

COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 11, 2016

7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the City of Grosse Pointe Park was held on Monday, January 11, 2016, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following were present: Councilmembers Clark, Arora, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

Also present: Dale Krajniak, City Manager, Jane M. Blahut, Finance Director/Clerk, Stephen Poloni, Director of Public Safety, and Dennis J. Levasseur, City Attorney.

MINUTES – DECEMBER 14, 2015

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the minutes of the December 14, 2015 meeting for approval as presented.

Motion by Councilmember Robson, supported by Councilmember Clark, to approve the minutes of December 14, 2015, for approval as presented.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Arora, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

OFF LEASH DOG PARK CONSIDERATION

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the topic of an off leash dog park. He noted this issue has been under consideration for the last year and has been discussed in length by several commissions namely, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission, and the City Council.

Mayor Denner stated the sites under consideration are at Windmill Pointe Park, Patterson Park, and the city owned property at Mack and Wayburn. Many residents provided their site choices for and against all locations. To provide an off leash dog park located within the community would be a desirable amenity for the residents, however, the location has to be suitable. The funds are not available within the capital improvement budget. The City operates on a lien budget and resources to support this project would have to be through private donors and fundraisers.

Mayor Denner stated the Parks and Recreation Director has stated neither of the parks would be the best location for a dog park.

Councilmember Detwiler stated she personally is in favor of a dog park, but not at the parks. She spoke with many of the residents along Patterson Park and they do not want a dog park in their back yard. Windmill Pointe Park would be adversarial with the weddings and parties and the volley ball in the summer months. She believes the funds could be raised through fund raising and offered to participate in those efforts. The best location within Grosse Pointe Park would be at Mack and Wayburn, possibly with a bigger development. It would be a nice entry into the City.

Councilmember Arora stated from the feedback she has heard, she is not sure if it would be utilized at Mack and Wayburn. It would be wasteful to spend resources on a dog park if it is not used.

Councilmember Clark stated that the Mack and Wayburn area of the City needs redevelopment and we could make it an asset to the community. The property in that location was purchased a decade ago with the intent to develop it. Because of economic conditions, the City put a stand still on all development. He agreed with many of the Council that the best location would be at Mack and Wayburn.

Motion by Councilmember Clark, supported by Councilmember Grano, to direct the City Administration to redevelop the Mack and Wayburn site to include a dog park in conjunction with fund raising efforts, schedules of fees, rules and regulations.

Mayor Denner clarified the site location at Mack and Wayburn.

- 1) The property borders Wayburn, Alter, and Mack
- 2) Alter Road property in Detroit is owned by Grosse Pointe Park
- 3) Property in Grosse Pointe Park would be the area the park would be located
- 4) The intent would be to have the park located within Grosse Pointe Park city limits

Councilmember Grano stated he is very interested in a dog park and noted after reviewing all the information, his conclusion is that the water front parks would not be a suitable location. He also stated he doesn't believe Mack and Wayburn is a perfect site but if it is built in conjunction with a larger redevelopment and could be a suitable site to dog owners and make the entrance into Grosse Pointe Park very desirable. The more that goes in to this area of the City, would make it less intimidating for residents.

Councilmember Robson stated he has grappled with this issue and the cons outweigh the pros at all locations. He noted the biggest is funding the project. He noted of the three locations, he recommends Mack and Wayburn.

Councilmember Chouinard stated there has been a lot of discussion about redeveloping that corner of the City. He inquired if there was a rendering of the dog park in conjunction with the redevelopment.

Resident Kudzia stated he does not want to see public works building constructed in that corner of the city.

Mayor Denner stated he has visited the other dog parks in the area and noted Grosse Pointe Farms Dog Park is 3/4 of an acre, Grosse Pointe Shores is approximately 1/10 of an acre, Grosse Pointe Woods is approximately 1/4 of an acre and St. Clair Shores is 1.1/4 of an acre. If the dog park was placed at Mack and Wayburn, it would be approximately 2/3 of an acre. Not as desirable as 3/4 of an acre, however we would have to work with the land Grosse Pointe Park owns.

Mayor Denner stated we will know more when we have another site plan.

Resident Bannon stated noise will be an issue and if trees and shrubs are planted to divert the noise, it becomes a safety issue.

