



GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES OF JUNE 6, 2023

The meeting began at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Lutke, Smith and Suppes

Staff present: Fay and Larrea

Public Comments

Public comment received from Bill Crackel.

Green Suttons Bay – ReLeaf Michigan

Sue Chapman states ReLeaf Michigan is a state wide, non-profit organization with an arborist on board. The organization works with local municipalities to plant 20 trees (spring and fall) on public land through a grant program with a 50% match up to \$2,000. The trees are approximately six feet tall with a 2 ½ inch diameter. ReLeaf looks at areas and recommends the best native trees suited for the area. Green Suttons Bay will provide the funding needed for the match. Volunteers (two at each site) and help from the DPW department are necessary to help with pre-dug holes, watering and mulching following an October plant date. The 20 trees would be planted in one day. A three-year maintenance agreement for watering and mulching is required. The program requires Village Council approval, and if trees are planted along the state highway, MDOT approval is also required.

Larrea states it is a great program and supports the community involvement, but has the following concerns:

- A budget amendment would need approval for overtime for the DPW. Staff is currently a couple of weeks or more behind schedule.
- Spring and fall are the busiest times for DPW staff.
- DPW staff time to pre-dig holes.
- The expense of the watering bags.
- Watering trees. Some areas do not have a water source.
- Miss Dig needs contacted for every tree.
- Can the trees be segmented throughout the community? Parks, the trail, Coal docks, and along the streets are areas that need trees.

Committee member comments:

- Can we replace the birch trees that have died?
- Blocking off the 20 pre-dug holes so children do not fall in them. Liability.
- Should we consider an “adopt a tree” program?
- Impossible to dig holds due to roots, etc. Equipment is necessary to dig holes.

Sue Chapman stated she would like some time to see if Green Suttons Bay is able to address the above concerns. Committee supports the Re-Leaf program, and if Green Suttons Bay is able to address the concerns, Committee would like the Manager to put together a Memorandum of Understanding partnering with Green Suttons Bay offering support for the three-year maintenance agreement required. Chapman stated she will bring back to Committee possible solutions to these concerns.

Chapman also asked about the three trees removed in front of the school, noting a lot of water in that area, which is a natural wetland. Green Suttons Bay would like to encourage Suttons Bay School to replant trees there which could help absorb some of the excess water. Larrea stated it needs to be cleaned out and that there may be drain clog.

Public comment

A comment was received from Bill Crackel.

Committee Member comments

Larrea states the Village will be sending out a draft Ordinance to Council members for review, that addresses recreational vehicle parking. The draft ordinance will be on the Village Council agenda in June.

Meeting notes submitted by Shar Fay, Clerk.