

Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission
March 6, 2019 Meeting Minutes - Grosse Pointe Park City Hall

1. **Call to Order:** 7:31 PM Kimberly Clextan, Chairperson
2. **Roll Call:**
 - a. **Present:** Kimberly Clextan, Barbara Miller, Lisa Kyle, Brian Colter, Matthew Chunn, Dee Cimini, Armen Gulian, Lauri Read, Brad Etheridge, Pat Deck, Katherine Paquette, Janet Peplin, Bill Balance
 - b. **Absent:** Shellie Hansen, Laura Orme, Trevor Dink
3. **Approval of Minutes:** February 6, 2019 minutes approved with corrections
4. **Chairperson's Comments:**
 - a. **Introduction of Commission Appointees:** We have two new Commissioners, both with a long history in the Grosse Pointes. They will be appointed at the March 11, 2019 GPP City Council Meeting, Lauri provided a copy of the Council Agenda. Commissioners are encouraged to attend. The Commission welcomes:
 - i. **Katherine Paquette**
 - ii. **Brad Etheridge**
 - iii. **Jennifer Munson (not able to attend Commission meeting)**
 - b. **Chairperson's Meeting with Nick Sizeland, Assistant City Manager:** Kim met with Nick to discuss an increased Commission presence in the community through the City website, social media and the Park Communicator. Commissioners reviewed Communicator deadlines and the publishing schedule. Marybeth Hathaway is the editor, articles and requests for publication may be sent to her directly. Plans to provide information about the Beautification Commission with resident park passes was proposed, Commissioners were receptive to this idea.
5. **Correspondence:** Pat received very positive feedback from residents who received their Holiday Decoration Award certificates, Commissioners report seeing certificates that residents posted on social media.
6. **Publicity:**
 - a. **Communicator Deadline Reminder:** April 15, 2019 - Arbor Day winners and poster photos will be highlighted in the next issue. Brian always takes photos which are available for local news and online publicity. Pat mentioned that we have been bumped out of issues in the past. Brian indicated that communicating ahead that we have items to include may be helpful.
7. **Beautification Awards:**
 - a. **Dates:** Kim reported that Mayor Denner would like to see an increase in attendance at the event. Pat proposed that the area team leaders could make telephone calls to winners to invite and/or remind them about the event. Matt suggested an electronic calendar invite or reminder. The Commission discussed the possibility of changing the event date to October and it was agreed that we should try October for this year. Lisa mentioned this will cut down on processing time, Janet discussed revising our processing schedule and providing an updated schedule for an October event. Bill Balance stated an October event would work much better as the November meeting includes officer nominations for the following year, we always run short on time before the event to discuss. Available dates at the Tompkins Center are: October 3, 9, 10, 16, 17. Pat noted a conflict with KMB for October 17 and 18, the final decision is for an October 10 ceremony event.
 - b. **Event Planning:** Janet would like to see each area present awards and read descriptions at the event. She would also like to move toward a committee for award planning and tasks. The Commission discussed how to assign tasks, Lisa mentioned creating the committee structure and assigning sub-chairs and members at a future meeting. Janet stated tasks could also be assigned by group. We discussed limiting each area to 5 awards. We discussed possibly having one additional meeting in June or July to facilitate the earlier event date.
8. **Forestry Report:** Brian indicated it was imperative that necessary oak tree pruning or trimming be conducted now, before the temperature warms much farther, to protect from oak wilt disease. Pruning and trimming scars provide the insect vector an entry to infect oaks, they will be active again soon. Brian provided Nick with promotional material for residents with a link to the Oak Wilt Coalition, it included a chart indicating when it is safe to trim and prune.
9. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Arbor Week:** Pat surveyed classrooms at 195 students able to participate. Last year we had a very low participation rate, mainly due to Trombly with only two submissions. Pat spoke with their principal

who will speak with the fourth grade teachers. Pat has approval from each elementary school principal, she provided the Commission with the contest guidelines she provides for the teachers. Brian is obtaining the seedlings and pencils from the Arbor Day Foundation. The pencils read " Plant A Tree" and will be given to students who participate. The Commission will judge the posters at the next meeting on April 11, 2019.

- b. Spring Perennial Exchange:** Dee is talking to Marybeth about removing the composting information from the Communicator. If mulch is available the day of the event, Brian will have shovels out so residents can take advantage of it. Dee and Armen are working on a kids' craft, a vase using masking tape and shoe polishes. They need plain, smaller sized jars with the labels removed, Commissioners, please bring some to the next meeting if you have any.
- c. Website Presence:** Janet passed out a list of Commission activities and ideas to assist Commissioners with promotion through the City website. Lauri noted that the City Council will vote on a new website upgrade proposal, if passed our new website should be much improved with easier access to information.

10. Addition to the Agenda:

- a.** Lauri reported that the City Planning Commission has begun a process to revise the Master Plan for GPP. One of their representatives was to attend the meeting tonight but could not make it. They are asking all of the Commissions to provide input for the new plan and are actively seeking public engagement. The Commission discussed ideas to include supporting beautification efforts in the city. Lisa will provide Lauri with some preliminary items to consider that support both beautification and environmental sustainability, including protecting our watershed and creation of habitat corridors. The Commission will discuss further at future meetings.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:06 PM

Next Beautification Commission Meeting: Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 7:30 PM - Courtroom, City Hall

Minutes Submitted by Lisa Kyle (on behalf of Shellie Hansen, Recording Secretary).