

COUNCIL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the City of Grosse Pointe Park was held on Monday, September 24, 2018, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

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

Excused absence: Councilmember Robson

MINUTES – AUGUST 27, 2018

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the minutes of August 27, 2018 for approval. He noted there were a few corrections that were brought to the attention of the Clerk.

Councilmember Read noted there were several comments made that were not included in the minutes and requested they be included.

Councilmember Clark attended the MML convention and learned that minutes must be marked “draft pending approval” prior to Council approval.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Read, to approve the minutes of August 27, 2018 with the corrections noted.

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

NAYS: None

Excused absence: Councilmember Robson

16615 E. JEFFERSON

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the request by Marc Weaver of 16615 E. Jefferson a variance from Section 27-100 (b) of the Zoning Ordinance, which prohibits fences in a front yard.

The applicant wishes to erect a four-foot high fence in the front yard setback. This property is located on the corner of East Jefferson and Cadieux and must maintain front yards on both of these streets. The ordinance prohibits fences in the front yard. Approval of this proposal would require that the Board of Zoning Appeals grant a variance.

Mr. Weaver stated he has lived in this home for five years. They have a two-year old daughter who is very active along with a dog, and living on Jefferson they are concerned for safety. He noted the footprint of his home only provides ten feet of yard behind his home.

Mr. Gaskin the immediate neighbor is in support of the fence.

Councilmember Clark stated he is generally conservative on approving variances, however, with the uniqueness of his particular lot and the side and front yards both restricted, he stated his support for the variance.

Councilmember Detwiler stated her support for the fence variance, as it is attractive, not a solid fence, and due to the hardship provided favor the fence.

Mayor Denner stated he is inclined to support the request indicating there is support from the immediate neighbor and with the home located on Jefferson and a young child.

Motion by Councilmember Clark, supported by Councilmember Detwiler, to approve the variance to Mr. Weaver of 16615 E. Jefferson for a fence in the front and side yard of his property as the strict application of Section 27-100 results in an unnecessary hardship – variance can be granted due to the uniqueness of the lot along with the immediate neighbor supporting such variance. There are no public safety implications associated with the variance as requested.

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

NAYS: None

Excused absence: Councilmember Robson

LIBRARY MILLAGE RENEWAL

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the Library Millage Renewal presentation by Jessica Kaiser, Library Director of the Grosse Pointe Libraries.

Ms. Keyser presented a brief over of the information regarding the millage renewal that will be on the November, 2018, ballot.

Ms. Keyser stated the mission of the library is to expand learning, inspire creativity, and connect our community.

The core values are service, access to resources, intellectual curiosity, innovation and respect and inclusion.

In 2018 there were 496,271 items circulated, 466,073 library visitors, 29,023 people attended our programs and 76,662 reference questions answered by the staff.

Ms. Keyser noted the voters will be asked to renew the Library's millage of 0.6847 mills for eight years, starting in 2020.

The millage will be used for operations, new materials, technology, building maintenance and improvements, and pay down bonds for Ewald and Woods branches.

Ms. Keyser stated for a State Equalized Value of 100,000 would equate to \$68.00 per year.

Ms. Keyser stated the library receives approximately 30% of funding from this tax source, and if it is not renewed services would be severely impacted.

Mayor Denner inquired when the existing millage was established.

Ms. Keyser stated the existing millage was voted in 2011, and collected beginning in 2012.

Councilmember Detwiler inquired as to the bond payoff date.

Ms. Keyser stated 2027.

Councilmember Clark stated he will vote favorably on the millage renewal in November.

Councilmember Chouinard inquired if the library is considering opening the Ewald branch on Sundays.

Ms. Keyser indicated it is under review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Denner presented to Council consideration the committee reports for the meetings since the Council last met.

Beautification

Councilmember Read provided the following information:

- Letters have been sent to the 2018 Beautification Awards winners and preparation continues for the awards ceremony scheduled for November 8th.
- October 6th is the Fall Perennial Plant Exchange from 9:30 – 11:00 at the Tompkins Center
- November 17th is the Holiday Tree Lighting and gift market at Windmill Pointe Park and will be held in the Golden Gym.
- The next regular meeting of the Beautification Commission will be on October 3rd at 7:30 P.M. the slate for the 2019 officers will be established.

Parks and Recreation

Councilmember Chouinard provided the following information:

- 2018 was a busy season at the parks
- Electrical upgrades were completed at the Marina
- Pool closed Labor Day weekend, and consideration to possibly keep the pool open a few more weeks, if lifeguards are available
- Halloween in the Park is scheduled for Saturday, October 27th
- Grosse Pointe Park won the swim finals this year, winning two out of the last three seasons
- Classic movies to start in mid-November
- A licensed Physical Therapist, and two personal trainers were added to the staff
- Kayak racks will be closing November 1st
- Fall Harvest is scheduled for September 29th
- Kercheval After Six was a big success again this summer
- Saturday Night Throw Back on Charlevoix was also a big success

- Pickle Ball outdoor courts will be done in the spring, reviewing the option of doing one court in the gym

City Manager stated there were over 130,000 people attending our parks this summer season.

Planning Commission

Councilmember Clark provided the following information:

- Planning Commission met on September 19th
- A meeting schedule will be established and notices pre- meeting will be posted on the City website
- Statutory requirements have been met relative to staggering terms of office and required meetings per year
- A sub-committee was established for updating the Master Plan to review in earnest
- Sub-committee members are David Gaskin, Malik Goodwin, and Mike Fikany.

Councilmember Read stated she attended the MML Planning Commission session and the two points she took away were the use of professional urban planning firms and public engagement.

FINANCE REPORT – AUGUST, 2018

Councilmember for Finance presented to Mayor and Council for consideration the invoices exceeding \$5,000 for the month of August, 2018, for approval as presented.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Payment</u>
J & W Tree Artisans	Tree care/grind brush from storm at Windmill Pointe Park	\$ 15,200
Build Safe Inspection Services	Building Inspector – July services	10,350
Bodman, PLC	Pros. Atty. & retainer fee – July	10,000
Great Lakes Water	Water usage – June	118,214
CTI	Foxcreek seawall – engineering	28,384
Green for Life	Recycling for August	11,564
Green for Life	Rubbish for August	35,577

Motion by Councilmember Detwiler, supported by Mayor Denner, to approve the invoices exceeding \$5,000 for the month of August, 2018, as presented in accordance with Section 2.249 of the Charter.

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

NAYS: None

Excused Absence: Councilmember Robson

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Road Millage:

Councilmember Grano stated the City needs to put information out to the residents regarding the road millage that will be on the November ballot

City Manager stated a special Park Communicator or special mailing will be circulated.

Councilmember Grano requested a representative of DTE provide information due to the recent outages. City Manager stated he will contact the DTE representative and request attendance.

Councilmember Read inquired as to the status of the traffic light on Maryland and Kercheval. Director Poloni stated he will provide a copy of the written report to Council when he receives the report.

Harcourt resident stated he attended the meeting last month and apprised the Council of several issues he had. He noted the lamp on Jefferson is very bright and shines directly into his window and it is a nuisance to him. An ordinance should be adopted preventing that type of lighting.

Pemberton resident inquired the status of the stop sign at Essex and Pemberton. Director Poloni stated he should receive the report shortly and will forward to Council.

Barrington resident inquired what the bill for CTI for \$28,384 represented. City Manager stated that fee was for engineering services for FEMA studies to maintain Park's opt-out of the 100-year flood plain.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Detwiler, to adjourn the meeting.

The Council unanimously voted in favor of adjournment.