

**Grosse Pointe Park
Beautification Commission Minutes
September 7, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

Location: City Hall Council Chambers

1. Call to Order: Kimberly Clextan, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present: Kimberly Clextan, Ann Billiu, Pat Deck, Cheryl Gauss, Nicholas Gwozdz, Alicia Klein, Lisa Kyle, Barbara Miller, Brian Colter

Excused: Carolyn Byrd, Armen Gulian, Shellie Hansen, Laura Orme, Vikas Relan

Guests: David Swank

3. Approval of Minutes: June 1, 2022, Approved with correction to Nicholas Gwozdz's name. The motion to approve was made by Brian Colter, second by Nicholas Gwozdz and approved without objection.

4. Chairperson's Comments

Kim Clextan welcomed us back after the summer hiatus and thanked everyone for attending. She welcomed our guest, David Swank.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Publicity

None

7. New Business

a. Fall Plant Exchange: Kimberly Clextan reported that the event date is Saturday, October 1 and asked commissioners to attend. The event runs from 9:30 – 11:30 AM, commissioners should plan to arrive at 9 AM. Alicia stated it was not on the city calendar, Brian Colter will ask to have this posted. We plan to use the same setup, picnic tables outdoors with tables inside for inclement weather.

b. Beautification Awards: Lisa reported that all the award nominations were submitted on time, she thanked the commissioners for the timely submissions. She asked commissioners to please submit their descriptions, these will be posted on a shared spreadsheet. Shellie will report on the photos at the next meeting.

Business Award: Hot Yoga Grosse Pointe at 15000 Kercheval was nominated by Brian Colter and the Commission was in agreement. We can consider an additional nomination at the next meeting.

Century Awards: we received the list from the city; two homes should be chosen for nomination, we will discuss at the next meeting.

Civic Award: Backer Landscaping was nominated for their donation supporting the construction of the dog park. Pat Deck reported that their donation was substantial; commissioners accepted the nomination.

Sustainability Award: Brian Colter nominated 813 Trombley Road for the installation of geothermal energy and additional sustainable upgrades made to the property. Brian is obtaining the name of the original owner that renovated the home as well as the current resident. We will discuss this nomination again at the next meeting.

c. BCSEM December Meeting: Pat Deck reported that the Grosse Pointe City Beautification Commission would like to cohost the December 8, 2022 BCSEM meeting with us. Kim Clextan reserved the Tompkins Center for that morning with a 9:30 AM start time for the event.

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The Commission supported hosting the event, Pat Deck will talk to the GPC Commission and the board of BCSEM; she will be in touch with additional information.

8. Forestry Report

a. GP Farms Garden Club 90 Trees for 90 Years: Plans are moving forward to plant the 90 trees donated by this organization, it is a local affiliate of the National Gardening Club. The planting sites have been identified across three of the Grosse Pointes; 35 trees will be planted in the Park, 20 in the City and 35 in the Farms.

b. Paul Van Tol Tree Donation: Paul Van Tol is a former Park resident and friend of our former Mayor, Robert Denner. Six years ago he planted a small tree farm from seed in Clinton Township; he contacted Brian Colter about donating 100 of the American sycamores for planting in the Park. Brian, Lisa Kyle and Wayne Nemeth (J&W Tree Artisans) visited the tree farm to see the trees and assess how to move and replant the trees from that location. The trees are currently 1 ½" caliper in size, perfect for this type of project. Brian has identified over 300 planting sites within the Park, with many spots in need of trees on Mack Avenue and Windmill Pointe Drive. These are areas where mass plantings with a more uniform look are welcomed; less than 2% of our tree population is sycamore so there are little concerns about planting a monoculture with multiple plantings on these streets. Barbara Miller suggested that he be nominated for a civic award next year.

9. Old Business

a. BCSEM/KMB Update: Pat Deck reported that 8 members of the commission enjoyed a very nice BCSEM meeting in Northville; the monarch butterfly presentation was very informative. The KMB Celebration was a great event as well and the speakers were wonderful.

10. Public Comments:

a. David Swank addressed the Commission to advocate for native plantings and the reduction of lawn space at both public and private properties within the city. He gave a brief presentation on why this is beneficial to residents and the environment.

Adjourned at 8:02 PM: A motion was made to adjourn by Brian Colter, second by Pat Deck with all in favor.