

COUNCIL MEETING – NOVEMBER 19, 2019

7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the City of Grosse Pointe Park was held on Monday, November 19, 2018, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

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

MINUTES – OCTOBER 22, 2018

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the minutes of October 22, 2018, for approval with one minor correction recognizing the Council Meeting date for November of 2019. This meeting is scheduled for the third Monday, rather than the second or fourth in recognition of Veteran's Day.

Motion by Councilmember Robson, supported by Councilmember Read, to approve the minutes of October 22, 2018, with the correction as noted.

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

NAYS: None

14950 E. JEFFERSON - VARIANCE

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the request by Amy Conti a variance to allow the operation of a day care center within the OS-1 Office Service District.

Mayor Denner presented a summation of the events that lead up to this hearing on a variance for 14950 E. Jefferson. He noted the Council denied the variance for the day care center in May of 2018 and the issue was presented to the Planning Commission on October 17, 2018, for review. Mayor Denner noted the Planning Commission felt a need exists for this service and advised that Council should revisit the issue.

This notice was sent to all persons owning real property in the City of Grosse Pointe Park within 300 feet of the above premises.

Councilmember Grano stated a day care center would be advantageous for the community and he voted in favor of this request in May. He inquired with the City Attorney if the Council has the jurisdiction to re-consider this issue as it may conflict with the zoning enabling act which does not permit subsequent applications for the same request.

City Attorney stated the Council does have the jurisdiction to reconsider this variance. The Council requested the Planning Commission weigh in on the matter.

Mayor Denner stated the Council accepts the hearing as a subsequent application for a hearing by Zoning Board of Appeals.

Petitioner Amy Conti stated she is requesting a variance for a day care center within the OS-1 Office Service District. The building footprint is 6,800 square feet and the plan is to accept eighty children from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. She stated a sign could be placed at Jefferson and Barrington restricting right hand turns on to Barrington. She stated children drop offs and pick ups would be scheduled for five families within a ten-minute period limiting the back up of traffic.

Councilmember Read stated a drop off and pick up could be accomplished with toddlers, however, she indicated that she did not think that a parent would drop off an infant by simply handing the child over without taking he/she into the building and is not realistic to believe that a window period as proposed would work.

Petitioner stated she would be willing to hire more staff to assure the drop off and pick up would work.

Councilmember Clark expressed his concern regarding the request indicating he does not favor the request due to the site requiring a specific unnecessary hardship as it lies within the OS-1 Office Service District and requires a left-hand turn during rush hour on a major thoroughfare. While the community could use additional day care services, this is the wrong location.

Resident of 965 Barrington expressed opposition as he indicated it would be a burden upon Barrington residents and the increased traffic and parking needs would conflict with snow plowing and the Smart buses during peak times.

Resident of Middlesex expressed the need for a day care center. She stated by approving this variance, it would encourage young families to live in the Park.

Councilmember Read stated with only five employee parking spots and fifteen employees, they would be required to park on Barrington. She stated the several residents she spoke to oppose the idea of cars parking all day long in front of their homes.

Resident of Barrington stated with the peak flow of buses making turns off Jefferson along with the volume of cars. It would create a bottle neck for traffic. She noted his opposition in approving this variance.

Resident of Trombley stated the traffic congestion would increase significantly, noting he was involved in an accident when he was hit by a bus in this area recently.

Mayor Denner inquired with the petitioner if she has approached St. Clare of Montefalco for space as they appear to have the facilities that would be needed to run a business with an uninterrupted flow of traffic.

The Petitioner stated she has reached out and would be grateful if someone could provide the contact at St. Clare.

Mayor Denner stated that Father Andrew was interested in entertaining the idea.

Mayor Denner stated the sense of the Council is that this variance is not going to be approved and although it is a necessity in the Pointes and is greatly needed, the location is not suitable.

Mr. Saros recommended having the issue presented to the Planning Commission prior to the Mayor and Council, acting as the Zoning Board of Appeals would have been beneficial.

Motion by Councilmember Clark, supported by Councilmember Chouinard, to deny the variance request for a day care center within the OS-1 Office Service District due to the peak traffic hours, and public safety issues and there is no specific unnecessary hardship for this use variance.

