



**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS
NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE**

Monday, February 24, 2025 at 7:15 PM

*Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center - Council/Court Room
20025 Mack Plaza Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
(313) 343-2440*

Mayor Arthur W. Bryant has called a meeting of the City Council, meeting as a Committee-of-the-Whole, for **Monday, February 24, 2025 at 7:15 PM**. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers/Municipal Court Room of the Municipal Building, 20025 Mack Plaza Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236 and is accessible through the Municipal Court doors. In accordance with Public Act 267, the meeting is open to the public and the agenda items are as follows:

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**
- 4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
 - A. Community Tree Commission Inquiries
 1. Letter 02/19/25 - Paul Lechner, Chair of the Community Tree Commission
 2. Community Tree Commission By-Laws
- 5. NEW BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 6. ADJOURNMENT**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC ACT 267 (OPEN MEETINGS ACT)
POSTED AND COPIES GIVEN TO NEWSPAPERS

The City of Grosse Pointe Woods will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired, or audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities. All such requests must be made at least five days prior to a meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Grosse Pointe Woods by writing or call the City Clerk's office, 20025 Mack Plaza, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236 (313) 343-2440 or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) 313 343-9249.

cc: Council - 7	Treasurer/Comptroller	Assistant City Administrator
City Administrator	City Clerk	Post - 4
City Attorney	Email Group/Media	

February 19, 2025

Mayor and City Council
City of Grosse Pointe Woods
20025 Mack Plaza
Grosse Pointe Woods MI 48236

RE: Committee of the Whole (COW) Meeting February 24, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council,

As Community Tree Commissioners, we volunteer to represent the citizens' interests in trees as a distinctive hallmark of our city --the WOODS of Grosse Pointe Woods. We've joined the Commission as a commitment to reforestation and tree conservation, wishing to see taxes put to best use for a healthy, sustainable tree canopy. Our remit is to *assist the city to establish and maintain a comprehensive forestry program... to plant, care for and protect trees... to Keep the Woods in Grosse Pointe Woods.* (See *Celebrating the Trees of Grosse Pointe Woods* 2004 P1) In our ongoing effort to that end, we've requested the COW meeting February 24, 2025.

As the Commission learns more about reforestation, tree conservation, and environmental sustainability, we recognize great opportunity for GPW to expand its efforts to grow and sustain a thriving urban forest that attracts residents, businesses and enhances citizens' health and well-being. (See *2024 Master Plan* p 42).

The Commission seeks to build **collaboration** with the Council and Forestry Division to assist in creating a long-term Tree City Strategy, including short-term actions that will have an immediate positive impact. Fortunately, with adoption of the **GPW 2024 Master Plan** we now have a guide for strategy, goals and actions. The Master Plan specifically emphasizes the need to **Increase healthy tree canopy throughout the City.** (Goal 5 – Resiliency Objective 2).

COW Meeting Goal: Our goal for this meeting is to promote clarity and mutual understanding between the Council and Tree Commission about commitment to a comprehensive forestry program that sustains a lush, healthy canopy in our city.

-- Key Questions to Explore--

1. What is the Council's **Vision** for "celebrating the trees of Grosse Pointe Woods," including reforestation and conservation? (*Celebrating the Trees of Grosse Pointe Woods* 2004 P 12)
 - ⇒ Example – Tree Commission Draft Vision: **A community that models reforestation and tree conservation, promoting a healthy, vibrant, lush 'Tree City' true to our name Grosse Pointe Woods.**
2. What is the Council's **commitment** to abide by **Master Plan Goal 5** to **"Increase healthy tree canopy throughout the City,"** and create a **Strategic Plan** to be implemented by the Forestry Division?

