

## **Parks Committee Minutes Village of Shorewood Hills**

Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Village Hall – 810 Shorewood Blvd

1. Meeting called to order at 5:36 pm by committee chair Anne Readel

- **Roll Call:** Members Present: Anne Readel, David Boutwell, Sue Denholm, Nancy Heiden, Roma Lenehan, and Georgene Stratman. Others Present: Village Forester Corey George. Village resident Tracy Koziol
- **Compliance with Open Meeting Law:** The meeting was properly posted.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting were approved.

2. **Schoolyard Improvements Project.**

The Committee welcomed Village resident and PTO President Tracy Koziol to the meeting. Tracy presented a preliminary conceptual plan to enhance the Shorewood Hills Elementary School area. She requested general feedback from the Committee regarding the plan. Committee members shared their thoughts on a number of topics including rain gardens, sidewalks, community gathering areas, recreational improvements, tree planting opportunities, and improved drainage for a couple of recreational ground issues. Tracy provided an overview of next steps to gather and review feedback from additional Village organizations. Tracy also encouraged the Committee to continue sharing thoughts and ideas with her by email as the plan progresses toward finalization.

3. **Bird City Status.**

Anne Readel shared several updates regarding the March 1<sup>st</sup> Educational Forum on Cats. The Committee discussed the importance to become educated on the scientific facts in regards to free roaming cats. The Parks Committee is most interested in learning about the impact on wildlife and bird populations in our community. The Parks Committee will establish a policy recommendation regarding free roaming cats to the Village Board. The Committee will discuss and write a resolution at a future meeting, most likely at their March 13<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting.

Each year the Village sponsors an educational event as part of the annual renewal process as a Bird City Wisconsin. The Committee discussed preparations for the upcoming Migratory Bird Day presentation by Mike McDowell on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Everything is in place and ready for the special 7:00 PM presentation. An event overview will appear in the March Village Bulletin.

4. **Prescribed Burn.**

Corey George asked the Committee if they would like to recommend a prescribed burn in the Post Farm Park natural area this spring. It was determined that insufficient leaf debris exists to support a beneficial burn on the hillside. A recommendation was made for a burn at Reese Woods. Corey will discuss the possibility and pick a date with our contractor Good Oak.

5. **Bigfoot Park.**

A draft landscape and restoration plan has been prepared and is now ready for a final plan to carry out this spring. The site plan includes a small viewing area overlooking the lake. Other elements of the plan include a stone bench, several native and non-native shrubs, native wildflowers and groundcovers, and a short length of split rail fence to maintain safety along the steep grade above the storm water channel. Sue Denholm offered to visit nearby residents to overview the plan and gather feedback. The topic will be discussed further at the March Parks Committee meeting.

6. **Locust Drive Construction.**

As requested by the Parks Committee, Karl Frantz has sent letters to inform nearby Tally Ho Lane residents of the removal of several large older Black Locust trees along Locust Drive. The required tree removal is part of a planned road improvement project in the area. There is a possibility that several smaller trees along the north side of the roadway will be relocated away from the construction area.

7. **Resident Input.**

There was no additional resident input.

8. **Future Agenda Items.**

- Love Madison Volunteer Day
- Arbor Day Projects
- Next Phase of the Natural Play Area at Post Farm Park.

9. **Forester's Report.**

The monthly Forester's Report for January 2017 was distributed to the Parks Committee for their review and comment.

**Adjourned.** The Committee adjourned at 7:22 pm.