

Village of Shorewood Hills
Parks Committee
Meeting Minutes - APPROVED
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 - 5:30pm
Location: Virtually via Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Carol Barford called the meeting of the Parks Committee to order at 5:33 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** Present, in addition to Barford, were David Boutwell, Kathie Brock, Nancy Heiden, Roma Lenehan, Jeremy Rogers, Jan Tymorek, and Garden Club Liaison Mary Janet Wellensiek. Also in attendance was Village Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Chrissy Kahl. Village Forester Adam Lohrmann was absent.
3. **Note compliance with open meeting law:** Kahl confirmed the meeting was properly posted.
4. **Approve minutes from January 23, 2024 Parks Committee meeting:** Heiden moved, seconded by Lenehan to approve the January 23, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
5. **Public Comments** - This is an opportunity for community members to speak to the Committee. No discussion or action may take place at this time and speakers may be limited to three minutes: No one from the public attended, so no one spoke.
6. **Monthly Forester's Report:** Barford reviewed. Barford will ask Lohrmann if he needs volunteers for Arbor Day. Wellensiek will check with Garden Club as well.
7. **Discussion of spongy moth flier distribution:** Barford thanked those who helped put together the flyers. Distribution will be early to mid-March. Seven committee members volunteered to distribute the flyers.

Heiden left the meeting at 5:55pm due to losing her connection. Heiden returned to the meeting at 6:05pm.
8. **Discussion of SWOT analysis of McKenna Park:** See attached SWOT analysis notes.
9. **Future Agenda Items** – This is an opportunity for committee members to request an item be added to a future agenda. No discussion may take place on any requested items at this time and committee members should not make lengthy statements on their request.
 - Future meetings will go back to in person in May
10. **Next meeting date:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024
11. **Adjourn:** Rogers moved, seconded by Heiden to adjourn the meeting at 6:37pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chrissy Kahl
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

SWOT ANALYSIS – McKENNA PARK

Parks Committee

February 27, 2024

STRENGTHS

- McKenna Park is a special place with a unique landscape and spectacular vistas
- This is the only Village Park with four-season public access to the lake
- Prominent in the minds of our residents (based on comments in the CORP document)
- Expansive display of native spring ephemeral wildflowers and migratory birds
- The boathouse pavilion is a beautiful place to enjoy viewing the lake
- The boathouse offers indoor rack storage for our residents

WEAKNESSES

- Access road is in very poor condition
- Access road is often ice-covered and treacherous in winter
- Stormwater channel is in poor condition
- Stormwater quality going into the lake is not ideal
- Sidewalk leading from Lake Mendota Drive is in poor condition
- Limited auto and bike parking

OPPORTUNITIES

- Remove invasive plants and replace them with natives (see 1929 plant survey)
- Add additional bio-retention areas to slow stormwater flow and improve water quality
- Add a trash receptacle at the top of the access road adjacent to the parking lot
- Multi-committee and resident participation in the McKenna Park Master Plan
- Connect with Wisconsin First Nations to interpret the indigenous history of the area
- Explore opportunities for public restroom access
- Explore opportunities for improved safe lake access along west side of the boathouse

THREATS

- Invasive and overly aggressive native plants, vines, shrubs, and trees throughout park
- Excessive shading of the woodland floor is leading to soil erosion into lake
- The chain link fence above the cliffside is unstable and contributes to erosion
- The few remaining Oak trees are under stress
- Add more native plantings