An electronic meeting through Zoom was held due to MDHHS Epidemic Order limiting meeting size and to continue decreasing 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, McConnell, 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 November 9th Meeting Minutes
- Approval of November 10th and 12th Meeting Minutes
- Finance Report
- Resolution Approving Wayne County 2021 Annual Permits

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

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

NAYS: None

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

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

Motion by Councilmember Robson, supported by Councilmember McConnell to approve the regular agenda as presented.

Councilmember Hodges requested a one-page summary documentation is provided for all agenda items moving forward.

Motion by Councilmember Fluitt, supported by Councilmember Relan, to amend the agenda and change the order by switching New Business agenda items number 2 Approval of Lease of DPW Facility and number 4 Current DPW Discussion.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, Fluitt, and McConnell, and Mayor Denner
NAYS: None

Vote on Motion 1 (approve the regular agenda)

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

NAYS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS)

City Manager Sizeland read four written comments submitted by four residents.

Ten residents made verbal comments.

MANAGERS REPORT

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

- Small Cell Application
- TIFA COVID Support Program
- DDA COVID Support Program
- DTE
- COVID-19
- Public Works Building and Bond
- DTE Tree Trim Program
- Water Asset Management Plan
- Grant Award for Cadieux Resurfacing in 2023

Councilmember Fluitt asked for a Master Plan update for residents.

City Manager Sizeland stated that the City will be holding a kick-off meeting with MKSK at the beginning of January to discuss the logistics, scheduling, opportunities and challenges, and best approach for the project. Attendees will include Department Heads and select Board and Commission members.

Councilmember McConnell inquired on if COVID cases in the Park are trending down or up.

City Manager Sizeland and Mayor Denner both confirmed that cases are trending down.

Councilmember Relan requested confirmation that DTE will continue to work in the City until all of the gravel is replaced with asphalt and the asphalt is safe and level.

City Manager Sizeland stated that was correct and that Residents who still have issues or concerns can contact Public Works Supervisor Pat Thomas at thomasp@grossepointepark.org or by calling 313-822-5100.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT

Parks and Rec Supervisor Chad Craig provided an update on Parks & Rec Department Activities
- Virtual Santa: Virtual Santa visits took place on December 11th with 94 children and 51 families participating. The Department worked with the Kerry Paul group to host the event and they are currently in the process of creating a promotional video summarizing the event. Pointe Alarm sponsored the event with a $500 donation.
- Dog Park: Staff is reviewing wood privacy fence options along Grand Marais side with the contractor and expect a final rendering to be available soon. The February Recreation Commission will include a detailed review of the dog park rules.
- Ice Rink: The Ice Rink is anticipated to open on Wednesday, December 23rd. Usage will be limited to 20 skaters at a time and masks must be worn at all times. The warming hut will remain closed.
- Phone Lines: Infrasource cut the phone and internet lines and they are currently being repaired. Email can be accessed but the phone lines at the Lavins Center do not currently work. Residents can stop by the front desk of the Lavins Center from 7am – 7pm if the question cannot be asked via email.

Councilmember Relan inquired on what the contingency plan is for emergencies with the phone lines down.

Supervisor Craig stated that Staff located inside of the Lavins Center have walkie talkie radios to communicate with the gate house. The gatehouse still has a functioning phone line and can call for emergency assistance if necessary.

Councilmember Robson inquired on when the Department anticipated being able to provide regular programming like pickleball.

Supervisor Craig stated that the Department is waiting for further guidance from the State for how they can move forward with regular programming due to COVID.

COMMITTEE AND COMISSION REPORTS

Personnel Review:
Councilmember Robson stated that the Personnel Review Committee met on November 18th to discuss and schedule the annual evaluation of the City Manager, Clerk, and City Attorney. It was agreed that the reviews will take place in front of the full Council at a special closed-door session to be held in January. A packet will be prepared by Councilmember Robson as the Personnel Committee chair ahead of the meeting which will include answers to a survey filled out previously by Council and a summary of achievements and goals/objectives being proposed by the City Manager, City Attorney, and Clerk for the next year. The January performance review is part of the City Manager contract. Any discussions regarding compensation does have to take place in an open-door session.

