

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS/COURTROOM OF THE ROBERT E. NOVITKE MUNICIPAL CENTER, 20025 MACK PLAZA DR., GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Bryant
Council Members: Brown, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Vaughn
ABSENT: None

Also Present: City Administrator Schulte
City Attorney Walling
Treasurer/Comptroller Murphy
City Clerk Antolin
Assistant City Administrator Como
Director of Public Services Kowalski
Recreation Supervisor Gerhart

Motion by Granger, seconded by McConaghy, that all items on tonight's agenda, be received, placed on file, and taken in order of appearance as presented.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Brown, Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Vaughn
No: None
Absent: None

The first item of tonight's meeting was to discuss the 2023 Park Improvement Proposal (PIP) submitted by the Citizens' Recreation Commission. Amanda York, Chair of the Citizens' Recreation Commission, provided an overview of the PIP including Ghesquiere, Lake Front, Sweeney, and Chene-Trombley Parks. The PIP evaluated all of the parks' purposes, future visions, safety repairs needed, proposed enhancements, and the availability for toddlers to seniors.

The PIP provided an overall analysis suggesting that the parks needed more toddler age-appropriate equipment, more gathering areas for larger groups, and activities suited for all ages. The following list are the top priority enhancements to the various parks:

Ghesquiere Park – Build a pavilion with picnic tables, add walking path around the perimeter of the park, add dog park to front of municipal complex with additional fencing, bag dispenser, trash can.

Lake Front Park – Add Splash pad, new cooking grills, resurface bocce ball/shuffleboard courts.

Sweeney Park – Improve drainage, however, Administration stated this issue has been addressed.

Chene-Trombley was briefly discussed as this project is still under discussion with administration, the architects, and the Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation.

The Committee stated that the Citizens' Recreation Commission did a great job with the Park Improvement Plan and its presentation.

There was a brief discussion addressing the replacement of wood chips with rubber matting, as to whether it was more of a safety issue or an accessibility enhancement.

In addition, the Committee addressed that Ghesquiere Park should be a priority, as the award-winning Winterfest attracts 800 to 2,000 people. Issues included pavement repairs, tripping hazards, and unusable playground equipment.

This project will be brought back to a future Committee-of-the-Whole meeting after further discussion with Administration and Stuckey Vitale Architects.

The next item addressed was regarding Commission members allowed on only one commission, unless under special exception approved by the Mayor and Council.

A brief discussion ensued. In the event a commission cannot find additional members, exceptions will be given on a case by case basis to allow a person to be in more than one commission. A letter will be distributed to the commissions in regards to exceptions given when members are difficult to recruit.

Under New Business, the following individuals were heard:

- Councilmember Gafa wanted to clarify incorrect information, regarding a false Facebook post stating the City approved low-income housing near St. Michael's church. He wanted to warn others of fallacies on social media.
- Councilmember Granger commented on power outages and possible warming centers at the Community Center.
- Councilmember Vaughn addressed dog waste receptacles. There was a suggestion to place a reminder on the "Happenings" of available receptacles in the city.

Under Public Comment, the following individuals were heard:

- Alyssa Scallopini, 1750 Huntington – Dog park concerns

- Lisa Fuller, GPW Foundation – Possible Master Plan for Ghesquiere Park/Responsibilities
- Shawn Duffy, Grosse Pointe Woods-Shores Little League – Willing to participate with baseball fields enhancements

Motion by Granger, seconded by Koester, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 8:16 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

Arthur W. Bryant
Mayor