continued)

Nays: None
Abstain: Commissioner Jackson
Absent: Commissioner Jones
The motion carried.

Announcements (Meetings)

The next regular Board Meeting will be held on October 26, 2021 7:00 p.m. at Gary Morava Recreation Center.

Attorney's Report

None

Administrative/Operational Summary

Executive Director – as submitted. Executive Director Christina Ferraro also reported that the 2022 Prospect Heights Block Party will be held on June 18. Staff did a great job at this year's event, which drew a smaller crowd than in previous years which may be due to Covid concerns and extreme temperatures. She discussed the history of the Lions Park tennis courts in regards to resurfacing the courts last in 2016 - traditionally resurfacing is completed every 4-6 years. Christina deferred the Lions Park tennis court project to the Recreation Facilities, Parks & Maintenance Committee (Paul & Tim) to review. This Committee will then make a recommendation to the Board.

Superintendent of Finance and Planning – as submitted.

Superintendent of Recreation – as submitted.

Superintendent of Facilities and Parks – as submitted.

Director of Golf Operations – as submitted.

Recreation Supervisors – as submitted.

Committees of the Board

Commissioner Cloud with the Recreation Programs & Resident Relations Committee questioned how the park district can reach all residents within the park district. Executive Director Ferraro shared all the current avenues used to promote programs and meetings including the park district brochure and/or direct mail. Further discussion ensued about including non-electronic avenues. Commissioner Cloud also discussed adding some welcoming artwork or a mural on the OOC clubhouse outer wall. This item will be added to next month's agenda.

Unfinished/Ongoing Business

Lexington Homes/Muir Park update

There was no new update.

Tully Park discussion

Mary Ellen Siemens and Wendy Dewar represented the 30+ members of Friends of Tully Park. They presented their group's vision of Tully Park and their proposed 5-year development plan. They would like to keep the passive open space, and discussed ideas like adding more signage similar to the signage at the Storywalk, picnic tables, garbage cans and a mode trail for example. There was discussion of concerns regarding development of trails, land erosion of the creek and ADA accessibility. The park board thanked the residents for all the neighbors work on this.

Feasibility Study update

Executive Director Christina Ferraro reported that an Open House was held on 9/14/21. Residents were given red and blue dots and asked to place them on the idea boards to help indicate which amenities they would like to see in the recreation center and pool. The most

Unfinished/Ongoing Business (continued)

wanted amenities are an indoor walking track and gymnasium. The community survey is the next step of this process.

New Business

There was none.

Commissioners Comments

Commissioners were asked for their preference with Commissioner shirts.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Cloud and seconded by Commissioner Messer to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 8:12 p.m. The motion was approved by a voice vote with one absent (Commissioner Jones). The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Edlyn Castil, Recording Secretary

Secretary: _____
Elizabeth "Betty" Cloud, Prospect Heights Park District Secretary

Tully Park Before And After



Fall of 2016. Tully park and PHNRC volunteers



Tully Park has been a unique residential park for as long as the neighborhood has been there. It has always been a place of promise, sequestered quietly among the ring of houses that encase it. Somewhat forgotten because of its location, it has always been waiting for the opportunity to live up to its potential. In 2016, the Park District gave it that chance and entrusted it to the residents of Tully Park to make something of it. The vision was clear and simple; naturalize the park, extend the green corridors of Prospect Heights and increase the biodiversity that would in turn, help control the localized flooding, free the Park District from the burden of maintenance and provide vital habitat for pollinators, birds, frogs, insects and wildlife yet remain open for sport activities. Working with the PHNRC as advisers and providing support, the community embraced the project with open arms and a great deal of love and hope. The results to date speak for themselves.

The following pictorial is a before and after look at the work and the progress that has been made since taking over the park. It is our sincere hope, that the Park District will see the continued potential of Tully Park and permit and assist us in the effort to develop the property as the natural jewel we all believe it is. As residents, there is no way to truly express the core feelings we have when we walk out of our houses and immerse ourselves in this vital and connected slice of nature. That it is open to the public to enjoy the same experience makes the value even greater.

Before The Results There Was Work



The creek banks were stabilized by volunteers with several deep rooted native species of sedges, rushes, grasses and forbes.