Marina Sub-Committee (Recreation Commission):
Councilmember Read stated that the subcommittee met on December 16, 2020 via Zoom. This was the second meeting of this newly formed subcommittee to the Recreation Commission. As a new committee, they are working on a mission statement and will review membership after the first year. Administration and members spent time reviewing the budget and will be following up with the finance director. For spring 2021, the marina is exploring painting well numbers for each slip and installing an additional camera. This year, the marina turned over 50 wells, which is above average. The committee discussed short and long-term infrastructure improvements as well including the marina as part of the
master plan process. The subcommittee will meet again in January on a date to be determined. Eventually, the subcommittee will meet quarterly prior to each Recreation Commission meeting.

Public Safety Committee:
Councilmember Robson stated that the Public Safety Committee met on December 16th. Chief Poloni, Lieutenant Bostock, and City Manager Sizeland provided updates on the following topics:
- Training including racial diversity, sensitivity, and de-escalation trainings. Officers also receive 16 hours of training in the virtual academy with dozens of training topics available.
- Use of force policy has been approved by the Department of Justice and the use of chokeholds is now prohibited.
- New and enhanced body cams have been purchased in addition to a 911 system that allows texting and new jaws of life equipment.
- Community CPR training will take place twice a year.
- City Manager Sizeland outlined the search process he will be utilizing for the selection of the new Public Safety Chief.
- Chief Poloni explained that there has been an ongoing effort to hire minorities however, there is an overall lack of interest in people wanting to become involved in law enforcement as a career.
- School traffic signage and striping is in place and the Department is ready to place crossing guards where necessary.

Beautification Commission:
Councilmember Relan stated that the Beautification Commission met on December 9th. Awards have started to be delivered to award winners with award letters to follow. The Commission is still working on finding a way to host an award celebration safely. As a reminder, there were Resident and Business Beautification awards awarded in addition to the new Centennial Award. Small groups have been dispersed to walk around and judge holiday decorations and the Commission has been impressed with the effort and time put in by Residents through their displays. The group is in the process of finding their first Jr. Commissioner and Family Team Commissioner which is an endeavor that will continue into 2021. The next meeting will be held on January 7th at 7pm via Zoom.

Diversity & Inclusion Ad-Hoc Committee:
Councilmember Relan stated that the Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee had their first meeting on December 2nd. About 40 residents were in attendance, with the purpose of the first meeting being to hear about thoughts, experiences, and concerns from residents. The Committee will be utilizing what they heard from residents at the first meeting to steer conversation and discussion during the second meeting, which has been scheduled for January 27th at 7pm.

DDA Board:
Mayor Denner stated that the DDA Board held its informational meeting followed by a regular meeting on November 24th. Agenda items included an overview of the 2020 achievements and 2021 goals, setting the 2021 meeting dates, and approval of the DDA Bylaws.

TIFA Board:
City Manager Sizeland stated that there were two TIFA meetings held: an informational meeting on November 23 and a special meeting on November 25. The informational meeting included an overview of the District activities for 2020 and goals for 2021, setting the meeting dates for 2021, and an update on the parking study. The special meeting agenda included approval of the remediation contract, approval of the general contractor for the DPW Facility, approval of the bond, and approval of the lease contract for
the DPW Facility. The TIFA Board will meet again on January 5th where there will be updates on the COVID-19 program and selection of officers.

Grosse Pointe Park Foundation:
Mayor Denner stated that the Foundation met on December 10th. The Board discussed potential projects and the gift policy. He also stated that he has resigned as a trustee to focus on his mayoral duties.

Eastside Community Network:
Councilmember Hodges stated that she attended the most recent meeting of the Eastside Community Network as the City’s representative. The most important current project is the Mack Avenue Improvement Plan, which runs from Connor to Moross. Current projects include a six-month zoning process, implementation of a Corridor Improvement Authority, Mack Avenue Business guide, and Beautification.

Councilmember Hodges requested an update on the Ethics Board and if they would be reviewing the Conflict-of-Interest forms.

