

Parks Committee Minutes

Village of Shorewood Hills

Monday, October 14, 2019
Village Hall – 810 Shorewood Boulevard

1. Meeting called to order at 5:38.
 - A. **Roll call.** Members present: Mark Lederer, Dave Boutwell, Roma Lenehan, Georgene Stratman and Kathy Brock. Others present: Village Forester Corey George and Garden Club member Mary Janet Wellensiek.
 - B. **Compliance with Open-Meeting Law.** The meeting was properly posted.
 - C. **Approval of Minutes.** Deferred until later in the meeting.

2. **Forestry and Parks Budget** – Corey distributed his proposed draft of the 2019 Forestry Budget Worksheet for the 2020 budget year. He noted that the draft future (2020) budget was prepared based on actual revenues and expenses recorded through October 14th and projected through year end 2019. He then proceeded to provide more detailed descriptions on each revenue and expense line and the values reported in the worksheet. He pointed out that revenues varied significantly from year to year and dependent on the willingness of residents and the Garden Club to make voluntary contributions. The committee discussed the Corey the possibility of applying for and receiving grants, but while Corey stated he would continue to do so, it did not appear that grants would be a significant source of future funding.

Corey then reviewed actual and budgeted expenses. He reported that Forestry wages and benefits would be budgeted by the Personnel Committee. Corey and the committee discussed the advantages, disadvantages and wages of seasonal labor including interns and a part time employee. This was followed by a discussion of the proposed contract from Good Oak for 2020 and the tradeoffs of employing independent contractors such as Good Oak versus employing seasonal, part time labor. Good Oak proposed a \$30,000 contract for 2020, only \$12,500 was budgeted in 2019 and \$15,000 was estimated to be spent this year. A question was raised as to the status within the Personnel Committee of whether the Village would adopt a \$15/hour minimum wage.

Jeremy Rodgers joined the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Additional items that were discussed included adding storage bins, pavement and prairie grasses near the salt shed to reduce the growth of weeds and invasive species. Corey also discussed the management of the tree maintenance and removal budget with the committee including the operation and cost of the ash tree program.

A suggestion was made to note in the Village Bulletin that a hard/paper copy for be purchased for \$15.

The committee returned to the issue of obtaining grants and Corey noted that most grant applications were for startup costs and did not fund the ongoing operation/maintenance of projects. He also noted that documentation requirements were sometimes a nightmare. In this context, the question arose of whether grants are cost effective, particularly given the difficulty of obtaining renewable grants.

3. **Four Corners Path** – Corey described the ongoing problem of maintaining the path originating on Sunset. Stormwater continued to seriously erode and wash away the wood chips. One potential remedy would be to install a dirt/gravel path as was done at the main entrance to the park. This path seemed to hold up reasonably well to date. Additional suggestions were to install humps to divert and slow the water from Sunset. Corey agreed to discuss with the immediate Sunset neighbors the possibility of a gravel path. A possible width of 6 feet was discussed.

4. **Future Agenda Items** - It was noted that the wood chip path through Koval Woods suffered similar problems from excessive stormwater and should be discussed with the Village engineer and added to a future meeting agenda. Other suggestions for a future agenda were mapping the parks and an updated memorial bench policy.

5. **Prior Meeting Minutes** – The committee discussed the minutes of the prior meetings held on May 13th, June 10th and August 12th of this year should be deferred to allow the members more time for review. After some discussion the committee voted to approve these minutes 5 to 1 with Dave Boutwell dissenting. In the future, the Committee requested that the minutes of the prior meeting(s) be distributed in advance to permit the members more time for review.

6. **Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 pm.**