

PARK & CEMETERY BOARD CITY OF NORTON

Thursday, August 14, 2008

I. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Neva Gibson, Frank Laury, Lisa Merrick, Scott Testa

ABSENT: John Conklin

ALSO PRESENT: John Moss, Director of Finance

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Neva Gibson 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 14, 2008 in Council Chambers.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Chairperson Gibson asked if there was any old business; there was none.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Gibson asked if there was any new business.

Chairperson Gibson asked Pam Campbell, Boards and Commissions Secretary, if she would ask Rick Ryland, City Administrator, about installation of Basketball Courts at Columbia Woods Park. Ms. Campbell stated she would meet with Mr. Ryland and report the information back to the Board.

Chairman Gibson announced if anyone would like to speak at this meeting, please sign in and approach the podium.

Mr. Andrew Gipson, 353 Crestwood Avenue, Wadsworth, Ohio, 44216, approached the podium and stated he had a presentation for the Board. Mr. Gipson stated he would like to construct a rain garden on the southeast side of the City Administration Building near the flagpole. He said a rain garden is sunken like a water basin and collects water. He said native plants are used that are water tolerant and absorbent. He said a rain garden was relatively maintenance free and fairly inexpensive to construct. He said a rain garden also helps to offset the land area removed from water absorption by a building and retaining this extra water until it can be absorbed. He said this water does not become unsightly and doesn't remain long enough to become stagnant and mosquito infested. He said this project would help prevent water related damage in the future, as well as provide a beautiful view. He said volunteers; family, community groups and his Boy Scout Troop would assist with the project. He said flowers would be donated from nurseries and the monetary funding would be from his father, Tom Gipson. Chairperson Gibson asked what date the rain garden would be installed. Mr. Gipson stated it would be at the end of the planting season. He said possibly before this October. Chairperson Gibson stated she understood the City was in support of this project and said Mr. Gipson had given a nice presentation. Mr. Laury asked how the

drainage pipe would be constructed across the sidewalk. Mr. Tom Gipson, Andrews father, stood and said he spoke with Vern Tenney, the Parks and Recreation Crew Leader. He said he understood the City's Maintenance Crew would assist if needed. Chairperson Gibson stated she liked the design of the rain garden and the flowers selected in the design. Ms. Merrick stated she was a naturalist and also liked the design and selection of flowers for the rain garden. She asked if Mr. Gipson would like a donation of Rudbeckia for the rain garden. Mr. Gipson said the donation would be appreciated. Mr. Laury asked if Mr. Gipson would maintain the rain garden. Chairperson Gibson said the City Park and Recreation Crew would maintain the garden. Mr. Gipson stated this garden did not require a lot of maintenance. Chairperson Gibson stated she understood the City approved this project and looked forward to seeing the rain garden. She stated she would ask Mr. Ryland to send a written letter of approval so Mr. Gipson could start the project.

Chairperson Gibson thanked Mr. Gipson for his presentation.

Chairperson Gibson asked if Mr. John Moss, Director of Finance, had information to report. Mr. Moss stated he had the following updates to report on.

Gazebo - He said it had been determined that the soil conditions on the peninsula require exaction and replacement. He said the cost of preparing the ground, together with cost increases was prohibitive. He said the gazebo would be moved to the circle at the end of the drive, near the picnic pavilion and playground. There was general discussion about location sites of another pavilion if funding was available.

Football Fields - He said the football fields were in need of maintenance. He said the fields would need to be closed for a short period of time and reseeded. He said the reseeding process would take a few months, plus the goalposts would be upgraded.

Tennis Courts - He said the tennis courts were aging and need resurfaced. He said this resurfacing could possibly be done sometime this year. He said the project would take approximately one week. He said the City was trying to schedule this repair between the courts scheduled "reserved dates". He said the City would like to have the tennis courts repaired and complete before the Cider Festival in September.