City Attorney Howlett stated that the Ethics Board is currently working on solidifying a process for how ethical concerns will be addressed and reviewed. The forms will most likely be reviewed by the Ethics Board but the review has not been discussed as a body.

Councilmember Fluitt requested an updated on the NAACP meetings with Chief Poloni.

Chief Poloni stated that the committee hosted a Christmas outreach event at a church in Detroit. Committee members passed out toys and other gifts to community members who attended.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
APPROVAL OF GIFT POLICY

City Manager Sizeland stated that the gift policy was developed at the request of Councilmember Read. The policy is based on best practices gathered from other municipal policies. This is the second time the gift policy is being presented to Council and the following changes have been incorporated:

- Sole property
- Guidelines and standard for accepting donations
- Documentation requirements for donations
- Consistency of donations with City interests

Administration is recommending approval of the Gift Policy as presented.

Motion by Councilmember Read, supported by Councilmember Relan, to approve the gift policy as presented.

Councilmember Fluitt stated concern with the City Manager being able to accept gifts of $25,000 without Council approval.

City Attorney Howlett stated that there is no ethical concern or loophole in the policy as written. All expenditures over $5,000 still requires Council approval so even if the gift does not need to be approved, project related expenses will still need to be.
Councilmember Hodges suggested an edit on page 1, section 3 to add the following language: “and spent in accordance with the wishes of the donor per the donor agreement”. She stated that the edit was being suggested to continue to encourage philanthropy.

Councilmember Fluitt inquired on the legality of the City accepting anonymous donations if a donor chose to not go through the Foundation.

City Attorney Howlett stated that the City can legally accept anonymous donations.

Councilmember Robson stated that the gift policy appeared to still need final edits before approving.

Motion by Councilmember Robson, supported by Mayor Denner, to table the approval to the January meeting.

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

NAYS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
DOG PARK UPDATE

City Manager Sizeland provided an update with Parks and Rec Supervisor Craig. Administration have met multiple times with concerned citizens on Grand Marais to walk the site, discuss challenges and concerns regarding sound and screening. There has been a lot of good discussion points through conversations with the residents including changes with current practices.

Councilmember Relan inquired on if there is an estimate on annual maintenance costs.

City Manager Sizeland stated that he believed it to be under ten thousand dollars a year but would verify and follow up with Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
COUNCIL COMMENT

Mayor Denner recessed the meeting until 10:05 pm.

Mayor Denner reconvened the meeting at 10:05 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:
APPROVAL OF 2021 MEETING DATES

Mayor Denner presented the following meeting dates for Council approval:
- January 11th
- February 8th
- March 8th
- April 12th
- May 10th
- June 14th
Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Read to approve the 2021 meeting dates as presented.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, Fluit, and McConnell, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

NEW BUSINESS:
CURRENT DPW DISCUSSION

City Manager Sizeland stated that Councilmember Relan had requested an update on the current Department of Public Works Facility. The current building was built in 1920 as a dealer bump shop and the Department moved into the facility in 1992. Major maintenance projects over the years have included exterior and interior painting, new lights, and installation of new catch basins and frequent roof patching. Maintenance that has been deferred includes interior and exterior concrete repair, storage including equipment being stored outside, brick and tuck pointing, and minor water damage to some ceiling tiles. Some of the public comments made at the TIFA meeting on November 24th created the idea that the facility is not safe to be working in but there are no immediate safety concerns. MML does an annual review of the building for workers comp and has not identified any major concerns. Improvements that will be completed in the immediate future include additional roof patching, ceiling tile repairs, and additional exhaust fans.

Councilmember Relan confirmed that he did ask for the agenda item based on the comments made at the TIFA meeting and ask if there were any major improvements being delayed that would need to be addressed if the new facility was delayed.

City Manager Sizeland stated that there are no major improvements related to safety being delayed due to the plan for the new facility and ongoing maintenance will continue to be completed as identified. Major improvements would also be cost prohibitive to complete.

Councilmember Fluit stated that all safety concerns related to health and safety of employees should be addressed right away and not wait to be addressed until the new facility is built.

