

Minutes of the Grosse Pointe Woods Tree Commission Meeting November 6, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lechner at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Dave Andrews
Kate Colborn
Maria Galbo
Laura Gaskin
Gary Lechner
Paul Lechner
Tim Madigan
Mary Ellen Meyering
Christina Pitts
Randy Rennpage

The following members were excused:

Steve Skorupski

The following members were absent:

The following were also in attendance:

Basil Zavinski, DPW and Michael Koester, Council Representative

Motion by Gaskin, seconded by Madigan to approve the agenda for the meeting November 6, 2024 passed by the following vote:

Yes: 10 No: 0 Absent: 1

Motion by Madigan, seconded by Andrews to approve the minutes for the meeting October 2, 2024, passed by the following vote:

Yes: 10 No: 0 Absent: 1

Treasurer's Report:

Randy Rennpage reported that there has been no change in our account balance since the last meeting.

Old Business:

Andrews reported that we were not awarded the Michigan DNR Community Forestry Grant.

Ninety-four trees were planted this fall by the City which included replacement trees due to road construction on Roslyn. All tree requests by residents were fulfilled. A dozen pines and nine swamp oaks were transferred to permanent locations from the "nursery" as Ghesquire Park.

Many trees on Lochmoor still need to be replaced. Residents are being discouraged from planting on the cross streets under the power lines.

G. Lechner reported on his research into tree sales and giveaways. Seth Krupp from the City of Grosse Pointe told him that 150 trees were purchased through their sale. The prices ranged from \$20-120. Jasmine Bridges from Coronado CA said that they gave away 109 trees in the spring and 151 in the fall. Residents had to pick the trees up. The trees were 2-6 feet tall. Their cost averaged \$56 per tree. Both groups said their biggest problem was the availability of trees for them to acquire for the event.

Lawrence Sobson would be willing to conduct a webinar and a walking tour coordinated with a seedling giveaway. A motion was made by Pitts, seconded by Andrews that we conduct a tree sale in conjunction with an educational program by Lawrence Sobson. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 10 No: 0 Absent: 1

A subcommittee consisting of Andrews, G. Lechner, Pitts and Madigan was set up to organize the program and outside walk, coordinated with a tree sale. They will report at the next meeting.

New Business:

Rennpage voiced his concerns about the Memorial Tree Program. He is concerned that the City states that no new trees are available for markers and yet trees are being planted in the parks. A lively discussion ensued. Some of the thoughts are:

- The Memorial Tree program needs to be rethought. It seems that the City does not see the importance of adding trees to the canopy here in GPW.
- We feel that our mission is to aid in the reforestation of GPW and are concerned about the City's lack of response in replacing the dead Memorial Trees, specially the ones in the two groves at City Hall.
- Mack Avenue is the gateway to GPW, and tree should be replanted and refreshed to make a better appearance.

A subcommittee was set up including Gaskin, Pitts, Rennpage and G Lechner to plan how best to address the City Council with our concerns.

Remaining agenda items were tabled due to the late hour.

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

Motion to adjourn at 9:39 p.m. moved by Pitts, and seconded by Andrews, was unanimous.

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