City Manager stated the goal of the City is to redevelop that area and include a dog park that is inviting to that area and those who utilize it.

Roll call was taken on the motion. A yes vote indicates the dog park be included in the redevelopment plan at Mack and Wayburn.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: Councilmember Arora

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Denner stated going forward Committee Council Representatives will provide a brief status report of the committee meetings.

Communications Committee:

Councilmember Arora provided a brief overview of the Communication Committee meeting held on January 5, 2016. She noted the Committee discussed ways to communicate better with the public and it was decided to create a monthly calendar and place it on the City's website home page. This calendar will include meetings, trash collection delays and holiday's city offices are closed. She also stated the committee discussed increasing the utilization of Nixle to inform the residents of water main breaks, storm events, limited parking and postings of crime trends. Also discussed was creating a Facebook page to provide information, however it would restrain from allowing postings.

Beautification Committee:

Councilmember Chouinard provided a brief overview of the Beautification Commission meeting. He noted the Commission was enthusiastic about the upcoming year. He stated Brian Colter, City Forrester will be involved in the newsletter. The Arbor Week poster contest will be held in April 2016 and there will be a fall plant exchange. A tree sale will be held in February 2016 and run through April 2016.

Public Service Commission:

Councilmember Grano provided a brief overview of the Public Service Commission meeting. He stated the water plant study was reviewed and indicated if the City elects to pursue building an independent water plant, public hearings will be held to allow for citizen comment. Also discussed was the flood plain South of Jefferson along with an update on the streetscape on Mack Avenue and the street resurfacing program which will begin again in July of this year. He noted the street millage did not include the major roads located in Grosse Pointe Park and there are several that are in need of repair. Also discussed was the relocation of the public works garage and moving the DDOT bus turn around. He also stated a survey of the community infrastructure will be undertaken.

Councilmember Arora recommended when the survey is undertaken to review water line losses.

FINANCE REPORT – NOVEMBER, 2015

Councilmember for Finance Detwiler presented to Mayor and Council the invoices exceeding \$5,000 for the month of November, 2015, for approval as presented.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Payment</u>
Bodman, PLC	Legal and Prosecuting Fee	\$ 21,573
Grosse Pointe Clinton Refuse	Refuse	7,377
Kennedy Industries	Techs for pump repairs	8,720
Spina Electric	Storm drain repairs at Three Mile	12,730
PMI Inspections	Building Inspections	12,877
Rizzo Service	Refuse Collection – October	33,883
Rizzo Service	Recycle Collection – October	11,298
Stantec Consulting	Mack Avenue design	9,949
Phil Pitters	Concrete repairs	11,550

Councilmember Detwiler indicated the invoice to Phil Pitters was for sidewalk and approach repairs and will be charged to the street program. The invoice to Stantec was for the design work on Mack Avenue streetscape plan.

Motion by Councilmember Detwiler, supported by Councilmember Robson, to approve the invoices exceeding \$5,000 for the month of November, 2015, for approval as presented in accordance with Section 2.249 of the Charter.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Arora, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

CLOSED DOOR

Mayor Denner requested that a closed door session be held immediately following the regular meeting to discuss contract negotiations.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Clark, that a closed door session be held immediately following the regular meeting pursuant to contracts.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Arora, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Resident Olds indicated the first two blocks of Vernor into our city is in deplorable condition and should be resurfaced. Also the curbs on Jefferson are in need of replacement.

Resident Mleczko inquired as to the water plant study.

City Manager stated the State of Michigan requires a six month pilot study.

Resident Mleczko indicated there are no construction or operating costs included in Stantec's report. Will the City have a further study with Stantec Consulting.

City Manager stated every aspect of the water plant study will be reviewed by the State of Michigan.

Councilmember Grano stated the Council is interested in what is best for the City and there has not been a decision made at this point. Public Hearings will be held if the Council decides to go forward with an independent water plant.

Resident Kramer expressed disappointment in the condition of some of the homes and ordinance violations in Grosse Pointe Park. He stated he tried calling the building official and did not receive a call back. He contacted the Treasurer's office and his issue was resolved.

With no further business, the meeting convened to closed door session.

The meeting reconvened to open door session.

LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

Motion by Councilmember Clark, supported by Councilmember Detwiler to proceed with actions as discussed in closed door session regarding labor negotiations.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Arora, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None