Cemetery Plot Repurchases - He said the City had been approached about buying back a few Western Star Cemetery plots. He said there was discussion on how, or if, the City would want to do this. Chairperson Gibson asked if the residents had considered putting an ad in the paper to sell the plots. Mr. Laury suggested the resident try Craigslist.com or have the City buy back the plots, with a 20% penalty fee. Ms. Merrick stated she would research any information on this subject and report back.

Cider Festival - He said the existing parking at City Hall would probably be changed to handicap parking. He said the school had agreed to provide a bus shuttle service from the school to the Cider Festival at Columbia Woods. He said cross walk areas and walking areas would also be addressed. Chairperson Gibson asked how many Vendors had signed up for the Cider Festival. Mr. Moss stated he was not sure. Ms. Merrick stated Mr. Tom Dayton, was having an event the same day as the Cider Festival. She said hayrides, etc. would be offered. Chairperson Gibson stated she was not aware of Mr. Dayton's event. There was general discussion regarding the Dayton and Cider Festival events being on the same day.

Mr. Laury asked if a Capital Improvement Levy could be passed for a new recreation center. Mr. Moss stated a recreation center was expensive and not in the near future.

Mr. Laury asked if Pittsburg Plate & Glass (PPG) had ever considered a lease option regarding the Lake Dorothy land purchase with the City. Mr. Moss stated a lease option had been considered. He said the City could have a purchase option and seek Grant Dollars. He said the Clean Ohio Fund or Land Grants

could be involved. He said if a lease option was considered, the land would be taken off the market, which the City could not afford. He said Lake Dorothy was to stay "green" and the City would need the Grant Dollars.

Chairperson Gibson stated she gave the Mayor pictures of the condition of Western Star Cemetery. She said she would like to have them back if possible. Ms. Campbell stated she would ask the Mayor for the photos. Ms. Merrick stated the fence at Western Star Cemetery was in need of repair. Chairperson Gibson asked if Ms. Merrick had spoken to Mr. John Conklin about having the Eagle Scouts help repair the headstones at Western Star Cemetery. Ms. Merrick said she had not spoken to him yet.

Chairperson Gibson stated the dedication of the Memorial Park Bench for past Police Chief Diefendorff went well. She stated there was a large crowd at the ceremony and the family was there for pictures.

Chairperson Gibson reminded everyone the Mayor requested all Boards to be at the Norton Clean-Up Day on Saturday, September 20th from 8:00a.m. to 10:00a.m. She stated everyone was to meet in front of the Norton Administration Building before 8:00a.m. She said flyers have also been emailed to all Board members.


Chairperson Gibson asked if there was any other new business; there was none.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:


The Board reviewed the minutes of Monday, June 30, 2008. Chairperson Gibson called for a motion. **Mr. Testa moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Laury seconded the motion. ROLL CALL: Mr. Testa-Yes, Mr. Laury-Yes, Ms. Merrick-Yes, Ms. Gibson-Yes. The motion passed 4-0, approving the minutes. Minutes were signed and processed accordingly.**

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Gibson announced the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. With no further business coming before the Board, Chairperson Gibson adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.



Park and Cemetery Board Chairperson
or Vice-Chairperson



Park & Cemetery Board Vice-Chairperson
or Member

10-9-08

Date:

Rain Garden Project Description

Eagle Scout Service Project

Andrew B. Gipson

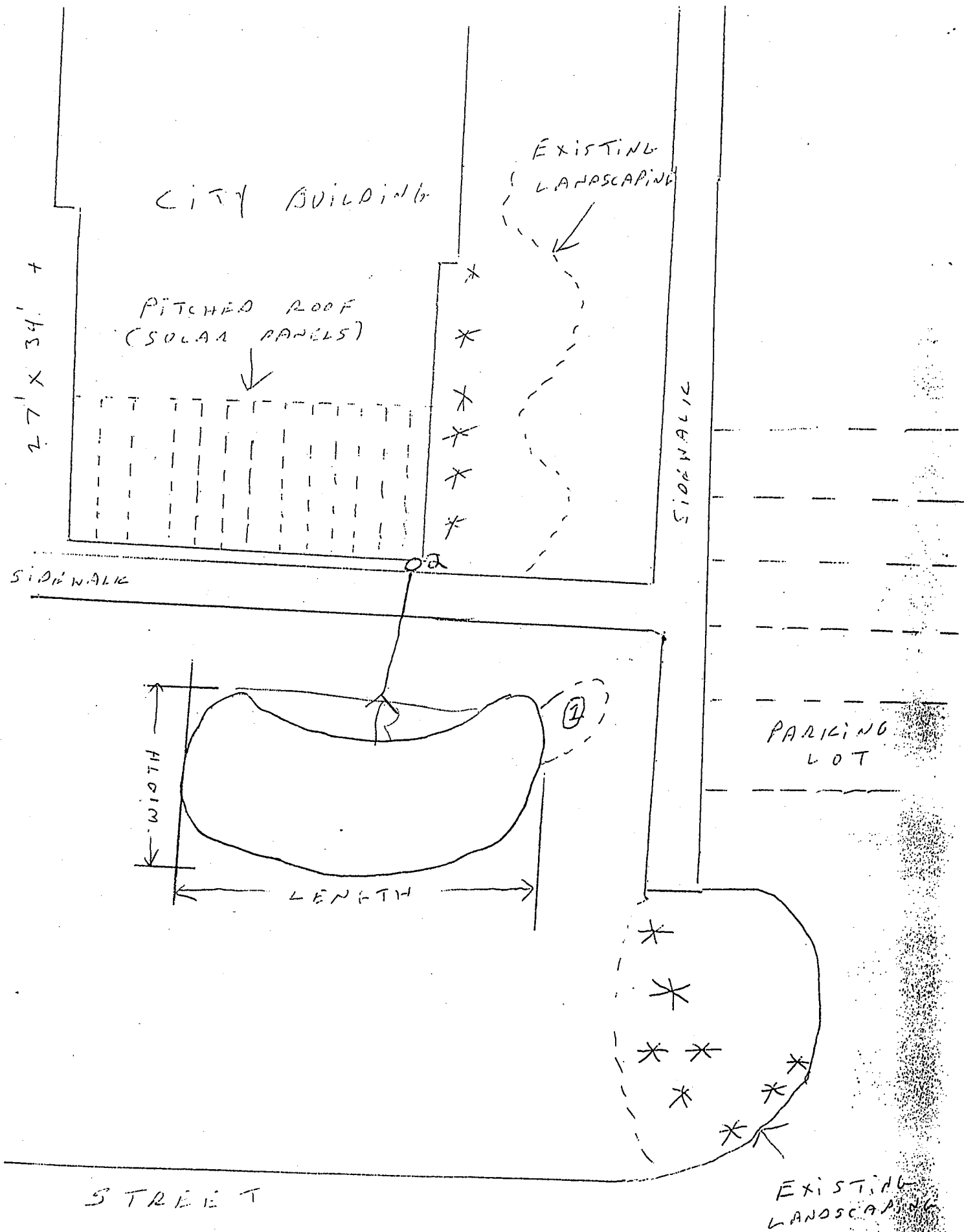
Description: For my Eagle Scout project, I intend to do a conservation project known as a rain garden. Rain gardens are bio-retention basins designed to collect and absorb run-off from buildings. They are planted with native plants that are water tolerant and absorbent, so they are relatively maintenance free and fairly inexpensive to construct.

When it rains, soil is typically supposed to absorb the majority of rainfall. However, where buildings, parking lots, and other such structures exist, they occupy much of the soil area and effectively prevent the soil from absorbing precipitation. In these instances, the water may either collect in pools, causing minor flooding and ground saturation, or it will run off, flooding the streets. This extra run-off can pick up harmful chemicals and, through storm drains, dump this waste into a stream. A rain garden helps to offset the land area removed from water absorption by a building and retain this extra water until it can be absorbed. This water, though, does not become unsightly and does not remain long enough to become stagnant and mosquito infested.

