

VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD HILLS
Approved Public Health & Safety Committee Minutes

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

1. Chair Carol Barford called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.
2. Roll call: Committee members present were Ms. Barford, Bill Muehl, Jeremy Tunis, and Jim Rogers. Cara Silverman joined the meeting late. Dietmar Bassuner and Nadeem Afghan were excused. Also present was Administrator Sharon Eveland, Police Chief Jeff Pharo, and Administrative Services Coordinator David Sykes.
3. Note compliance with open meeting law: Ms. Eveland confirmed that the meeting was properly posted.
4. Public Comments, Appearances and Communications: None.
5. Approve previous meeting minutes: Mr. Rogers moved and Mr. Muehl seconded a motion to approve the October 25, 2022 minutes. Ms. Barford suggested a spelling change and clarification of her conversation with Chief Pharo regarding the camera policy development issue.
Vote: 5-0 (approved with Ms. Barford's suggested changes).
8. Discussion of potential safety measures at the McKenna Park boathouse (this item was taken out of order by Committee consensus)
Ms. Barford asked Chief Pharo to provide his thoughts regarding possible installation of cameras at the McKenna Park boathouse.
Chief Pharo said, during his Madison Police Department career, video surveillance was everywhere in the City and utilized for most all cases. 500+ people had access and he is not aware of any incidents of misuse of the videos. Claims of possible misuse by our officers are unwarranted. SHPD officers are vetted and the Village has chosen to hire them. We should expect them to act appropriately and there are measures in place to address any breach of policy or procedure. There are many examples of video being helpful if an incident occurs. There is some truth to the idea that the presence of video surveillance can act as a deterrent to those who may act badly. The Department considers video as another tool that could be used by the on-duty officer. The Department already has a code of conduct policy which includes video usage. We may not need another policy addressing video surveillance, an SOP may be a better way to manage the use of cameras at the McKenna Park boathouse.
Ms. Barford asked if the grant money was still available for this project. Ms. Eveland indicated it would be available until June of 2023.
Mr. Tunis stated some people intimated that Chief Pharo is not supportive of cameras at the McKenna Park boathouse. He asked him to clarify his position. Chief Pharo said he is supportive of cameras as a tool. The misinterpretation may have come from a statement that he is more concerned that the Department has adequate vehicles and equipment and enough staffing to cover shifts 24/7. He wouldn't want to sacrifice any of those in favor of spending funds on cameras at the park.

Mr. Rogers repeated his previous recommendation of the creation of a Village of Shorewood Hills public video surveillance policy following the Public Video Surveillance Working Document best practices.

Chief Pharo will review the draft video use policy and meet with Ms. Barford again to develop a final draft for the Committee to consider.

6. Discussion of property maintenance ordinance with respect to buildings and recent Village actions at 1223 Shorewood Blvd.

Ms. Barford indicated a further review of the Village ordinances revealed some tools in Chapter 16 to address the problems at 1223 Shorewood Blvd.

Ms. Eveland reported the inspection warrant was obtained. Results of the inspection were, among other things, copious amounts of animal excrement throughout the house, garage ceiling collapsing, and second floor damage. She will be meeting with the Village attorney on next steps to be taken. It is likely the house will be declared uninhabitable. It appears the structure is in good enough condition that the house could be refurbished but at a significant cost. The attorney will help determine if the house qualifies for razing due to the cost to bring it in compliance with the building code.

7. Discussion of property maintenance ordinance with respect to vegetation
The Committee discussed potential language that could be used to develop an ordinance regulating maintenance of vegetation on properties in the Village. Possible tracks to consider are:

- Allow vegetation, without too much restriction, if buffer zones were included at the neighboring lot lines and around any structure.
- Give broad discretion related to benefits of the vegetation.
- Promote natural landscaping.

The intent of any ordinance is to address properties that have been neglected and may result in damage to the house, rodent infestation, etc.

Mr. Muehl is concerned about who would be the arbiter determining if something is junk or someone's "personal treasure".

Ms. Barford and Ms. Eveland will develop a draft ordinance on maintenance of vegetation for the Committee to consider.

9. Next Meeting Date: February 28, 2023 at 7:00 pm (the February meeting may need to be rescheduled or cancelled).
10. Adjourn: Motion by Mr. Muehl, seconded by Mr. Rogers to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm.
Vote: 4-0 (approved).

Respectfully submitted,

David Sykes
Administrative Services Manager