

## **Minutes of the Grosse Pointe Woods Tree Commission Meeting September 4, 2024.**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Gaskin at 7:40 p.m.

The following members were present:

Kate Colborn  
Laura Gaskin  
Gary Lechner  
Paul Lechner  
Tim Madigan  
Mary Ellen Meyering  
Christina Pitts  
Randy Rennpage  
Steve Skorupski

The following members were excused:

Dave Andrews  
Maria Galbo

The following members were absent:

The following were also in attendance:

Michael Koester, Council Representative

Motion by Rennpage, seconded by Madigan to approve the agenda for the meeting September 4, 2024 passed by the following vote:

Yes: 8 No: 0 Absent: 3

Motion by Madigan, seconded by Rennpage to approve the minutes for the meeting June 5, 2024, passed by the following vote:

Yes: 8 No: 0 Absent: 3

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Randy Rennpage reported that there is a new contact at the city, LaToya has replaced Steve Schmidt. The only change has been \$80 in donations made since the last meeting.

### **Old Business:**

We welcome Christina Pitts as an official member of the Commission!

Budget discussion was deferred as Chair Lechner was to arrive late due to a schedule conflict.

Madigan suggested waiting on the Tree Dedication plan until the new year. G Lechner will create an outline for discussion for both the Tree Dedication and Arbor Day activities.

Andrews was absent, but has put together a request for a \$20,000 Michigan DNR Community Forestry Grant, He will finalize it with assistance from G Lecher and submit it this month.

**New Business:**

There was much discussion about where we as a Commission should direct our energy. We identified four areas that need to be improved: the boulevards of Mack Ave, the City Hall grove areas, Memorial Tree planning, and improvement of the tree canopy in the neighborhoods. Our plans need to include such areas as use of native species, diversity, a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees, possibly instituting a tree replacement ordinance and use of landscape architects.

Following some discussion a motion was made:

Motion by Madigan, seconded by Rennpage that we ask the City to budget \$125,000 annually for reforestation of the Grosse Pointe Woods tree canopy with the initial phase being the greening of Mack Avenue, and to request time to present plans to City Council. We all feel there is a great need to impress on Council that this is a worthy endeavor. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 9 No: 0 Absent: 2

Also there is a need to educate the public about proper mulching and tree care best practices including both homeowners and the DPW and other contractors. Pitts will put a proposal together.

Council Representative Michael Koester provided an update of current city business.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. moved by Gaskin, and seconded by Rennpage, was unanimous.

Submitted by: Mary Ellen Meyering Office Held: Secretary Cell: 313 505 2352