NEW BUSINESS:
APPROVAL OF DDA BYLAWS

Mayor Denner stated that per the governing statute, DDA Boards can have by-laws and asked City Manager Sizeland to provide more details.
City Manager Sizeland stated that the statute does allow for DDA Boards to have by-laws that go into effect once adopted by the DDA Board and approved by the City Council. The DDA By-laws being presented have been reviewed and adopted by the DDA Board at the November 24th meeting. The DDA Board did make one change to letter B, section I pertaining to property usage within the district.

Motion by Councilmember Read, supported by Councilmember Robson, to approve the DDA By-laws as presented.

Councilmember Read and Relan both stated concerns with having District goals included as part of the By-laws and that the statements read like they belong in the development plan.

City Attorney Howlett stated that there is no legal issue with having District goals in both the By-laws and Development Plan.

Councilmember Fluitt stated that she would like to have any mention of the Art Center removed from the By-laws because no project belongs in them.

Motion by Councilmember Read, supported by Councilmember Relan, to amend the DDA By-laws to include the following: to create or otherwise support a profit or non-profit base that will support and complement one another.

Councilmember McConnell stated that she would like the meeting sections to include language about virtual meetings including a requirement for all board members to appear on camera to foster a transparent environment.

Vote on Amendment 1

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, Fluitt, and McConnell.

NAYS: Mayor Denner

Vote on Regular Motion (approval of the by-laws as amended)

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Denner stated that the amended by-laws would need to be adopted by the DDA Board at their next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**
**APPROVAL OF LEASE FOR DPW FACILITY**

City Attorney Howlett stated that the resolution being presented was to formally approve the lease between the City and TIFA for usage of the new Department of Public Works Facility. The agreement was already approved by the TIFA Board at their November 25th meeting. The lease agreement does state that during the rental period, the City will be responsible for maintenance of the facility as the tenant and that the monthly rental cost is one dollar. Upon retirement of the bond, the TIFA will transfer
full ownership of the facility to the City. Approval of the lease is an important step in the bond process and not approving the lease could expose the City to potential liability. The recommendation is to approve the lease agreement and adopt the resolution as presented.

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

Councilmember Read stated that it appeared like the lease could be done at any time and did not need to be approved at this time.

City Attorney Howlett stated that is true but bond counsel strongly recommended that the lease be approved by both parties as soon as possible. Additionally, it is not uncommon for agreements like the lease to be approved and executed pre-development in situations like this one.

Councilmember Relan, Fluitt, McConnell, and Read all stated they would like to see further supporting documentation, including a full project budget, before approving the lease and adopting the resolution.

Motion by Councilmember Robson, supported by Councilmember Read, to table the vote to the January meeting and direct administration to provide the additional information requested.

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

NAYS: None

NEW BUSINESS:
WAYBURN/KERCHEVAL INTERSECTION DISCUSSION

City Manager Sizeland stated that Councilmember Relan requested the discussion topic. Currently on Kercheval or Wayburn, drivers and pedestrians will notice that the statue is missing. Unfortunately, the donated statue the Sails of Two Cities was hit by a car and needed to be returned to the artist for repairs. There have been discussions on steps that can be taken to improve the area including additional safety measures. City Manager Sizeland asked Chief Poloni to share further details on what was discussed at the Public Safety Committee meeting regarding the area.

Chief Poloni stated that the Committee did discuss the current circular four-way stop and how improvements could be made. Potential improvements could include different kinds of signage and adding reflective paint around the circle in addition to painting the curb to make it stand out more. The business owners located on that block have vocalized their support for the current circular intersection and the City would like to keep the intersection shape the same.

Councilmember Relan stated that he did confirm with City Manager Sizeland that the intersection will be discussed as part of the master plan update.

NEW BUSINESS:
PUBLIC SAFETY CHIEF REPLACEMENT DISCUSSION

City Manager Sizeland stated that when Chief Poloni leaves towards the end of January, Lieutenant Jim Bostock will serve as interim Chief until a permanent replacement is hired. The process will include
outside position advertisement and City Administration is currently working on a job description that will be distributed throughout the State and nationally. The City will utilize a firm by the name of EMPCO, who specializes in testing and consulting services for Public Safety departments. EMPCO will be utilized to assist with the interview process by hosting an oral board that focuses on the candidate’s knowledge, skills, and abilities. EMPCO will help narrow down the field to finalists by scoring the candidates answers who will then be interviewed by the City Manager. Administration is also looking for resident and Council feedback for anything specific they would like to see in the next Public Safety Chief. The new Chief is a position hired solely by the City Manager.