Beneficiary: I plan to construct this garden at the Norton Administration building in Norton, Ohio. The southeast corner of this building lies at the top of a hill which leads into both a water source and athletic field compound. The drainage of this area is poor, and its aesthetic is plain. Constructing a rain garden across from the drainage pipe would solve both of the aforementioned issues.

The beneficiary of the project will be the City of Norton and its citizens. It will help prevent water related damage in the future as well as provide a beautiful view. To assist me in the project, I expect to seek help from the City of Norton grounds crew, my family, volunteers from my Boy Scout Troop, other community groups, and possibly a landscape professional for advice on the project.

Species		Common	Planting Location	Planting Area (sq.ft.)	Spacing (in.)	Space/plant (sq.ft.)	# of Plants	Height (ft.)
Scientific								
Aster novae-angliae		New England Aster	1A	11	24	4	3	2-5
Chelone glabra		Turtlehead	1B	12	24	4	2	2-5
			2	7	12	1	8	2-3
			3A	7	18	2.25	3	2-3
Iris versicolor		Northern Blue Flag	3B	11	18	2.25	6	2-3
			4A	10	18	2	7	1-4
Lobelia siphilitica		Great Lobelia	4B	11	18	2	5	1-4
Monarda didyma		Bee Balm	5	18	18	2.25	5	2-5
Polemonium reptans		Jacob's Ladder	6	7	12	1	4	1.5-2
			7A	12	12	1	5	2-4
Rudbeckia triloba		Brown-eyed Susan	7B	17	12	1	15	2-4



- 1 = FLAGPOLE
- 2 = DRAIN PIPE (DOWNSPOUT)

CITY OF NORTON

MEMO



To: Scott Pelot, President of Council

From: Richard Ryland, Administrative Officer *RR*

Date: August 15, 2008

Re: Columbia Woods Park Gazebo location

It has been determined that the soil conditions on the peninsula require excavation and replacement. The cost of preparing the ground, together with other cost increases, is prohibitive. Accordingly, a new location has been identified.

Please be advised that the Gazebo location has been moved from the peninsula at the pond to the circle at the end of the drive near the picnic pavilion and playground.

/amc

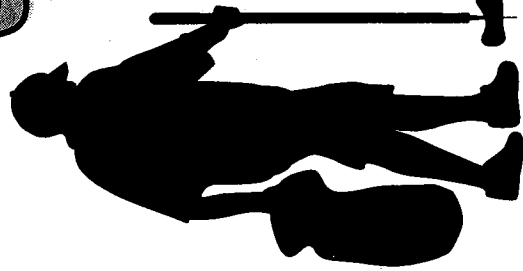
cc: Mayor Koontz
Council Members and Clerk
Department Heads
file

Interested Residents, Civic and Community Groups
COME JOIN US FOR

Norton Clean-Up Day ROAD-SIDE LITTER PICK UP

Saturday, September 20th

8:00a-10:00a



Meet IN FRONT OF the NORTON

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING before 8:00 a.m.

Be sure to wear bright clothing!

Donuts and coffee/juice, then Hot Dogs and a drink will be provided!

In Preparation of the

20th Cider Festival
Norton, Ohio

Sept 26th thru 28th 2008

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER YOUR

PARTICIPATION IN THIS EVENT!!!!

