

Warmer

TODAY—Sunny, warmer, high in mid-60s. Overnight low in mid-40s. THURSDAY—mostly cloudy, warmer; chance of showers.

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Bitter Pill -- Sugar



THE SLOUGH. A small remnant of early Illinois still preserved in its natural state in the middle of unincorporated Prospect Heights. This natural wildlife area is now threatened by a developer who wants to fill the slough and has proposed building homes on the property.

by MARY DRESSER

Unincorporated Prospect Heights has decided to accept the bitter pill of the mile-and-a-half annexation bill, pinning its faith on State Rep Eugene Schlickman's promise to amend a portion of the bill.

Informed sources among home owners have speculated that passage of HB 1241 will lead to incorporation of the Prospect Heights area as a city or its annexation to the territory of another village.

During a session of the Northwest Suburban Council of Associations Monday night, a majority of the representatives of homeowner's groups decided to depend on Schlickman and compromise, rather than fighting House Bill 1241.

THE MEETING WAS held as a result of, homeowner Marie L. Caylor's efforts to alert unincorporated areas to the annexation provisions of the bill.

The bill allows municipalities to annex territory contiguous to a municipality by court order. It has the support of villages such as Arlington Heights and Schaumburg.

Mrs. Caylor journeyed to Springfield last Wednesday to testify against the bill before the Municipalities Committee of the House of Representatives.

She contends the bill does not provide "proper provisions for annexation understandings with the unincorporated area prior to annexation."

SHE TOLD THE committee the recent Herald story concerning the annexation of 66 acres to Arlington Heights, while Buffalo Grove was still considering the property, caused her further concern.

Mrs. Caylor called HB 1241 a measure written solely for "land grabbing" by municipalities "without consideration or approval by taxpayers who should be consulted before arbitrary annexation takes place."

During her Springfield testimony, Atty. Paul Stemm, Republican precinct captain of Prospect Heights; Richard Schulz, president of the Old Town Sanitary District; and Ralph Van Patten, president of the Prospect Heights Improvement Association, also testified.

THE THREE MEN told NSCA members Monday they had negotiated a deal with Schlickman that would partially exempt areas such as Prospect Heights from the provisions of the bill.

Stemm explained that Schlickman's bill which has the support of Gov. Richard Ogilvie and the Illinois Municipal League, was written "with a broad brush" to cover problem communities in the state.

"In defense of Gene, it did not originate with him," Stemm said.

Prospect Heights, which is the largest unincorporated area in the state, should not be included with other unincorporated areas, homeowners contend.

The amendment Schlickman inserted into the bill, which should come to a vote in the house today, exempts Prospect Heights from the mile-and-a-half provision for annexation by the phrase "banded together by unique or common characteristics," describes it as a "separate com-

Protest Wildlife Area Fill

Dozens of Prospect Heights residents showed up Monday before the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals to protest destruction of their natural wildlife area. As a result, a request to use the Hillcrest slough to dump fill was postponed.

At the Arlington Heights meeting, the request to permit filling the area was put off until sometime in August to enable the slough owner, H. C. Hauver, to hire a new lawyer.

Prospect Heights objections were based on both conservation interests and the possibility the developer would not live up to his promise to build expensive homes on slough land.

THE PROSPECT Heights Park Board

has plans to preserve the slough area as a wildlife park.

The slough, south of Willow Road in unincorporated Prospect Heights, is held in a land trust by the Maywood State Bank with the owner listed as Hauver.

The 11-acre slough, surrounded by homes, is a nesting place for wild birds. It is a natural wildlife area similar, on a small scale, to the Goose Lakes area in southern Illinois.

The park board has commissioned a study of the area to be completed sometime this summer. It is hoped the Prospect Heights Park District will be able to obtain enough funding to preserve the area in its natural state.

The Prospect Heights Improvement

Assn. (PHIA) has development of the slough as a wild life preserve and an area suitable for boating, skating, and fishing.

The hearing in Arlington Heights was called to examine Hauver's request for a special-use permit to dump fill in the slough as a preliminary step to building 13 to 15 residential homes in the area. Cook County zoning on the slough area specifies large-lot, single-family homes.

HOWEVER, SOME OF the Prospect Heights residents at the hearing expressed doubts the developer would be able to build homes in the area because of the heavy concentration of peat in the slough.

Thirteen acres of the slough area north of Willow Road are owned by the Hillcrest Lake Homeowners Assn.

Thank goodness! 1969

Clipped By:



agneswojnarSKI
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