COUNCIL MEETING – NOVEMBER 18, 2019
7:00 PM

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Grosse Pointe Park was held on Monday, November 18, 2019, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Also, present: Nick Sizeland, City Manager, Jane M. Blahut, Finance Director/Clerk, and Dennis J. Levasseur, City Attorney, and Steve Poloni, Director of Public Safety

OATH OF OFFICE
MAYOR
COUNCILMEMBERS

City Clerk presented the Oath of Office for the newly elected officials including Mayor Denner for a two-year term, and Councilmembers Vikas Relan, Michele Hodges, and Aimée Rogers Fluitt, each for four-year terms.

MINUTES – OCTOBER 28, 2019

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the minutes of October 28, 2019.

Councilmember Fluitt stated the purchase price for Joe’s Garage should be $366,000.00.

Councilmember Hodges inquired if the Purchase Agreement provided to Council is the same one discussed on October 28, 2019.

Mayor Denner stated the content of the contract is the same, however, there was an error in the numbering that was noted at the October 28th, 2019 meeting and has been corrected.

Councilmember Read stated a Buckingham resident stated a stop sign on the corner of Buckingham and Charlevoix was taken out by a vehicle, he was concerned about safety at the intersection.

Councilmember Levasseur stated minutes recorded must reflect date of meeting, those present, the topic discussed and Council action. He noted the Open Meetings Act does not require narrative be included in the minutes.

Motion by Councilmember Grano, supported by Councilmember Robson, to approve the minutes with the corrections noted.

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

NAYS: None

MAYOR PRO-TEM APPOINTMENT
Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the appointment of James Robson to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem for a two-year term. He noted Councilmember Robson is the longest serving Councilmember and has a long and distinguished public service career.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Read, to appoint James Robson as Mayor Pro-Tem for a two-year term.

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

NAYS:  None

COMMITTEE RE-APPOINTMENTS
BOARD OF REVIEW

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the Board of Review Committee re-appointments for a three-year term.

They are as follows:

Margot Parker
Andrew Harr – Alternate Member

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Relan, to re-appoint Margot Parker and Andrew Harr, Alternate Member, for a three-year term to the Board of Review.

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

NAYS:  None

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE RE-APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the re-appointments to the Beautification Commission for a two-year term.

They are as follows:

Lisa Kyle
Armen Gulian

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Hodges, to re-appoint Lisa Kyle and Armen Gulian to the Beautification Commission for a two-year term.

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

NAYS:  None
Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the Recreation Commission re-appointments for a two-year term.

They are as follows:

Robert E. Klacza  
Roy Edmunds  
Larry Haggart  
Michael Hindelang  
Stacey Jarvis  
Matthew S. LaBeau  
Martin McMillan  
Gerry Schilling

Councilmember Fluitt inquired what the process is for re-appointing residents to a commission committee.

Mayor Denner stated as long as the feedback from the administration and chair have positive feedback, the residents are re-appointed.

Mayor Denner stated the Recreation Commission has a few vacancies and wanted to announce solicitation of interest for the Recreation Commission. Appointments will likely be made at the meeting scheduled for December.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Robson, to re-appoint Robert E. Klacza, Roy Edmunds, Larry Haggart, Michael Hindelang, Stacey Jarvis, Matthew S. LaBeau, and Martin McMillan, and Gerry Schilling to the Recreation Commission each for a two-year term.

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

NAYS: None

PROPOSED COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the Council assignments to the various Commissions.

**Beautification Commission**  
Vikas Relan

**Recreation Commission**  
Lauri Read

**Planning Commission**  
Mayor Denner  
Daniel Grano
Communications Committee
Lauri Read, Chairman
Aimée Rogers Fluitt
Vikas Relan

Councilmember for Finance
Michele Hodges

Ordinance Review Committee
Daniel Grano, Chairman
Lauri Read
James Robson

Personnel Committee
James Robson, Chairman
Mayor Denner
Michele Hodges

Public Safety Committee
James Robson, Chairman
Mayor Denner
Vikas Relan

Public Service Committee
Daniel Grano, Chairman
Mayor Denner
Aimée Rogers Fluitt

Real Estate Development Committee
Mayor Denner, Chairman
Daniel Grano
Michele Hodges

Michigan Municipal League Representative
Aimée Rogers Fluitt

SEMCOG Representative
Lauri Read

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Hodges, to approve of the Council Assignments as presented.

