

Meeting Minutes
Village of Shorewood Hills Parks Committee
Monday, March 14, 2022
Location: Virtual Meeting via ZOOM
(Draft subject to review/approval at next meeting)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chair Benforado.
 - a. **Roll Call:**
 - i. **Committee Members:** Chair Dave Benforado, Roma Lenehan, Nancy Heiden, Kathie Brock, David Boutwell, Jeremy Rogers, Georgene Stratman was excused.
 - ii. **Others in Attendance:** Mary Janet Wellensiek, Garden Club liaison; John Voegeli Village resident; Village Administrator Sharon Eveland.
 - b. **Compliance with Open Meeting Law:** S.Eveland confirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed.
2. **Approval of prior meeting minutes (Dec. 6, 2021):**
 - a. N.Heiden asked to discuss the text of Section 3 in the draft minutes; general consensus amongst Committee members that the minutes reflected what the Committee discussed on that date. **Motion** by N.Heiden, second by J.Rogers, to approve minutes of Dec. 6, 2021, motion passed unanimously.
3. **Minute Taker:** MJ Wellensiek volunteered to take minutes at this meeting.
4. **Update on Arbor Day at Shorewood School:** discussion regarding whether to participate in the 18th Annual Arbor Day tree planting program at Shorewood Hills School. Arbor Day this year is Fri., April 29. It was agreed that we should continue this event. D.Boutwell will contact the Village Garden Club and the school/teachers to coordinate with them. S.Eveland will make sure that MGE is contacted, and that a date and rain date are selected. MJ Wellensiek, D. Boutwell and K.Brock expressed interest in volunteering for this program.
5. **Post Farm Park Pollinator Garden:** For a number of years, Village resident Kathy Dwelle has maintained a pollinator garden near the Post Farm Park Gardens and Tennis Courts just off the pedestrian pathway down from Harvard Drive, the pollinator garden consisting mostly of native plants. She would like to turn the care of the Garden over to the Village Garden Club, and the Club is supportive of this approach. It would be the 24th triangle for Garden Club members. **Motion** by D.Boutwell, second by J.Rogers, to recommend to the Village Board the care of this space by the Shorewood Hills Garden Club, motion passed unanimously.
 - a. **No Mow May:** D.Benforado added that at the February Village Board meeting, the Board adopted the No Mow May Resolution recommended by the Village Green Team. Village residents are encouraged to not mow their lawns during the month, and thereby dramatically increasing the number of bees and other pollinators.

6. **Forester Recruitment:**
 - a. S.Eveland provided an update on the status of recruitment of a new Village Forester. The position was posted a month ago, with no respondents. It has been posted again and we have seven applicants who will be interviewed in the near future. She is trying to formalize the process to apply to all future recruitments. She said that once a date(s) has been selected, she will canvas the Parks Committee to see which Committee members would be available for all interviews. She said that she will e-mail out the job posting for the position to Parks Committee members.
 - b. There was discussion about who would be involved in the interview process. There was consensus among the Parks Committee members that there should be representation by the Parks Committee in the interview process since the Forester works most directly with Parks, and Parks Committee members could offer subject matter expertise. There was discussion of the history and uniqueness of Shorewood Hills and its parks. In addition to having Parks representatives involved in the selection there was consensus that there should be a member of the Shorewood Hills Garden Club in the process since the Forester also traditionally works very closely with the Garden Club.

7. **Future Agenda Items:** the Committee discussed potential ideas for future Committee agendas in 2022:
 - a. **Agenda Items:** Village staff were asked to canvas the Committee 7-10 days before a Committee meeting for agenda items.
 - b. **Picnic Tables in Parks:** Portable picnic tables, which have pressure-treated lumber, have been located in some Village parks, discussion of pros and cons.
 - c. **Bird City:** annual recognition and celebration of Shorewood Hills' official "Bird City" status.
 - d. **Sunset and Viburnum Wooded Triangle:** Nancy Heiden suggested we have a special Parks meeting in May with near-by Village residents of the wooded "island" to hear their concerns and ideas, and then the Committee would discuss possible uses of or improvements for that area at a subsequent meeting.
 - e. **Village Trees:** Village resident Mike von Schneidmesser sent a 2/7/22 e-mail to the Committee with ideas and suggestions about trees in the Village. The Committee would also like to hear updates regarding the impact of the 2023 MMSD sewer project on the large Oak tree immediately south of the Village Pool on the Blackhawk bike path, and whether it could be saved/not harmed during that 2023 project.
 - f. **Forestry Management Plan Update:** an update on the Village request for a WI DNR grant to assist with the completion of a new Village Forestry Plan.

8. **Next Meeting:** Mon., April 4, 5:30 p.m.

9. **Adjourn:** meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Mary Janet Wellensiek, March 15, 2022