Members Present: Matt Poole, Nora Delaney, Maureen Conway, Pam Elesh, Paul D'Agostino, Alderman Jane Grover

Members Absent: Don Terras, Erica Granchalek, Ann McMahon

Committee Member Reports

Lighthouse Park District
No report

Garden Club of Evanston
Pam Elesh reported that plans for the Centennial celebration for the Garden Club were already underway, which include historical display boards and attendance at the farmer’s market to include giveaways of Milkwood seeds. They have funds for new plants this year and are looking to the City for ideas in the Wildflower Garden since the large tree was lost last fall due to the newer sunny conditions. The Butterfly garden may be getting a new sign as part of the Centennial project, and possibly also for the Wildflower garden as well.

Ecology Center
Matt Poole stated that winter camps had finished, and staff was in the process of clearing out both fog houses. The summer camps are filling up quickly, even though programming for 8-12 year-olds has been expanded. He also stated that the fire permits for the coming season had been opened up, and the water source was discussed as this is a requirement for all permits to use the space.

Neighborhood Issues
No report

Evanston Parks/Forestry
Paul D’Agostino reported that there were 13 ash trees showing symptoms of Emerald Ash Borer infestations on the grounds, as well as 2 more at Noah’s Playground. All were being inspected more closely, but they may need to be removed soon. He also said that the grotto would be turned on soon, and that the site has really changed due to the loss of the Silver Maple last fall.

EAC
Nora Delaney reported that the May 1 opening of their new space is still on track. Ground breaking and infrastructure work is well underway, but no walls have been built yet. There will be a benefit on May 16 to help "open" the new building, and the first summer sessions are slated to begin on June 6th. She also asked if a City dumpster could be placed in front of the building for a week or two to help dispose of excess trash and other unwanted items before the move.

Alderman Grover
The Alderman discussed the plans for the formation of a new Committee to do fact-finding for options on the future use of the site once EAC moves out. The City would be providing programming and user data for the Committee to review, and she stated it will be made clear that the surrounding gardens would be taken into consideration. She encouraged members to submit their ideas on line, and that they had already received many suggestions from residents.

Next Meeting: June 10, 2015