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

NAYS: None
GREEN SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the implementation of a Green Sustainability Committee.

Councilmember Fluitt stated this is something that could really be expanded upon, for example recycling bins could be placed in our public spaces and parks and LED lightbulbs placed at City Hall.

Motion by Councilmember Fluitt, supported by Mayor Denner, to create a Green Sustainability Committee.

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

NAYS: None

GREEN SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENT

Mayor Denner presented the Council Assignment for the Green Sustainability Committee.

Aimée Rogers Fluitt, Chair
Vikas Relan
Michele Hodges

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Fluitt, to approve the Council Assignment for the Green Sustainability Committee.

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

NAYS: None

2020 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the 2020 Council Meeting dates as follows:

January 13
February 10
March 9
April 13
May 11
June 8
July 13
August 24
September 28
October 26
November 9
December 14
Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Read, to approve the 2020 Council Meeting dates as presented.

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

NAYS: None

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
PEG FEES

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration an amendment to the MOU for Peg PEG Fees. He noted the current agreement expires December 1, 2019, and this amendment would extend the agreement for an additional three months.

City Manager Sizeland stated the Peg PEG Fees supports educational and government programming. Comcast Cable and A.T. & T. pay their Peg PEG fees directly to the service provider currently the War Memorial. He noted the Grosse Pointe’s and Harper Woods are not satisfied with the services provided by the War Memorial and collectively are requesting an RFP to other providers. The three month extension allows for a continuation of services until a provider has been decided upon.

Councilmember Relan inquired if the Grosse Pointe Public School System will provide these services.

Mayor Denner stated the Grosse Pointe Public School District will be considered and is expected to submit a proposal.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Read, to adopt the proposed amendment for a three-month extension to the current contract for peg PEG fees associated with cable services to allow ample time to bid out the services.

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

NAYS: None

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION NO. 211

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration temporary traffic regulation no. 211 on Westchester be made permanent.

It reads as follows:

Pursuant to Section 22-UTC-153 of the code of the City of Grosse Pointe Park, the undersigned hereby promulgates the following temporary regulation for the control of parking on Westchester between Jefferson and Fairfax within the City of Grosse Pointe Park, County of Wayne, State of Michigan.

1. On the west side of Westchester between Jefferson and Fairfax, I direct the removal of all posted parking restrictions.
2. On the west side of Westchester I direct that the area from the south side of the south Jefferson crosswalk to a point 100 feet south of the south Jefferson crosswalk be designated...
No Parking at Any Time zone. I direct signage be erected in compliance with the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices to indicate this restriction.

This regulation shall become effective this date and expire in ninety days unless made permanent by City Council. Done in the City of Grosse Pointe Park, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, this 17th day of September, 2019.

Motion by Councilmember Relan, supported by Councilmember Read, that temporary traffic regulation no. 211 be made permanent.

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

NAYS: None

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION NO. 212

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration temporary traffic regulation no. 212 on St. Paul be made permanent.

Pursuant to Section 22-UTC-153 of the code of the City of Grosse Pointe Park, the undersigned hereby promulgates the following temporary regulation for the control of parking on St. Paul between Nottingham and Balfour within the City of Grosse Pointe Park, County of Wayne, State of Michigan.

1. On the north side of St. Paul from the west to east property lines of the property of Pierce Middle School, I direct the designation of a No Stopping Standing Parking zone.

This regulation shall become effective this date and expire in ninety days unless made permanent by City Council. Done in the City of Grosse Pointe Park, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, this 17th day of October, 2019.