Engulfed by a wall of invasive buckthorn, the Tully Park residents and the NRC worked hard to remove public enemy # 1. After several workdays, a clear path to possibility emerged.



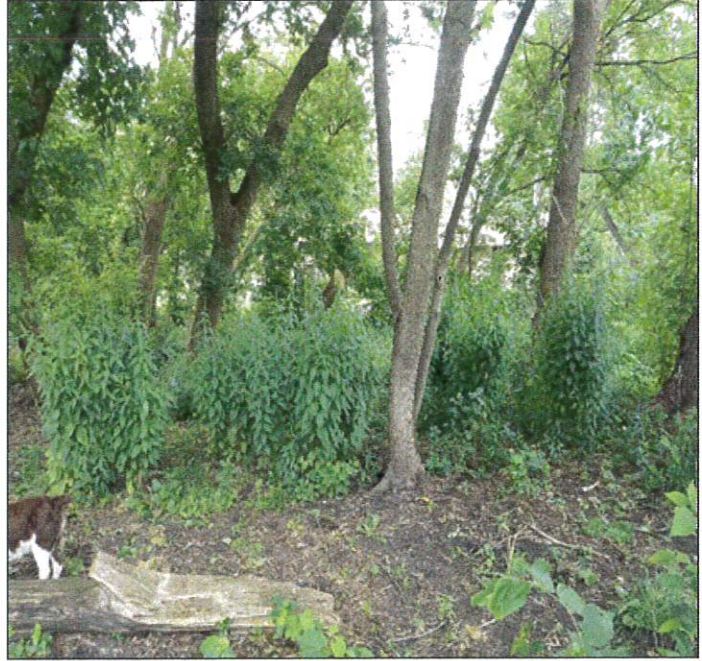


These photos give you a sense of just how dense the buckthorn infestation was. Several work days with the NRC and their volunteers were required to open the under-story. Brush piles were burned, herbicide was applied and best land management practices were employed. Eventually the efforts paid a nice dividend as native plants emerged from the native seed bank after the buckthorn disappeared. Several pounds of collected native species were sown into the areas as well.





This is the southwest corner of the park immediately after clearing the invasive buckthorn in the fall of 2016. Notice the Monarch on the blazing star below. Pollinators have made a big comeback at the park.



This is the same corner after emerging plants from the native seed bank and collected seed have come forward. Tall bellflower is what you see above in 2017, one year later and Liatris Spicata below.





The southwest area above, shows an abundance of River Oats in year 4. The photo below shows year 5 of the creek bank stabilization. Deep rooted grasses and sedges have more biomass underground than above ground which stabilizes the creek bank.



In 2021, the heavily seeded areas started to pay dividends with tall bellflower, Rudbeckia hurta and other native species. The collective habitat attracts and supports birds, insects and wildlife in addition to becoming a vital link in the migration paths.





This is the area immediately to the north of the park. This is just after clearing the area and preparing it for native plantings and seed. Fall 2016



The same area in 2021 with an abundance of native species. Seen here are Sky Blue Asters, goldenrod, sneeze weed, blue lobelia and cardinal flower.





This is the area in the northeast corner of the park that is slated to become the meditation area. A winding path, bench and mature native plantings will add to the calm and seclusion the area will need.



This area was frequently underwater for a good part of the time but is now relatively dry because of the native plantings. Walking paths and more diversity will further develop the area.