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

NAYS: None

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

##### Recreation

Councilmember Chouinard summarized the meeting that was held on November 14, 2018 as follows:

##### Windmill Pointe Park

##### Tree Lighting

- Tree Lighting was held on November 17<sup>th</sup>
- Reindeer were there for the children to enjoy, and pictures were taken with Santa
- Approximately 200 people attended and there was a choir that sang Christmas songs
- Cookies and hot chocolate were provided
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##### Lunch with Santa

- Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>
- Three time-sessions are available

##### Chili Fest

- Chili Fest is scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup> and a chili cook off will be held
- Bounce houses and pony rides will be there for the children to enjoy
- An ice-skating competition will be held
- Usually 2,000 people attend

##### Park Attendance

- This year there was 131,878 attendees, an increase over last year by 17,470

##### Commercial Kitchen

- The commercial kitchen improvement will begin soon

Pickleball Courts in the gym to be placed over winter break

Otago Exercise Program Workshop

- Balance, strength and fall prevention

Marina

- Completed installation of 140 rub rails

Patterson Park

- Skate swap scheduled for November 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- Ice rink will be open the Friday after Thanksgiving
- Attendance at the park is up 10,000 from the previous year, totaling 28,469
- The Maintenance garage roof has been completed and the garage door is scheduled for installation

The Saturday Night Throwback on Charlevoix was a success and it will be scheduled again next year

Beautification Commission

Councilmember Read summarized the meeting held on November 8, 2018

- The City hosted the annual beautification awards at the Tompkins Center. There were thirty residential winners, three commercial winners and one very special civic award to Jennifer Munson for her Monarch Butterfly Waystation, noting it was a wonderful event
- The next meeting is scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. at the Tompkins Center

#### FINANCE REPORT – SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER, 2018

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Payment</u>
I.T. Right	Computers, monitors & software set up	\$ 11,659
Build Safe Inspection Services	Building Inspector – August services	10,350
Bodman, PLC	Pros. Atty. & retainer fee	10,000
Great Lakes Water	Waste water – July	150,100
Audio Imaging Specialist	Refurbished light processor	17,175
Grosse Pointe Clinton Refuse	Refuse disposal – July	8,972
KS Statebank	In car video systems and equipment	19,087
Great Lakes Water Authority	Water usage – July	157,681
J & W Tree Artisans	Tree work, remove & trim trees	27,355
Ford Credit Department	Two 2017 police interceptors	19,991
Green for Life	Recycling for September	11,564
Green for Life	Rubbish for September	35,577
Victors Roofing	New roof at Patterson park garage	13,000
Build Safe Inspection Services	Building Inspector – October services	10,350
Bodman, PLC	Pros. Atty. & retainer fee	10,000
Grosse Pointe Clinton Refuse	Refuse disposal – August	9,384
Ford Motor Credit	Two 2018 police interceptors	20,234
Great Lakes Water	Waste water – August	150,100

Cascade Engineering	Toters for residents	9,217
D.F. Best Company	Marina electrical repairs	52,069
DeRoche Construction	Curb work for paving	36,665
Green for Life	Recycling for October	11,564
Green for Life	Rubbish for October	36,189
Canfield Equipment	Strip/Build police vehicles	11,104

Motion by Councilmember Detwiler, and supported by Councilmember Robson, to approve the invoices exceeding \$5,000 for the months of September and October, 2018 as presented in accordance with Section 2.249 of the charter.

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

NAYS: None

#### NEW/OLD BUSINESS

##### Lighting concern:

Resident of Harcourt inquired as to the status of the yard light on the home located along Jefferson.

Councilmember Clark stated the Ordinance Review Committee will be reviewing this issue at the next meeting.

##### Fencing

Councilmember Grano stated construction sites should have fencing around the perimeter to avoid safety issues and asked Administration to review the same.

##### Community Art Project on Jefferson and Manistique

Grand Marais resident invited those present to attend a gathering at Hope Church located on Jefferson and Manistique on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M.

##### Stop Sign

Resident of Pemberton inquired as to the status of a stop sign placement at Essex and Pemberton.

Councilmember Robson stated the Public Safety Committee will be meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> and will be on the agenda for that meeting.

City Manager stated the paving that has not been completed this year will be taken care of next spring.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.