Motion by Councilmember Relan, supported by Councilmember Read, that temporary traffic regulation no. 212 be made permanent.

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

NAYS: None

FINANCE REPORT – OCTOBER, 2019

Mayor Denner presented to Council the invoices exceeding $5,000 for the month of October, 2019 as presented.

The invoices are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bodman, PLC</td>
<td>Pros. Atty. &amp; retainer fee</td>
<td>$ 10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Build Safe Building Inspector – September 9,600
Great Lakes Water Waste Water – September 151,000
Art Tucker Excavating Water main break 5,727
Great Lakes Water Water usage – August 159,306
OHM Advisors DRI Gravity Flow Connection 5,293
Ford Motor Company Pumper Truck – reimb. by bond 279,658
Cadillac Asphalt Bishop/Kensington 164,081
Green for Life Recycling for October 11,564
Green for Life Rubbish for October 36,848
GP Clinton Refuse Refuse disposal – July, August, & Sept. 29,512

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Robson, to approve the invoices exceeding $5,000 for the month of October, 2019, as presented in accordance with Section 2.249 of the Charter.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Beautification Commission:
Councilmember Read presented an overview of the Beautification Commission meeting held on November 6th.

- New commissioners, Ann Billiu and Brittany Longworth were introduced and welcomed
- Commissioner and former chair Janet Peplin have resigned. Janet Peplin has resigned. The commission expressed gratitude for her services, especially her work on the awards ceremony
- Kim Clexton was elected chair, Lisa Kyle, vice-chair, and Shellie Hansen, recording secretary
- The commission discussed its interest in using the city website to publicize events once the new site is launched
- Brian Colter submitted the forestry report. This year 7 elm trees were lost.
- The commission will be awarding holiday decoration awards. Winners will be mailed a certificate and winning addresses will be published in the Winter Park Communicator

Councilmember Read read aloud a document prepared by Pat Deck, member of the Beautification Commission regarding William Balance.

William Balance passed away unexpectedly on October 26, 2019 almost exactly 31 years after he began service to the City of Grosse Pointe Park as a member of the Beautification Commission. He was the “Southern Gentleman” of the Commission. Born in Birmingham, Alabama, he spoke with a soft southern drawl and was always kind and gentle in his manners. In his professional life he held a doctorate in psychology. Following graduation, he worked in the mental health field in Alabama and then accepted a position in the University of Windsor Psychology Department where he worked from 1969 to 2001 (32 years) until his retirement. When he married Gwen Genter in 1971, he moved from Windsor to Grosse Pointe Park. He lived in Grosse Pointe Park 48 years and was a real asset to the community which he loved. He is survived by his wife and 4 stepchildren.
Bill was an accomplished gardener and an active member of the Men’s Garden Club. He was extremely knowledgeable about plants and often knew both common as well as botanical names. Always anxious to learn more, he regularly attended the meetings of the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan. His house had a uniquely landscaped yard willed with beautiful shrubs and trees. In the winter he and Gwen enjoyed the green house they added to their home which was a testimony to his love of plants.

He will be missed by the Commission for the special centerpieces he helped to create for our Beautification Awards programs. The cuttings for the centerpieces often came from his garden. He had a quick wit and a supportive and encouraging manner. He was also well known for the grilled salmon he brought to social gatherings. Our Commission feels his absence.

Recreation:
Councilmember Relan presented an overview of the Recreation Commission meeting held on November 6th at the Tompkins Center

- Halloween in the Park was a success, considering the rain. There were approximately 500 kids
- Chili Festival is scheduled for January 25th from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- Lavin’s Center will require new boilers that will cost approximately $65,000
- There are electrical repairs needed within the marina
- Ice rink is scheduled to open Friday, November 22nd at 4:00 PM
- Atrium sound system is not sufficient and needs some upgrades
- Next meeting is scheduled for February 2nd, 2020.

CLOSED DOOR SESSION

Mayor Denner requested that a closed-door session be held immediately following the regular meeting pursuant to Real Estate.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Relan, that a closed-door session be held immediately following the regular meeting pursuant to Real Estate.

