

Parks Committee Minutes March 11, 2019 Village of Shorewood Hills

1. Meeting called to order at 5:37 by Anne Readel.
 - a. Members present: Anne Readel, chair, Kathie Brock, Nancy Heiden, Roma Lenehan. Others present: Village Forester Corey George, Garden Club Liaison Mary Janet Wellensiek
 - b. Compliance with Open Meeting Law: The meeting was properly posted
 - c. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the January 14, 2019, meeting were approved with one correction.
2. Parks Committee Members – Sue Denholm will not return until next fall. Will consult with Garden Club. Will look at the Village volunteer list.
3. McKenna Park
 - a. Removed multiple trees including oak wilt and hazard oak trees, several diseased ash trees and some Norway maples. Dramatic opening of the canopy. No one wants the large logs.
 - b. Several of the remaining oaks were treated for oak wilt.
 - c. With increased sun, can plant more sun tolerant trees such as maples, hickories, and yellow birch.
 - d. The understory currently has lots of poison ivy.
 - e. Discussed placing a temporary sign to explain what is happening in this area.
4. Four Corners Park – homeowner wants Village to remove three white pines (behind large spruce) close to house on Village land. They have been dropping large limbs on house. Corey is uncertain whether the trees are on park or private owners' land. Corey thinks they should be removed since they are close to the house and may be a hazard. The removal should only take a day and cost \$1500. The committee agreed that they should be removed. Corey will try to find the boundary to see how cost should be allocated.
5. Landscape restoration near Salt Shed on Old Middleton Road.
 - a. Removed buckthorn and hazard trees (box elders, ash, and cottonwood) near salt shed, leaving open sunny area. The removals should allow desirable trees along the bike trail to grow.
 - b. Discussed need to replant area. Noted desire to look nice while minimizing maintenance. Discussed seeding low-maintenance native prairie plants, possibly large grasses. Buckthorn toxin will inhibit seeds and plants initially (does not inhibit spiderwort or monocots). Furthermore, some of the buckthorn will resprout. Finally noted the need to control non-native noxious weeds. The area will be largely maintained by contractors (Good Oak).
6. Winter Tree Maintenance – despite bad weather, have gotten a lot done
 - a. Edgehill Parkway, Sumac, and half of Crestwood completed
 - b. Plan to do Shorewood Boulevard and the other half of Crestwood and maybe Wood Lane
7. Bird City
 - a. 17 attendees, mostly Garden Club.
 - b. Little publicity
 - c. Kathie Brock volunteered to help with publicity if we do it next year
8. Other Parks Projects

- a. Badger Volunteers helped remove brush in McKenna Park. Bad weather cancelled several volunteer days. It is challenging to find work in mid-winter.
 - b. No herbaceous plant order was made this year
9. Thanked Ann Readel for her service as Parks Committee chair.
10. Future agenda items
 - a. Tree protection ordinance -Sustainability Committee survey shows interest in tree protection
11. Adjourned at 6:45