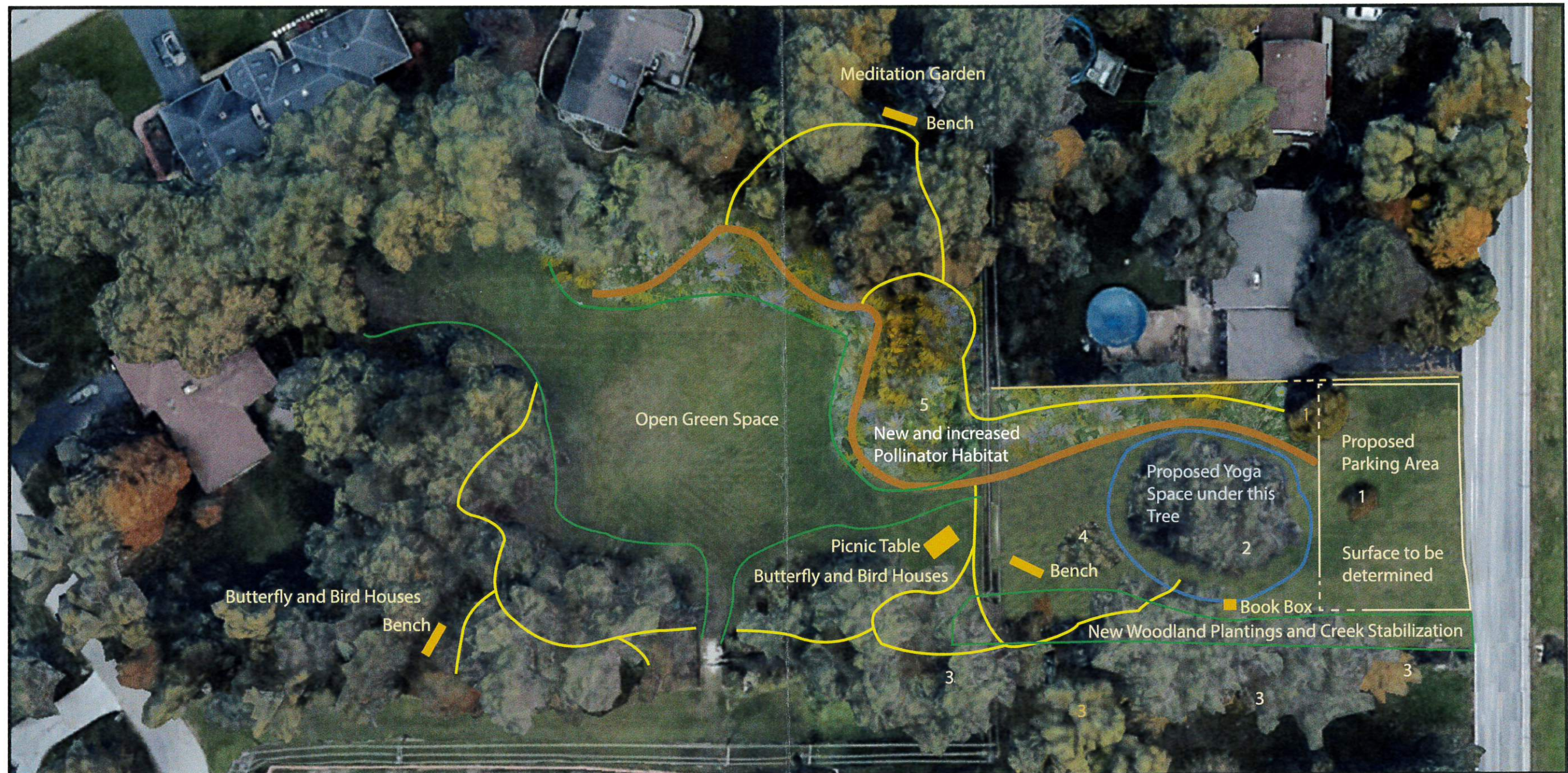


A mix of asters, black-eyed Susan, Goldenrod, milkweed and Liatris add visual interest, creek bank stabilization and a vital food source for migratory birds passing through.



The restored area also offers cover for the amphibians whose populations have increased with the removal of the buckthorn and the creation of favorable habitat.





Tully Park 5Year Development Plan

9/23/2021

Key to Proposed Plan

- Nature trail - wood chip
- Expanded planting area boundaries
- Mow path - turf grass
- Yoga/exercise area

Key to Trees

1. Existing Magnolia trees - keep
2. Existing Centered Cottonwood - Trim and keep
3. Existing Cottonwoods on the Creek - Trim and keep
4. Existing River Birch - Keep
5. Buckthorn Concentration - Remove

Proposed Parking Surface Solutions

1. Plastic grid system filled with soil sand medium
2. Gravel or crushed limestone
3. Buffalo grass