Members Present: Claire Alden, Paul D'Agostino, Nora Diedrich, Pam Elesh, Erica Granchalek, Alderman Jane Grover, Ann McMahon, Don Terras

Members Absent: Larry Boswell

Committee Member Reports

Art Center
Nora Diedrich announced that the Art Center benefit is scheduled for May 19 and that all were invited. She said that the EAC was moving forward in their attempts to find a new location, which would be a larger and consolidated space for them.

Lighthouse Park District
Don Terras announced that the State funded (IHPA) project schedule is still unknown at this point, but the tentative work plan is June through September of this year. There will be two other projects going on simultaneously at 1 and 6 Milburn, so the potential for construction conflicts may be a problem. Additionally, construction on Sheridan Road will likely be going on this summer as well, further complicating things. He then showed the Committee plans for the $260,000 project, and mentioned that the East side of the drive adjacent to the Lighthouse would be used for construction staging/parking. Lastly, Don explained that two new interpretive exhibits are being added – one on Lighthouse Preservation, and another on the local weather. Part of the weather exhibit will require the installation of a nanometer on or near the South Fog House, and he requested assistance from the City for this installation.

Garden Club of Evanston
Pam Elesh stated that the Garden Club of America “Zone” meeting would be held in Evanston on September 20 and 21, and would include a tour of the Wildflower Garden as a part of the meeting. She noted that this is the organization that helped to finance the rehabilitation of the greenhouse attached to the coach house. She requested that the grounds of the property and especially the grotto be cleaned prior to this important meeting so that Evanston makes a good impression. She also asked if the Lighthouse could be opened for tours during the event, and Don said that if there was no construction going on at that time, he would open the facility to the attendees. She then stated that Rosborough
Partners would be replacing some of the plantings that did not survive under their warrantee, so there would be no cost involved.

**Neighborhood Issues**
Ann McMahon reported on the Wildflower Garden, and that maintenance would start early this year (1-2 weeks) because of the warm weather, as some of the flowers are already up. She requested that the outside water source be turned on early, but Paul said he could not risk turning it on until May in order to avoid a potential hard freeze leading to broken pipes. The Committee then discussed the condition of the turf between the two Fog Houses, and the alternatives available to get it looking healthy again.

**Ecology Center**
Claire Alden informed the Committee that the summer camp programs would be starting on June 11, operating Monday through Fridays until August 17, and that the campfire rentals would begin on April 15. She stated that additionally, as part of the “Leave No Child Inside” program, there would be a scavenger hunt on the site on June 29, as well as a Family Camp Out on May 19-20. There are also four additional camp outs scheduled, with the dates to be determined. Finally, she said that as a part of Ecology programming, they would try to get volunteers to help clear the lake views in front of the benches on the bluff east of the Art Center.

**Parks/Forestry & Facilities Management**
Paul D’Agostino reported that the spring start ups for outdoor water, including restrooms and spigots would begin in early May. He then said that spring grounds cleanups had already begun, and that the Lighthouse grounds should be done within the next few weeks. Extensive weeding at the beach entrance would be included with this work, at the request of Pam.

**Alderman Grover’s Report**
Alderman Grover discussed the details of the future of the Harley Clark Mansion. The City Manager received the go-ahead from the City Council to get an appraisal of the building in order to move ahead with selling it. The property lines would be altered to keep public access to the beach and parking, and the Coach House is not yet included in the sale. She said that further discussions on the sale would take place at the Human Services Committee meeting in either April or May to iron out the remaining details. She then confirmed that the Sheridan Road resurfacing project would take place this year, and the work will be from Chicago Avenue north to the City limits.

Next Meeting: June 13, 2012