

Parks Committee Minutes Village of Shorewood Hills

Monday, October 8th, 2018
Village Hall – 810 Shorewood Blvd

1. Meeting called to order at 5:36 pm by committee member David Boutwell

- **Roll Call:** Members Present: David Boutwell, Susan 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 from the August 13, 2018 meeting were approved.

2. **Post Farm Butterfly Garden** – Request for Monarch Waystation Certification.

Village resident Kathi Dwelle has established a butterfly garden alongside the main pathway in Post Farm Park. The site provides milkweeds, nectar sources, and shelter needed to sustain monarch butterflies as they migrate through the park each summer and fall. Kathi proposed applying to Monarch Watch for certification as an official Monarch Waystation. If approved, the organization will supply us with signage for the garden. The Parks Committee approved a motion for placement of a sign near the butterfly garden.

3. **Four Corners Park** – Follow-up discussion on stormwater runoff and pathway improvements.

An ongoing concern is the narrow access point into the lower park and playground areas. The location is heavily shaded and often muddy. Park visitors and maintenance vehicles are challenged by the soft soil condition. The Parks Committee discussed three options for remediation. 1.) Dig out the muddy area and replace it with breaker rock and limestone fines. 2.) Dig out the muddy areas and replace a truck's width of concrete pavers laid sideways with grass in between. 3.) Building a boardwalk bridge over the soft muddy area sturdy enough to support a large vehicle. The Parks Committee will explore these and other options at a future meeting.

Excessive stormwater runoff is also a concern at the top entrance pathway at Sunset Drive. Ideally, the park should act as a giant rain garden to capture adjacent runoff. Village property lines are not well defined in this area. The Parks Committee approved a motion to recommend a survey be done to delineate park boundaries with the adjacent Geiger and Cooper property lines and to shape a long term solution.

4. **Flood Damage in Parks** – Updates

Recent plantings are doing well at the Bigfoot stormwater outlot. Village contactor Good Oak would like to plant and seed further downslope. The rustic trail through Koval Woods was damaged by excessive runoff originating along Wood Lane. The concrete spillways and asphalt road in McKenna Park were damaged and need repair. The Marina road was damaged and severe erosion occurred in the gully near the lake. The stormwater infiltration channel along the railway was partially filled with railroad ballast.

5. **Budget Updates** – Updates from the Forester. There was discussion about the need for an additional year-round horticultural assistant. Corey explained a few options currently being considered as solutions. 1.) Increase budget for contractual work for maintenance of natural areas, raingardens and other public landscaped areas. 2.) Hire a year-round (part-time) person to assist the Forester. This person would have more experience than the seasonal interns and ideally have a good background in Horticulture.

6. **Other Park Projects** – Updates from Roma and Dave.

Roma provided a Bird City update. Over the past year, the community has been doing many of the right things to support insect eating birds. However, for a number of reasons, our insect eating birds are facing a crisis with a massive decline of insect numbers. It was suggested this would be a good topic for this year's Bird City speaker event. Roma will look into it.

Roma and Dave recently planted over 600 native plants into the natural area of Post Farm Park.

New invasive species continue to arrive in the Village. The Parks Committee has identified some newcomers for targeted removal.

7. **Future Agenda Items.**

- Four Corners follow up
- Other park projects

8. **Forester's Report.**

Corey provided an overview of the Forester's Report for August and September.

Adjourned. The Committee adjourned at 7:08 pm.