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

NAYS: None

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Dog Park:
City Manager Sizeland stated there have been three meetings held for the dog park discussions. Chad Craig, Supervisor of Parks & Recreation was also present.

City Manager stated there were approximately 25-30 people in attendance. He noted there are four separate proposed locations for the dog park and the criteria reviewed for each site will be safety, cost, landscape, and drainage.
Maintenance Garage – Windmill Pointe Park:
City Manager stated a maintenance garage for Windmill Pointe Park is being considered that would be located in the overflow lot to store equipment, and vehicles.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan:
City Manager stated Park and Recreation Commission discussed at the meeting the future development of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Welcoming new members:
Councilmember Read welcomed the newest members to City Council and expressed gratitude to former Councilmembers Clark, and Chouinard for their dedicated service.

TIFA/DDA:
Councilmember Read recommended the TIFA and DDA Boards meet at a time more conducive to residents who work during the day.

City Manager Sizeland stated the meetings scheduled for November are earlier, however, next year’s times will be scheduled later in the day.

Public Outreach Meeting:
Councilmember Robson stated the City Manager has held two public outreach meetings and they have been a success. This is an important and valuable new tool. This allows for individual residents to discuss individual issues.

Ethics Committee:
Councilmember Hodges stated she would like an Ethics Committee to be created to come up with the best policies and practices.

Mayor Denner recommended the City Manager, City Attorney and Councilmember Hodges meet and come up with some ideas for an Ethics Committee.

Councilmember Hodges expressed her gratitude to the residents of Grosse Pointe Park for voting her into office.

Next Energy Grant:
City Manager stated a grant from Next Energy will fund intelligent cross walks called Smart Cone, one at Somerset and St. Paul and one at Kercheval and Nottingham. After the initial year, the fee will be approximately $1,000. The first year is free.

Councilmember Read expressed her gratitude to Melissa Smith of Next Energy that administered the grant for the City of Grosse Pointe Park.

New website:
City Manager noted the new website will be up and running soon. The training session is scheduled for November 22, 2019.
Dog Park concern:
Resident of Grand Marais expressed opposition to the dog park at Patterson Park.

Planning Commission Council Assignment:
Resident of Pemberton recommended Councilmember Read be placed on the Planning Commission, noting she attends all the meetings.

Mayor Denner thanked him for his comment.

Former Mayor Theokas:
Councilmember Robson indicated former Mayor Theokas was in the audience and wanted to acknowledge his presence.

Closed door:
Resident inquired why the closed-door session does not elaborate on the topic and property.

Mayor Denner indicated a closed-door session discussion involves confidentiality.

School closing:
Resident of Trombley expressed urgency for the Council to apply pressure to the Grosse Pointe Public School Board for the closure of Trombley and Poupard. He read aloud statistics on enrollment.

Director of Public Safety Poloni stated he has been working with the Administration regarding “Safe Routes to School Grant” and pedestrian safety around the schools.

Councilmember Grano stated it appears the Grosse Pointe Public School Board is not changing their direction, noting the City needs to have a plan in place if Trombley school does actually close, including ordinances that would need to be developed, real estate development plan and public safety for the children. Trombley School is a GPPSS building, however, it is in Grosse Pointe Park and would need to comply with Grosse Pointe Park’s zoning rules.

Councilmember Hodges recommended a resolution be considered in support of Trombley School.

Urban Renewal Foundation Initiative:
Resident stated the Foundation has not yet filed their tax forms; can the Council verify the amount contributed to date.

Mayor Denner stated there is no new information on this topic.

With no further business, the meeting convened to Closed Door Session.

The meeting reconvened to open door session.

JOE’S GARAGE
After a Closed-Door Session to discuss real estate negotiations.

Motion by Councilmember Grano, supported by Mayor Denner to execute the necessary documents to amend the Purchase Agreement as discussed in Closed Door Session.

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

NAYS: None

With no further business the meeting adjourned.