

DeKalb Park District Trails and Trees Committee
July 26, 2013

The meeting began at 8:05, with Phil Young, Keith Nyquist, Brad Garrison, and Josh Clark present.

Brad Garrison began the meeting by distributing these documents:

- The Nature Trail Working Group North Side Restoration Plan, dated April 17, 2013
- A document entitled "Vegetation Management Frequently Asked Questions"
- A letter, dated January 9, 2013, from ComEd VP Fidel Marquez sent to former Board President Joan Berkes-Hanson
- A revised version of the section-by-section restoration plan that was presented to the public during the April 8, 2013 public meeting.

Young and Nyquist both stated that the restoration plan was only approved by a committee and not the Board itself, so according to the DPD bylaws, the plan is not binding. Garrison noted that the Park District is now responsible for maintaining the Nature Trail, and that ComEd's scheduled herbicide applications were finished.

The group then discussed the possibility of amending the current plan to include more trees. The sources for these new trees could come from citizen donations, sponsorships with local businesses, or through Park District funding, but it was agreed that any trees planted must grow no higher than 10-12 feet and be consistent with any plan for sustainable management.

Regarding the grapevine that is growing on the north side of the trail, Clark said that he would cut and treat the grapevine with a herbicide, and a plan was discussed to organize a volunteer effort to then remove the dead vegetation sometime in August.

The group then discussed the plan for the south side of the trail, and it was noted that the plan at this point is fluid, and that the Park District is sensitive to the concerns of residents and users of the trail.

Young agreed to draft a letter to the CEO of ComEd to ask for a meeting with a company representative for the purpose of understanding what it would allow the District to plant along the Nature Trail. Garrison agreed to contact Terry Hannon of the DeKalb County Forest Preserve regarding future maintenance of Section 2 of the trail, the property that abuts County Farm Woods.

The meeting concluded at 9:15.