-- Key Questions to Explore --
(Cont'd)

3. What are possible **Strategic Priorities**, guided by the 2024 Master Plan? For example:
 - ⇒ **Healthy Tree Canopy**: Conservation-Restoration-Reforestation (E.g., Mack Avenue Corridor, Vernier Median, Lochmoor Median, Parks, Neighborhoods)
 - ⇒ **Education** (E.g., Arbor Day, Communication [Website, Other])
 - ⇒ **Community Engagement** (E.g., Memorial Trees Program/Grove, Holiday Tree Lighting)
 - ⇒ **Resources** (E.g., Budget, Grants, Consulting Agencies, Benchmark Communities, Tree Nursery)

4. What are the **Roles & Responsibilities** necessary to successfully complete the strategic plan?
 - ⇒ Forestry Division (Licensed Forester; Forestry Division Representative attending each Tree Commission meeting)
 - ⇒ Tree Commission (E.g., Expanded role beyond Memorial Trees, Arbor Week, Fall Tree Planting)
 - ⇒ Mayor/Council (E.g., Ordinance for City/Business/Resident Compliance per Tree City USA guidelines)
 - ⇒ City Administrator
 - ⇒ Other

5. What is a reasonable **Budget** to support fulfilling the strategic plan?

We are eager to engage with you at the COW meeting to discover and determine how we can better partner to develop and implement an enhanced comprehensive forestry program that earns the prestige of Tree City USA.

Additionally, we extend an open invitation to you to join us at any of our monthly meetings.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Lechner

Paul G. Lechner
Chair, Grosse Pointe Woods Community Tree Commission

CC: City Administrator
Tree Commission Members

**COMMUNITY TREE ADVISORY
COMMISSION
BY-LAWS**

**Legend: New
text = bolded,
capitalized,
italics.**

*Authority: Adopted March, 1979, revised 1986, 1994, 1996, 2004
AMENDED 2008*

Authority: Section 2-380 City Code

ARTICLE 1. PURPOSE The purpose of the Community Tree Advisory Commission shall be to encourage effective management of tree resources; promote and publicize an annual Arbor Day proclamation and commemorative tree planting; inform the community at large of programs for comprehensive tree management; coordinate the efforts of individual property owners, civic and youth organizations and city government to preserve the plant material that characterizes the City of Grosse Pointe Woods.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP The Community Tree Advisory Commission member shall be eleven (11) persons, residents of Grosse Pointe Woods. In the event of a resignation from the Community Tree Advisory Commission, within a month, the remaining members of the Commission shall recommend to the Mayor the name of a resident who shall serve out the unexpired term of the resigned member. Members of the Commission must demonstrate a genuine interest in tree management and a reasonable amount of technical knowledge in the field. If such interest or participation is not forthcoming, the Chair shall advise the Mayor that removal from the Commission would be in order. Every member is expected to serve as a chairperson or committee chair/co-chairperson of a commission project/program.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS The officers of the Community Tree Advisory Commission shall be:

- A. Chair
- B. Vice Chair
- C. Secretary
- D. Treasurer

The Chair will preside at all regular and special meetings.

The Vice Chair, in the absence of the Chair, shall act in his/her place.

The Secretary shall record all pertinent information at each and every meeting. Copies of the minutes shall be forwarded to the Chair and Deputy Clerk no later than one (1) week following each meeting. Maintain complete files of the minutes, activities and agenda of the commission.

The Treasurer shall submit the proposed budget to the chairman in January for commission approval at the January meeting. Report the current budget status at each

meeting. Administer the budget and track expenditures. Coordinate budget with administration.

The officers shall be elected by a majority of the members present. Terms of office shall be for one (1) year. Such election shall be held at the December meeting of each year. Officers shall assume positions at the January meeting.

The Chair shall appoint a nominating committee composed of two members at the October meeting of each year. The nominating committee shall present the slate of proposed officers in November of each year.

⇒ **ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS** The Community Tree Advisory Commission shall hold regular monthly meetings at the discretion of the members, *WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JANUARY, JULY AND AUGUST.*

1. Special meetings shall be held, as special business or circumstances occur.
2. The Chair/or Secretary shall notify all members by mail of the time and date of all regular and special meetings at least five (5) days prior to such meetings.
3. A majority of members shall constitute a quorum for the transactions of business.
4. It shall be the duty of the Chair/or Secretary to provide an agenda for each meeting. Such agenda to consist of: 1. Roll call 2. Approval of minutes 3. Pertinent business and reports 4. New business 5. Setting time and date of the next meeting followed by adjournment.
5. All matters appearing on the agenda must be submitted in writing to the Chair/or Secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

All matters requiring a vote must first be read in the form of a motion, seconded and discussed.

6. A one (1) vote plurality will be considered adequate for passage of a motion.

Amendment
approved by Council
on: 03-03-08.