An electronic meeting through Zoom was held due to MDHHS Epidemic Order limiting meeting size and to decrease the spread of COVID-19.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Denner and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following were electronically present: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, and Fluitt, and Mayor Denner.

Also electronically present: Nick Sizeland, City Manager, Jane M. Blahut, Finance Director/Clerk, Jake Howlett, City Attorney, Stephen Poloni, Director of Public Safety, Jim Bostock, Public Safety Lieutenant, and Leah Smith, Assistant to the City Manager.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the approval of the consent agenda as presented.

The consent agenda included the following items:
- Approval of October 26th Meeting Minutes
- Finance Report
- Public Act 152 of 2011 Annual Opt-Out Provision Resolution

Motion by Councilmember Read supported by Councilmember Robson, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Councilmember Fluitt, Robson, and Relan requested changes to the minutes on pages four, six, and seven. Mover and supporter accepted the changes.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, and Fluitt, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the approval of the regular agenda with the addition of a District Update from Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Relan, to approve the regular agenda with the addition of a District Update from Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, and Fluitt, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS)
City Manager Sizeland read three written comments submitted by 3 residents.

No residents made verbal comments.

DISTRICT UPDATE: CONGRESSWOMAN BRENDA LAWRENCE

Mayor Denner introduced Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence.

Congresswoman Lawrence provided an update on current and future action being discussed in Congress.

MANAGERS REPORT

City Manager Sizeland presented a brief overview of the status of issues since the last meeting:

- 2020 Road Program
- Small Cell Application
- Social District
- TIFA and DDA COVID Support Programs
- DTE Update
- COVID-19 Statistics
- Public Works Building
- City Hall Building
- EGLE MI Clean Water Plan
- URIF Discussions Update
- Website and Email Updates

Councilmember Read inquired if the asphalt patches located throughout DTE work areas would be temporary.

City Manager Sizeland stated the asphalt patches were temporary and would be replaced with concrete by DTE when weather permits and/or in the spring.

Councilmember Fluitt requested that a program be implemented for business located at Mack Avenue and Cadieux because they do not qualify for the current DDA and TIFA programs.

COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Recreation Commission:
Councilmember Read stated that the Recreation Commission met on November 4th. The Commission welcomed the newest commissioner James Ceuninck. Parks and Rec Supervisor Chad Craig provided an overview of recreation activities as the City transitions into winter programming while being mindful of COVID issues. The Christmas tree is in place at Windmill Pointe Park and the Parks and Rec Department is exploring safe options for the tree lighting and other holiday activities. Activity updates will be provided through the City emails and posted on the City Facebook page. Winter preparations are also under way at Patterson Park for the ice rink and the sledding hill. The ice rink should open Thanksgiving weekend, weather permitting. The Lavins Fitness Center is open from 7 am – 7 pm and drop-in indoor
pickleball will start on November 17th and will take place Tuesday and Thursday from 1pm – 3pm and Sundays from 10am – 12pm. Indoor karate and the Rock Steady boxing program have also started.

The marina subcommittee held its first meeting on October 28th. It was a good forum for well holders to ask questions and discuss issues particular to the marina. The subcommittee plans to meet one more time this year on a date to be determined. After that, they plan to meet four times per year prior to each Recreation commission meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
UPDATE ON CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

City Manager Sizeland stated that administration reviewed options and logistics to have the council vacancy process in person but determined that it would be best for everyone’s safety to host the event via Zoom due to the increase in COVID-19 cases throughout the Pointes. The meeting to select a new council member will be one meeting, adjourned/recessed at the end of November 10th and continued into a second night on the 12th. The League of Women Voters will be moderating the two days on November 10th and 12th at 5pm and asking questions of the 13 candidates while City Council watches. The Council will select a group of finalists for a second interview on November 12th following the interview sessions on the 10th. After the second interview is complete, City Council will then consider a candidate for the vacancy to be voted on that evening. Public comment will be available at the end of the meeting on the 12th and the entire meeting will be available to the public through live steam via Zoom. The names and applications of the candidates are available to view on the City website.