For additional information, please contact:

City Administration Building @ 330-825-7815 ext. 14



Mayor David L. Koontz

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
David L. Koontz
CITY OF NORTON, OHIO
4060 Columbia Woods Dr.
Norton OH 44203

CONTACT: (330) 825-7815, Ext. 14
Administrative Assistant: Ann Campbell
Date: Monday, August 04, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On Thursday, **August 7, 2008 at 1:00p**, Mayor David Koontz will be dedicating the memorial granite bench in honor of the late Chief Forest C. Diefendorff, Sr. Chief Diefendorff served the City as Norton's first Police Chief in 1961 until he retired in 1989. The dedication will take place directly in front of the Norton Police Station entrance.

end of copy

Transmitted To: Newspapers: Akron Beacon Journal
Barberton Herald
West Side Leader
Trading Post

cc: Mayor Koontz
City Council and Clerk
Chief of Police
Police Dispatch
Department Heads
Parks and Cemetery Board Members
Boards and Commissions Secretary
Retired Chief Greg Carris
The Diefendorff Family
Bulletin Boards

- Lisa Merrick - wed, Aug 6.

**Mayor David Koontz
4060 Columbia Woods Dr.
Norton, OH 44203**

CC: Rick Ryland
Pam Campbell
Parks + Cemetery Board
Mbrs
file

August 1, 2008

Dear Mayor Koontz,

This letter is to state my resignation from the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Board. My opinion is that there is not enough interest, and frankly, I am finding this new experience to be frustrating.

During most of the meetings, members were either late, or did not even show up at all. During one of our meetings, I tried to give a well thought out and informative presentation including information on the last years of the Cemetery Board, history of our cemeteries and needed repairs. My presentation was met with inattentiveness and lack of interest by some of the members.

My first reaction to merging the Cemetery Board with the Parks and Recreation Board was that there would be more support. My opinion has changed. The cemeteries are an entity unto themselves and I feel they do not belong in the same venue as baseball, soccer and basketball.

I would like to request that the Cemetery Board files that are kept at the Community Center be moved to the Lahr House as historical records. The files reflect the history of the cemeteries, local cemetery information, inquiries, maps and family research. They would be better served having community access in a historical location.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve my city. I have enjoyed being on the Cemetery Board for the past six years.

Sincerely,



**Lisa A. Merrick
3088 Hametown Rd.
Norton, OH 44203
(330) 825-6367**

**Mayor David Koontz
4060 Columbia Woods Dr.
Norton, OH 44203**

RECEIVED-CITY OF NORTON

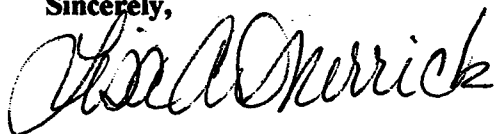
2008 AUG 11 A 10:01

August 9, 2008

Dear Mayor Koontz,

This letter is to ask you to disregard my previous notification of resignation. After careful consideration, I am requesting to continue on in my position on the board of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries.

Sincerely,



**Lisa A. Merrick
3088 Hametown Rd.
Norton, OH 44203
(330) 825-6367**



Office of the Mayor
David L. Koontz

4060 Columbia Woods Drive
Norton, Ohio 44203
Telephone (330) 825-7815 Fax (330) 825-3104

January 13, 2008

Lisa A. Merrick, member
Norton Parks and Cemetery Board
3088 Hametown Rd.
Norton OH 44203

Dear Lisa:

I wish to thank you for your decision to remain an active member on the Norton Parks and Cemetery Board. I believe that your ability to bring forward all of the experience you have gained during your tenure on the Norton Cemetery Board will make for the success of the newly combined Parks and Cemetery Board. Your fellow board members will certainly appreciate your wealth of knowledge of the Norton cemeteries! I wish you, as well as the members of the Parks and Cemetery Board, the greatest success in the re-forming of this newly combined board.

Sincerely,

CITY OF NORTON

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Koontz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David L. Koontz
Mayor

/amc

file

**CITY OF NORTON, OHIO
PARK AND CEMETERY BOARD**

GUEST ATTENDANCE RECORD

The following were present at the Meeting of the Park and Cemetery Board,

Held on: **Thursday, August 14, 2008**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Andrew Gipson

353 Crestwood Ave.

WADSWORTH, OH- 44281

John Moss

- City of Norton | FINANCE
DIRECTOR

Dee Campbell
Stenographer