



# HERALD

14th Year—232

Prospect Heights, Illinois 60070

Thursday, August 13, 1970

## District Considers Slough Development

by BETSY BROOKER

Development of the north section of the Hillcrest Slough in Prospect Heights as a lake and park is being considered by the Prospect Heights Park District.

The 13-acre lake, located north of Willow Road and east of Route 83, is currently owned jointly by members of the Hillcrest Lake Homeowners Association.

The park board plans to meet with members of the homeowner association sometime this month, possibly next Monday night to discuss purchase of the slough by the district.

According to Richard Michaels, president of the homeowner association, an open meeting will not be held by the association until October. "We will be reluctant to make a decision on sale of the slough until all of the members voice their opinions."

The park commissioners have considered purchase of the slough as a long-range project since the district master plan was drawn up several years ago.

HOWEVER THE commissioners did not decide to investigate purchase of the slough, until Prospect Heights resident Max Lyle proposed it at a park board meeting last week.

Lyle suggested the commissioners "file an application for federal aid and proceed with condemnation proceedings on the entire 27 acres (including the portion of the slough south of Willow Road)."

"Residents would not be faced with the threat of someone wanting to fill the slough, and it could become an asset to the entire community if it became park property," said Lyle.

Bill Kuhns, president of the park board, said he agreed with the desirability of purchasing the entire slough for use by the district's residents, but pointed out that might be encountered at this time.

"EVEN IF WE secured the funds to purchase the slough, we would need a large corporate fund to maintain the slough on a continuing basis," said Kuhns.

Lyle said local residents would probably be willing to police the area and pick up debris. However, maintenance, according to Kuhns, entails more. "We would also have problems such as removing old tree stumps."

Lyle proposed the park district purchase the slough after winning a fight last week to prevent land fill there.

fight last week to prevent land fill in the slough.

William Blauw, owner of a one-acre lot located on the edge of the slough, filed with the county for a special permit to dump fill on the lower portion of his lot, which he claims is covered with water. At a public hearing before the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals last month, Blauw said he planned to construct a single-family home on his land.

LYLE SUCCEEDED in securing 277 signatures protesting Blauw's proposed land fill. Objections were also filed with the county by the park board, the Old Town Sanitary District, the Wheeling Township highway commissioner and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.

The objectors charged the land fill would destroy the natural ecology and aggravate flooding conditions.

Residents also banded together to protest land fill in the south portion of the slough last fall. H.C. Hauvner, owner of the 11.6-acre lake, requested a land fill permit as a preliminary step to building. His case was dismissed after he failed to appear at a continuance of the hearing.

## Probe Ways To Insure

### Slough development 1970

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Sun, Sep 14, 2014