

**Village of Shorewood Hills  
Parks Committee  
Meeting Minutes - DRAFT  
Tuesday, March 28, 2023 - 5:30pm  
Location: Virtual via Zoom**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Carol Barford called the meeting of the Parks Committee to order at 5:32pm. Present, in addition to Barford, were Nancy Heiden, Kathie Brock, David Boutwell, Jeremy Rogers, Roma Lenehan, and Jan Tymorek. Also in attendance were Mary Janet Wellensiek Garden Club liaison at 5:35pm. Also in attendance were Village Forester Adam Lohrmann and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Chrissy Kahl.
  - a. **Note compliance with open meeting law:** Kahl confirmed the meeting had been properly posted.
2. **Public Comment and Communication:** No one wished to speak
3. **Approve minutes from February 28, 2023 Parks Committee Meeting:** Heiden moved, seconded by Brock to approve the February 28, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried (7-0).
4. **Monthly Forester's Report:** Lohrmann was present to answer questions regarding his report. Boutwell had a question regarding tree assessments for pruning, Lohrmann had no surprises in the findings. Committee members commended Lohrmann and crew on how well the pruning is going and how nice it looks around the Village. Lohrmann said he is planning the Village's annual Arbor Day celebration and tree planting event on April 28<sup>th</sup>.
5. **VOSH Foundation and funds for Parks-related projects/logistical considerations:** Boutwell reached out to Jane Hamblen from the VOSH Foundation and she is happy to support. She will call a meeting of the VOSH Foundation in April to discuss. Boutwell will contact the foundation to help select a date. Heiden will go with Boutwell once that meeting is set. Tymorek will be an alternate. The committee is to send suggestions to Barford for the VOSH Foundation meeting ahead of time.
6. **Koval Woods SWOT analysis and discussion:** See attached SWOT analysis notes.
7. **Announcements, questions, and/or consideration items for future agendas (no discussion or action to be taken under this item):**

Review McKenna Park SWOT for April meeting.
8. **Next meeting date: Tuesday, April 25, 2023**
9. **Adjourn:** Heiden moved, Rogers seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm. Motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully submitted by,

Chrissy Kahl  
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

**VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD HILLS**  
**Forestry and Parks**

**Report for April 2023: Adam Lohrmann, Forester**

**Overview-** This month, Forestry and Parks staff concentrated efforts on spring clean-up in our parks and public green spaces, as well as completing cold-season pruning work on street trees. The Forester is in communication with contractors working on multiple construction projects throughout the Village regarding impacts to trees and other vegetation, including the University Avenue roadway/sidewalk expansion, the Lake Mendota Drive bridge reconstruction, the McKenna Park boathouse repairs, the MG&E power line burial project, and the 2024 MMSD West Interceptor sewer project. DNR grant-funded work on updating the Village tree inventory and community forestry management plan is set to commence in the coming weeks. Plans for spring tree planting and our upcoming Arbor Day celebration on April 28 have been finalized.

**Special Thanks-** This month, Forestry and Parks Assistant Vicente Garcete again took a leading role in the department's efforts to complete overdue training prunes on many of the smaller-diameter street trees throughout the Village. These training prunes are critical to ensure the long-term viability of the numerous street trees that have been planted in recent years.

Thanks and best wishes to part-time Forestry and Parks staff member Evan Peepo, who will be graduating from the UW Forestry program in May. Evan's impressive knowledge, skills, and hard work have significantly contributed to the health and beauty of our urban forest and green spaces. We wish him the best of luck as he moves into the next stage of his career, having recently accepted a research position at the WI DNR Science Operation Center.

**Tree Pruning and Removals-** Routine pruning and training prunes were completed on street and park trees throughout the Village. MG&E crews removed hazard limbs from trees near powerlines on Shorewood Blvd. and Sweetbriar Rd. One 23" Colorado spruce with fungal needle cast was removed from the fire station grounds. One 10" hackberry was removed from the north side of the fire station grounds in preparation for a new MG&E utility box. One 22" silver maple and one 9" black locust near the McKenna boathouse are slated for removal to reduce the large amount of tree debris impacting the roof and pavilion area. One hollow 31" eastern cottonwood and 3-4 dead/dying black locusts over the roadway on Oak Way are slated for removal for public safety.

**Stump Removals-** Fourteen stumps throughout the Village have been removed. New trees will be planted in the vicinity of these locations in the future.

**Tree planting-** Fifteen trees are currently on reserve and scheduled for planting this spring in various locations throughout the Village. Additional tree planting will likely take place later in the summer.

**DNR Urban Forestry Grant Projects-** Work on the development of an updated Village tree inventory and community forestry management plan is expected to commence in the next month.

Forestry and Parks staff will be collaborating with Urban Tree Management and the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) on these projects.

**Garden Club-** Spring pruning and debris removal has been largely completed in the street medians and Village Hall grounds. These areas will require ongoing maintenance throughout the growing season. The Forester has been in conversation with several Garden Club members regarding anticipated impacts to the Purdue/Columbia triangle as a result of the 2024 MMSD West Interceptor sewer project. The Forester enjoyed attending the Garden Club's Lunch 'n Learn presentation by Briana Frank from Tree Health Management on the topic of "Managing Trees for Long-Term Results."

**University Ave./University Bay Dr. Construction-** Contractors have commenced tree removals and clearing/grubbing for the next phase of construction on the University Ave. street/sidewalk expansion and the University Bay Dr. pedestrian bridge construction. Three 20-25" ash trees and seven smaller-diameter street trees on University Ave. by the Shorewood Shopping Center are slated for removal. One Norway maple, one hackberry, two honey locusts, and a portion of the row of arborvitae on the east end of the Marshall Court bike path/RR corridor are slated for removal as part of the pedestrian bridge project.

**Rain Gardens-** Spring cleaning has been largely completed in the Village rain gardens, and many of the familiar native perennials are currently emerging.

**Arbor Day Foundation/Tree City USA-** A new Tree City USA street sign has been installed at the Oxford Rd. east entrance in recognition of the Village's 21<sup>st</sup> year of membership in this program. The previous sign was showing signs of wear and tear.

**Arbor Day Celebration-** Our annual Arbor Day celebration is scheduled for Friday, April 28 at 2:00pm (rain date is the following Friday, May 5). Students and staff from Shorewood Elementary, along with representatives from MG&E, will again assist with our tree planting event. Local arborist Marcelo Jacque will be offering a demonstration of arborist equipment and tree climbing/pruning techniques.

**No Mow May-** Lawn signs for No Mow May are available at Village Hall for participating residents.

## **SWOT ANALYSIS – KOVAL WOODS**

Parks Committee

March 28, 2023

### **STRENGTHS**

- Park Sign located adjacent to the pathway on Edgehill Drive
- Pedestrian pathway from Edgehill Drive to Wood Lane
- Expansive display of native spring ephemeral wildflowers
- Fun birding area, especially during the Warbler migration
- Fine examples of mature shagbark hickory trees

### **WEAKNESSES**

- Excessive volume of stormwater runoff enters the park from Wood Lane
- Trees planted in stormwater channel
- Lack of curb appeal along Edgehill Drive, a somewhat weedy first impression

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Improve sustainability
- Add bio-retention areas to slow stormwater flow and improve absorption
- Selective removal of woody understory
- Weed management, replace with shade-tolerant grass and sedges

### **THREATS**

- Invasive non-native weeds throughout the park (pokeweed, goutweed, knotweed)
- Soil erosion and wood chips from the path washing into the lake
- Oak wilt