

HMDAC August 29, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Present on the Zoom meeting for HMDAC, Byrne Conley, Bob Schussel, Ian Forsyth and Laurie Foster. Present for the City were Jason Lacey and James Olson.

- The Parkway project was completed the week before. McGuire and Hester, the contractor, will be out at the site for a 90-day period to maintain the planting (typically on Mondays and Fridays).
- Not included in the contract is the area on the slope in front of the commercial center and Reflections II. HMD is going to have the regular landscape contractor, New Image, address that as their next project, to refresh it (clean out dead branches, possibly have new tan bark/mulch spread, check the irrigation connections).
- The median area just East of the Welcome Center was not part of the contract since it had been landscaped in a prior project; however, it was accidentally cut off from irrigation due to an oversight, and James is working to get it reconnected to a controller. The bushes may need to be replaced, and the trees are distressed, but the water will be reconnected first and we will see if the existing planting can be saved. Otherwise, New Image will be tasked to replace the bushes.
- Sam Kumar for the City will put together the final package to close out the Parkway project and any funds left over in the capital improvement account will be returned to the Hiddenbrooke Improvement District. Close out will include paying off the final retention amount; there were a few change orders or site differential claims, and some negotiation, but nothing unusual and Jason said the City was quite pleased with McGuire and Hesters' work. There was a change in project managers mid job, but a very good job overall with only 2-3 punch list items left at the end.
- Sam's time was billed to the project but James Olson's was not, since he is already billed to the HMD for his HMD time, and because this was a capital improvement project, it was not subjected to the normal landscape maintenance district overhead charge, which runs over 30%.
- The "Hiddenbrooke" sign on the Welcome Center is being replaced but the sign received was rejected based on color and a new one is being procured matching the coloring on the sign at the entry of the Parkway.
- There are "suckers" (leaves growing on the trunks) of Sycamore trees on the Parkway. Normally these would be trimmed, but since the irrigation line replacements necessitated interfering with root systems, the suckers are going to be left "as it" for now since they benefit the trees in recovery from the shock.
- Jason is consulting with traffic engineering about getting some type of no parking markings on the asphalt turnout area in front of the utility vault across from the fountain.

It is meant for utility access but some people have been using it as a staging area for commuters, leaving cars all day.

- Now that the Parkway is done, our next attention for HMDAC is the area between street and sidewalk on Bennington along the 18th hole. Some of it has carpet roses, some is bare, and some has bushes that have many dead spots. That section is on controller “K” which is capped off, since the drought. It is going to have to be uncapped and the lines checked. HMDAC would like to see the area replanted, using the template of plants from the Parkway plans. Jason cautioned that LMD staff time was stretched, having included oversight of the Parkway project, and James has responsibilities elsewhere, but James will get to this. Fall is the best time for new planting, normally. HMD has an account, number 1539, for enhancement or rehabilitation work, that can be added to in the midyear budget reset.
- New Image did extra firebreak work, no extra charge since New Image had less Parkway work during the capital project.
- The total mulch put down on the Parkway was 1800 yards of mulch. It took 5 days to spread, coming from trucks carrying 75 to 100 yards each.
- We suggested that the slope in front of the commercial area and Reflections II should be refreshed with new mulch after the irrigation and cleanup are done; Jason agreed.
- We also talked about the areas along Bennington between the 17th and 18th holes, between the street and white border fences, where the golf course has stopped maintaining, and weeds are prevalent. Jason indicated the City could supply spare wood chips which are often plentiful from landscaping projects. HMDAC is going to contact the golf course about that. We would much rather see the golf course maintain its own land strips outside of its white fences, but these areas have been victims to apparent cost cutting.
- The fountain in front of Fairway Villas that has been neglected by the golf course for a long time is going to be filled in with rock/cobble and planted with decorative plants and
- The Landscape Maintenance Division has an offer out to a new inspector after a 2.5-year delay due to a City hiring freeze.
- The City is in the course of pruning trees in the Orchards area, including trees behind houses where the trees are on HMD property. They will also be thinning trees behind the Park and behind Marshfield. This is a two-day job for 4 people, about a \$10K expense.
- **Our next Zoom call with the City will be on October 3, 2023 at 9 a.m.**