

Parks Committee Minutes Village of Shorewood Hills

Monday, December 12th 2016
Village Hall – 810 Shorewood Blvd

1. Meeting called to order at 5:40 pm by committee chair Anne Readel

- **Roll Call:** Members Present: Anne Readel, David Boutwell, Sue Denholm, Nancy Heiden, Roma Lenehan, and Georgene Stratman. Others Present: Village Forester Corey George.
- **Compliance with Open Meeting Law:** The meeting was properly posted.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the October 24, 2016 meeting were reviewed. The committee discussed several points for clarification and revision. Anne Readel will update the minutes with edits for approval at the next Parks Committee meeting.

2. **Bigfoot Park and Spillway:**

On October 24th the Parks Committee met with nearby residents at Bigfoot to discuss restoration options along with the Parks Committee's role in restoration at this site. The Parks Committee agreed to provide restoration planning and oversight for ongoing maintenance of the area, but they felt that the Stormwater Utility should cover the costs. A decision was also made by the Committee to gather landscape proposals and arrange for a follow-up presentation with interested residents in the spring. The Parks Committee also reaffirmed the Village's Parks and Open Space Plan where Bigfoot is not considered a park to develop for public use. Historically the area has been treated as a rainwater drainage corridor.

Corey George will contact landscape contractors to gather restoration proposals. Sue Denholm indicated that the Garden Club donated money for a Horticultural Consultant and that could be used for this project. The Committee will review landscape design proposals at an upcoming meeting.

3. **Bird City Update:**

The Committee discussed criteria for renewal as a Bird City Wisconsin. Participation in the program includes education and habitat management. Corey George will prepare and submit a 2017 application in December. Details of a planned March 2017 public speaker event and celebration will be posted in the February Village Bulletin.

4. **EAB Treatments and Other Tree Maintenance:**

The forestry tree maintenance budget was exhausted in 2016 due to a combination of cleanup from the strong summer storms, oak wilt, and Dutch elm disease throughout the Village. The Village Board recently approved a request for an additional \$10K to perform delayed tree maintenance and removals. The Village Forester and Parks Committee anticipate continued high costs to treat, clear, and remove diseased ash, oak, and elm trees for several more years.

The Parks Committee discussed a proposal to create a special Forestry Utility charge. The money generated by the special charge would be intended to assist in supporting the increased costs of Village forestry services. The City of Madison adopted a special charge in 2015. Anne Readle spoke to the Village Board regarding a similar program for Shorewood Hills. It was decided a special fee will not happen in 2017. The Parks Committee will continue to explore possibilities for future years.

5. **Other Park Projects and Updates:**

There were no other updates at this time.

6. **Resident Input:**

There were no residents in attendance at the meeting.

7. **Future Agenda Items:**

- Shorewood Hills Elementary School Outdoor Improvements.
- Next Phase of the Natural Play Area at Post Farm Park.
- Parks Committee Winter Holiday Party.

8. **Forester's Report:** The monthly Forester's report for November 2016 was distributed to the Parks Committee for their review.

Adjourned. The Committee adjourned at 6:45 pm