NEW BUSINESS:
WINTER INITIATIVE BUSINESS DISCUSSION

City Manager Sizeland stated that the discussion item was placed on the agenda at the request of Councilmember Fluitt. Currently, the City is looking for additional ways to assist local businesses with the ongoing COVID situation. The situation has become more challenging now that cold weather has come and customers are less willing to sit outside. City Administration is planning on expanding both COVID-19 grant programs within the TIFA and the DDA to help with additional costs like outdoor heaters, tents, igloos, and carry out expenses. The City is also working on a snow management plan that would allow for the sidewalks to be cleared when it snows while still allowing businesses to expand onto the public right of way.

Councilmember Fluitt stated that she would also like the City to consider hosting community building events like window decorating contests and outdoor smores station to bring residents and businesses together.

NEW BUSINESS:
BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Denner presented the following Council appointments, assignments and Board and Commission appointments for Council consideration.

Council Appointments:
Mayor Denner stated that he is recommending Councilmember Hodges to serve as the Council representative on the Planning Commission.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Robson, to appoint Councilmember Hodges to replaced former Councilmember Grano on the Planning Commission.

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

NAYS: None

Council Assignments Communications Committee
Mayor Denner stated that he is appointing Councilmember McConnell to replace Councilmember Relan.

Council Assignments Ordinance Review Committee
Mayor Denner stated that he is appointing Councilmember McConnell to replace former Councilmember Grano.
Mayor Denner also stated that Councilmember Read would now serve as the Committee Chair.

Council Assignments Public Service Committee
Mayor Denner stated that he is appointing Councilmember McConnell to replace former Councilmember Grano.

Mayor Denner stated he would now serve as the Committee Chair.

Council Assignment Real Estate Development Committee
Mayor Denner stated that he is dissolving the committee.

Council Assignments Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee
Mayor Denner stated that he is appointing Councilmember McConnell to replace Councilmember Hodges.

Mayor Denner stated that Councilmember Relan would continue to serve as chair.

Recreation Commission
Mayor Denner stated that he is recommending Dr. Michael Bannon for reappointment to the Recreation Commission. Dr. Bannon was first appointed to the Recreation Commission in 2019 and has been an engaged and active Commission member.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Read, to reappoint Dr. Michael Bannon to the Recreation Commission for a three-year term ending December 2023.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, Fluitt, and McConnell, and Mayor Denner
NAYS: None

Mayor Denner stated that he is recommending Mr. Roy Edmonds for reappointment to the Recreation Commission. Mr. Edmonds was first appointed to the Recreation Commission in 2001 and has been an engaged and active Commission member.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Robson, to reappoint Mr. Edmonds to the Recreation Commission for a three-year term ending December 2023.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, Fluitt, and McConnell, and Mayor Denner
NAYS: None

Mayor Denner stated that he is recommending Ms. Sarah Coats for appointment to the Recreation Commission to the seat previously held by Mr. Gerry Schilling. Ms. Coats is an attorney for Littler Mendelson P. C. and serves on the Defer Elementary and Pierce Middle School PTOs in her free time.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Read, to appoint Ms. Coats to the seat on the Recreation Commission held previously by Mr. Gerry Schilling, for a three-year term ending December 2023.
AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, Fluitt, and McConnell, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) Board
Mayor Denner stated that he is recommending Mr. Randy Cousineau for re-appointment to the TIFA Board. Mr. Cousineau was first appointed to the TIFA Board in 2016, owns Pointe Hardware, and has been an engaged and active Board member.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Relan, to reappoint Mr. Cousineau to the TIFA Board for a two-year term ending December 2022.