Councilmember Hodges inquired on who selected the questions the candidates will be answering.

City Manager Sizeland stated that the questions were selected by administration utilizing resources available through MML and researching communities who have been through a similar process.

Councilmember Fluitt inquired on how the finalists would be selected.

Mayor Denner stated that after all the candidates completed their interview the first night, City Council would initially state their top five candidates and determine how to move forward based on how the initial votes fall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
SCHAAP CENTER UPDATE

City Manager Sizeland stated that numerous discussions have taken place with Scott Cave, who is the owners rep, regarding the requests made by City Council in August. Those requests included a discussion regarding a sunset on fundraising, a traffic and parking study, and employing green and sustainable design with construction. At this time, the project engineers are completing a written review of the current green and sustainable design practices and a parking document. According to an update from Schaap Center spokesperson Ms. Turnbull, the Center has raised $22.8 million dollars to date for their capital and endowment fundraising. The Center is scheduled to reach its capital campaign goal and break ground in the summer of 2021 with project completion anticipated by fall 2022. The capital campaign goal is $25 million with $16.8 raised and the endowment goal of $10 million with $6 million raised.
Councilmember Read inquired on the status of the fundraising sunset.

City Manager Sizeland stated that the URIF declined to implement one.

Councilmember Relan requested an update regarding the Public Safety presence the center will require.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember Fluitt requested verification that council had a shared understanding of the agenda setting process laid out in the approved City Council Code of Conduct.

City Manager Sizeland stated that topics emailed to the City Manager and the Mayor within the seven business days before the meeting can be added to the agenda as a discussion item and the discussion will determine if the item needs to be added to future agendas for further Council action.

NEW BUSINESS:
RESOLUTION HONORING DAVE GASKIN

Mayor Denner read the following resolution:
A RESOLUTION HONORING

DAVID M. GASKIN

WHEREAS, David M. Gaskin served on the City Council from 1983 – 1991, as Mayor ProTem from 1985 – 1987, serving a total of 8 years;

WHEREAS, David M. Gaskin is being recognized for his leadership, vision, and dedication and commitment to Grosse Pointe Park that has contributed to the betterment of the lives of the residents of Grosse Pointe Park;

WHEREAS, David M. Gaskin has been a Grosse Pointe Park resident for 56 years, whereby he and his wife Carol raised two children;

WHEREAS, David M. Gaskin is a successful attorney, practicing with Dahlberg, Mallender & Gawne for 27 years and Butzel Long PC for 9 years, retiring in 2005;

WHEREAS, David M. Gaskin served on the City Council during the creation of the Downtown Development Authority and the Northwest Tax Increment Finance Authority, and the creation of the Public Safety Department;

WHEREAS, David M. Gaskin served as Council Representative on the Personnel Committee, and Grosse Pointe Park representative on the Board of Trustees of the Grosse Pointe Public Library;

WHEREAS, David M. Gaskin served on the Planning Commission as a Planning Commission voting member from 1991-2020, serving a total of 29 years, including the 2012 City Master Plan and serving as the Master Plan Subcommittee Chair in 2019;
RESOLVED, That the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe Park join in acknowledging David M. Gaskin for his 37 years of dedicated service to the residents of Grosse Pointe Park as a Councilmember for the City of Grosse Pointe Park, as a Member of the Planning Commission and as a Trustee of the Grosse Pointe Public Library.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Robson, to approve the resolution as presented.

