

Chatham Hills Subdivision Board
November 14, 2022
Meeting Minutes (Zoom Meeting)

Attendees

David Ryall, Danielle Adams, Kelly Bedross, Jonathan Brown, Jon Carter, Mike Clarke, Chuck Fehl, Curt Martin, Theresa Nagi, Lillian Ryall.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of October 10 were reviewed and were approved unanimously. Approval was proposed by Chuck Fehl and seconded by Therese Nagi.

Treasurer

Danielle Adams presented a written report and there was some discussion about what expenses had come out of the reserves.

Newsletter / Website

There was no report

Parks

Therese Nagi submitted the following report

- 1) We learned that the Water Resource Commission (WRC) and their contractor will walk the park in June 2023 to determine what the next step in removing the invasive phragmites is. The solution could be more herbicide spraying and/or controlled burning. Park committee will work with them, as needed to share information with residents, apartments, and the City.
- 2) Mike and Jon took down the colorful awning from the wood playscape structure this past Wednesday and put them into the storage unit for winter.
- 3) Mike and Jon re-hung the orange safety fence around the sinkhole across the path from the east playground.
- 4) The new grass seed appears to be growing well around the picnic table near the curly slide.
- 5) The last mowing date in the commons area was November 2, 2022.
- 6) Jon and Therese's husband took one springy toy, and the canvas covers to the storage unit.

This section below is from Mike and Kelly's notes.

Playground equipment -

The comparable spring toy cost is around \$1,000 without installation. This is a rough average estimate from looking at what is available for purchase online.

The most promising company we found locally that can also do installation is We Do Playgrounds in Swartz Creek, MI. Mike and Kelly have put in a request for someone to call so they can connect with them and get more information regarding things like installation costs, turnaround time etc. Here is a link to the company's website. <https://www.weddoplaygrounds.com/>

Having an idea of a budget would be helpful. Mike and Kelly know that we are looking to sell the old spring toys and Mike mentioned that Jon had potentially found an online buyer. If Mike and Kelly could, they would like to try to work through that, this winter and have a better idea of what we can expect for the budget to be able to move forward in spring.

Park Ecology - Mike and Kelly found out that MSU has an extensive project where they are restoring the banks of the Red River much like they are working to restore habitat and native species in our park. Mike and Kelly plan to take a trip out there in the spring to help us learn about the major efforts being taken in our state to rehabilitate natural environments. It will allow them a chance to have a better idea of initiatives or steps that have been taken to help them accomplish this so that they may apply it to our own park. Here is a link to their project if anyone is interested.

<https://www.bealbotanicalgardenmsu.edu/science/riverbank>

Buckthorn/Invasive species - Mike and Kelly noticed some buckthorn had been cleared. They wondered what herbicide was being used on the buckthorn stumps and how the buckthorn branches were removed. According to Therese, the buckthorn stumps were not treated with the herbicide glyphosate. After the buckthorn shrub is cut, a teaspoon of glyphosate is applied topically with a bingo dabber. The herbicide is applied within five minutes after the cutting otherwise the cambium layer closes up. The herbicide goes directly to the roots and does not affect neighboring plants. Most of the buckthorn that has been removed has been cut up and put in brown waste bags for refuse pickup. However, in the winter months there is no lawn waste picked up and the buckthorn was burned in Therese's fire pit.

Volunteers - Mike and Kelly have noticed that there have been residents who have already volunteered time this year to help with plants in the park. We have also heard a few people express wanting to help more but not knowing where to start or when to help. Mike and Kelly feel that volunteer help can be a great resource to completing habitat restoration and that they can possibly get more volunteers or people out and involved by organizing a few specific days/times for restoration work that is being done and encourage people to come out and help.

Native Species Greenhouses - Kelly mentioned to Therese a greenhouse in Ann Arbor that specializes in native Michigan species. However, upon further research she found one even closer! The greenhouse is in Farmington Hills, and she has included a link below. This may be a way to help introduce some native species that are hard to propagate or grow ourselves, or that may take a long time to get going.

<https://detroitwildflowers.square.site/>

Membership

Curt Martin reported he sent overdue notices to five homeowners and two have subsequently paid and one property was sold, and the fee paid. Some other properties which have recently been sold have also paid ahead for next year.

Safety

There was no report.

Social

Lillian Ryall reported that there were five winners of the Halloween decorating competition and there was good feedback on Facebook. There will be a Holiday lighting competition – there is about \$500 left in the

social budget. Lillian will be creating a flier for the lighting competition. She is also looking for a Santa but has had no success so far.

Deeds & Restrictions

David Ryall reported that Ronda Harris has sent a letter to a homeowner concerning the parking of commercial vans on their driveway.

Entranceways

Chuck Fehl reported that the grasses at the bridges will be cut shortly. The holiday lights are in and the sprinklers have been winterized. He also mentioned that the contractor who was supposed to be working on an area in the park behind Rhonda's house got Covid so could not do the work. He will check to see if they have a number for the work now.

New Business

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7.35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Brown

Secretary