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Denner stated he is recommending Mr. Adi Kokoshi for re-appointment to the TIFA Board. Mr. Kokoshi is a Grosse Pointe Park resident, owner of Park Grill, and has served on the TIFA board since 2012 and has been an engaged active Board member.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember McConnell, to reappoint Mr. Kokoshi to the TIFA Board for two-year term ending December 2022.

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Denner stated that he is recommending Ms. Pier King-Piepenbrok to fill the open seat on the TIFA Board previously held by Mr. Patrick Mann. Ms. King-Piepenbrok is a resident of the TIFA District and currently works for the State Attorney General’s office. Ms. King-Piepenbrok was also a finalist for the City Council vacancy and looks forward to serving the community.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Hodges, to appoint Ms. King-Piepenbrok, to the seat on the TIFA board previously held by Mr. Mann for a four-year term ending December 2024.

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Denner stated that he is recommending Mr. Arthur Mullen to fill the open seat on the TIFA Board previously held by Mr. James Odell. Mr. Mullen is a resident of the TIFA District, a forty-year resident of the City, and currently works as an Urban Planner.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Read, to appoint Mr. Mullen to the seat on the TIFA board previously held by Mr. Odell for a four-year term ending December 2024.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, Fluitt, and McConnell, and Mayor Denner
Mayor Denner stated that he is recommending Mr. Jeff Lee to fill the open seat on the TIFA Board previously held by Mr. Thomas McDonald. Mr. Lee is a City resident and owner of the popular local restaurant Sierra Station on Mack Avenue.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Hodges, to appoint Mr. Lee to the seat on the TIFA Board previously held by Mr. McDonald for a two-year term ending December 2022.

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Denner stated that he is appointing Ms. Julie Secord to finish the unexpired term on the TIFA Board previously held by Mr. Sonny Mio. Ms. Secord is a City resident and works for Greenspace Holdings, LLC, who owns numerous properties throughout the District. Ms. Secord also works with Grosse Pointe Housing Foundation. Ms. Secord’s term will expire December 2023. Per statute, Ms. Secord’s appointment does not need to be confirmed by City Council because the term she is filling is unexpired.

Councilmember Fluitt stated that she is disappointed with the selection of Ms. Secord because of her employment with Greenspace Holdings LCC.

Planning Commission
Mayor Denner stated that he is recommending Mr. J. Douglas Turnbull to fill the seat on the Planning Commission currently held by Mr. Michael Fikany. Mr. Turnbull is a life-long resident of the City and is currently employed by The Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph. Mr. Turnbull has extensive project and construction management experience and is also prepared to recuse himself from any vote related to the Schaap Center since his wife has been appointed as the Center’s Interim Director.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Robson, to appoint Mr. Turnbull to the seat on the Planning Commission currently held by Mr. Fikany for a three-year term ending September 2023.

Numerous Councilmembers stated concern with Mr. Turnbull being appointed with an already-existing conflict of interest and stated that there were other qualified candidates to appoint without such conflicts.

AYES: Councilmembers Hodges, Robson, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Fluitt, and McConnell.

Mayor Denner stated that because the motion failed, Mr. Fikany would continue to serve on the Planning Commission.

Mayor Denner stated that he is recommending Ms. Amy Schladen Chesterton to fill the remaining unexpired term on the Planning Commission previously held by Mr. Fredrick Olds. Ms. Chesterton is a 17-year resident of the City and is a highly respected Registered Landscape Architect and a certified Urban Planner through the American Institute of Certified Planners.
Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Relan, to appoint Ms. Chesterton to the unexpired seat on the Planning Commission previously held by Mr. Olds for the remainder of the term expiring December 2022.

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

NAYS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:
COUNCIL COMMENT

Mayor Denner stated that he would be addressing the five positions open for appointment and reappointment on the Beautification Commission at the January meeting.

Councilmember Read stated that she had been contacted by residents on the 1400 block of Wayburn who had received letters from a developer offering to buy their homes to make way for a new development. She inquired on in if the City had any knowledge on such potential development.

City Manager Sizeland stated that he had no knowledge of the potential development and would research further.

PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

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

4 residents made verbal comments.

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

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

NAYS: None

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 am.