AYES:  Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, and Fluitt, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

NEW BUSINESS:
RESOLUTION HONORING DAN GRANO

Mayor Denner read the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION HONORING
DANIEL C. GRANO

WHEREAS, Daniel C. Grano served on the City Council from 2005-2020, serving a total of 15 years;

WHEREAS, Daniel C. Grano is being recognized for his leadership, vision, dedication and commitment to Grosse Pointe Park that has contributed to the betterment of the lives of the residents of Grosse Pointe Park;

WHEREAS, Daniel C. Grano has been a Grosse Pointe Park resident for 38 years, whereby he and his wife Marianne have three children;

WHEREAS, Daniel C. Grano is an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Michigan;

WHEREAS, Daniel C. Grano served as Council Representative on the Planning Commission, Public Service Committee as Chair, Ordinance Review Committee as Chair, Recreation Commission and Communication Committee;

WHEREAS, Daniel C. Grano was instrumental in supporting the development of Kercheval Avenue, enhanced streetscapes on Mack Avenue, removal of the floodplain designation from the Windmill Pointe neighborhood, millage for the Public Safety Department and for the maintenance of roads, a bond for infrastructure construction at the Palmer T. Heenan Municipal Center, and most recently the planned construction of a new Public Services Department building on Mack Avenue;

WHEREAS, Daniel C. Grano was instrumental in supporting the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation for its many projects that offer amenities to the residents of Grosse Pointe Park. Improvements at Windmill Pointe Park include the Carol C. Schaap Theater, the fountain and zero depth children’s pool, the expansion of the gate house, and most recently the Atrium at the Tompkins Community Center. Improvements at Patterson Park include the Lindell Lodge, children’s splash pad, golf putting and chipping facility, a new gatehouse, pickleball courts and the planned development of a dog park;
RESOLVED, That the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe Park join in acknowledging Daniel C. Grano for his 15 years of dedicated service to the residents of Grosse Pointe Park as a Councilmember for the City of Grosse Pointe Park.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Read, to adopt the resolution as written.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, and Fluitt, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

NEW BUSINESS:
DONATION AND GIFT POLICY DRAFT AND DISCUSSION

City Manager Sizeland stated that a draft donation and gifts policy is being presented for Council review and feedback. The purpose of the policy is to establish a process for acceptance and documentation of donations/gifts made to the City including the installation, long-term maintenance and operation of donated elements to the City. This policy is intended to provide guidance to individuals, community groups, or businesses who wish to make donations or gifts to the City.

Councilmember Read requested corrections to page 2 and 3.

Councilmember Read requested that the ability to make anonymous donations be removed for transparency purposes and stated that anonymous donations can be directed to the Foundation.

NEW BUSINESS:
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION DISCUSSION

City Manager Sizeland stated that the discussion was included on the agenda per request by Councilmember Relan. Based on initial research, the following communities have diversity and/or inclusion committees: Clinton Township, Rochester Hills, Grand Rapids, and Lansing. The Rochester Hills committee appears to have good representation and a plan for who they are going to reach out to in the community and how they will work with city officials and representatives.

Councilmember Relan stated that he would like to discuss the creation of a diversity and inclusion advisory committee to provide input to City Council and the Mayor. The input would be focused on policies and processes that promote and facilitate active community involvement and identify and prioritize support for the community concerning diversity and inclusion and making sure that the decisions being made are reflective and inclusive of the diversity present in the community.

Numerous Councilmembers vocalized support to investigate the creation of a diversity and inclusion advisory committee further.

Mayor Denner suggested the creation of an ad hoc committee, supported by City Manager Sizeland, to explore the topic further. The ad hoc committee includes Councilmembers Relan, Hodges, and Read.

NEW BUSINESS:
COUNCIL COMMENT
Councilmember Read and Hodges thanked Clerk Blahut and her team for the well-executed general election that took place on November 3rd.

Councilmembers Hodges and Relan congratulated the newly elected Grosse Pointe School System Board of Education members.

Councilmember Fluitt stated that she would like to know when the Planning Commission seat currently held by Mr. Fikany would be addressed because his term has expired.

Mayor Denner stated that he would be addressing the following appointments at the December meeting: three positions on Recreation Commission, five positions on the TIFA Board, one position on the Planning Commission.

Mayor Denner stated that he would also like to set the meeting dates for 2021 at the December meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

City Manager Sizeland read 1 written comment submitted by 1 resident.

2 residents made verbal comments.

Motion by Councilmember Robson, supported by Councilmember Read, to adjourn.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, and Fluitt, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:07 pm.