

**Gifford Park Association - General Membership Meeting**  
**Elgin History Museum**  
**June 20, 2019**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Karen Bach, Peggy Benar, Jim Berry, Bill Briska, Mr. Carlton, Barbara Evans, Mike Haskins, Laura Knoerr, Susan Kuester, Maureen Lee, Dan & Pat Miller, EPD Officer Ramirez, Julie Schmidt, Tim Solarz, Warren Tejes, Michael Zimmer

Welcome and Introductions

**R.O.P.E. REPORT** (Officer Ramirez 847-289-2700)

Since last meeting in May, there were a total of 513 calls for service in our neighborhood.

- Thirty-seven calls were for loud music/parties. Officer Ramirez reminds everyone of the ordinance regarding loud music which states music cannot be heard 150 feet from the property line and after 10 PM noise, music distance changes to 75 feet from property line. If you have an issue call non-emergency at 847-289-2700 or 911.
- With the 4<sup>th</sup> of July quickly approaching he is reminding everyone that fireworks are illegal. The Elgin PD has additional detail officers working the last week in June through the week of the 4<sup>th</sup>. Call if you have an issue. If fireworks are found on premise following a call, homeowner will be fined.
- There was a reported stabbing, resulted in no arrests, however this took place outside a known problem property and working with landlord to evict tenants.
- Robbery in the 300 block of Dupage. House under rehab appears not all equipment was secured. Officer Ramirez reminds everyone to take pictures of your valuables along with model and serial number of all items, place all information on separate jump drive this will aide in recovery. Items taken to pawn shop are required to be checked through "Leads on Line".
- Shots fired in the 400 block of Ann Street. Neighbor called in description and assailant was apprehended. He did have loaded handgun, and no FOID card.
- Additional happening throughout city is an app called "Meet me at". Several young men have been assaulted setting up meeting through this app. Officer Ramirez suggests some common sense about meeting someone let at night behind a house.

Upcoming events this month:

- Watch for the Elgin PD, SUV wrapped in honor of Gay Pride month. Wrap was paid for through the Open-Door Clinic. Will be participating in several parades this month including the Chicago Gay Pride Parade.
- June 24<sup>th</sup> Chief's monthly meeting, at 6 PM held at the Police Department
- June 27<sup>th</sup> at 5PM at the Gail Borden Library, the EPD is offering a Teen Live Event related to Motor Vehicles Safety
- July 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> is ROPE Camp for kids in Elgin. This camp is three days at White Pines Dude Ranch. Motion was made and passed to donate \$300.00 to the camp as in prior years.

- August 6<sup>th</sup> is National Night Out at Festival Park. Also, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Congregation Kneseth Israel will be sponsoring block party at Division and N. Chapel. Plans for Petting Zoo, Food.

## SECRETARY'S AND TREASURER'S REPORTS

Minutes from May 2019 meeting approved as presented.

### Treasurer's report

One Deposit this month from the Garden Rental Fees for total of \$580.00. Expenses this month include replacement of missing decorative street signs, potluck, web maintenance for two months, house tour and the neighborhood garden which will be reimbursed from the ECN Grant money.

Checking account balance is	\$ 37,072.66
CD's total of 4	\$ 83,422.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$120,495.17</b>

## HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE (Paul Bednar paul@paulbednar.com)

### Community Garden / Neighborhood Garden –

- All gardens beds have been planted.
- Mayor's walk toured the gardens Wednesday night.
- August 5<sup>th</sup> at the Gail Borden Library at 7 PM city wide meeting to discuss logistics and benefits of creating community gardens. The meeting is planned by Jen Fukula, Laura Knoerr and Barbara Evans and others who spearheaded the creation of the Elgin Historic District's community garden. Contributing to the discussions will be experts from the Sherman Garden who have mentored the historic district group and have a vision for seeing gardens throughout Elgin whether they be a few raised beds at a school, ten beds on church property or 40 beds on private land. Time will be allotted for Questions and Answers. Reservations are recommended but not required. Gifford Park Association will be providing cookies and coffee for this event. If you'd like to help contact Barb Evans at 847-742-2265 or evanselgin@yahoo.com.
- Request for picnic table at the Channing Community Gardens
- Julie Schmidt brought to discussion that following the walk with the mayor last night he stated city plans to move forward in building some houses on the current site. Neighbors and neighborhood would prefer the area to be made a park. Much discussion regarding issues with the soil, style of homes, lot sizes, etc. Suggested neighbors start petition to stop buildings, contact council members voicing concerns etc. Dan sent out separate email with council

contacts. Straw poll of those in attendance would support petition to create a park.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT** (Moe Lee 708-828-9706)

Membership remains at approximately 135 households. Reminder membership is free.

**PORCHFEST** (Peggy Bernar) – saw a post on Facebook about Porchfests. Would like to consider starting them again in the historic district. Porchfests are annual music events held across the US and Canada on front porches. Started in Ithaca, New York in 2007, porchfest events bring local musicians and neighborhoods together to celebrate and create a sense of community. If interested in working on this project contact Peggy at pegbernar@gmail.com

**ELGIN HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR** (Mike Haskins 630-880-7276)

House Tour is scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Working to modernize the tour. We are moving to using more electronic/computer processes. This year will be doing electronic sign-up for docents, helping to reduce the phone calls Dan, Barb and others have made in the past. If you want to be a docent and do not receive instructions on signing up electronically contact Dan Miller at dmiller155@aol.com. We will be again doing electronic ticket purchases as well as electronic sponsorship. Asking for access to GPA checking account to establish a PayPal account for both ticket purchase and sponsorship. Last year we trialed electronic ticket purchase through Universal Ticket and the process worked very well. By establishing a GPA PayPal account there will be a direct deposit of ticket sales and sponsorship. The fees for sponsorship will be 2.9% plus \$.30 per transaction this will be deducted from total donation. The purchase of tickets for tour will have a 2.75% transaction fee which will be charged to the purchaser as we did last year. Motion made by Barb to set up PayPal account, motion passed.

Tim requested to be put on House Tour agenda to discuss idea for Homeowner Gift.

Request for Volunteers to help distribute fans at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, contact Mike Haskins at haskinsmichael@sbcglobal.net if interested. The fans were purchase by O'Connor Funeral Home and advertise the House tour.

**Elgin Men's Shed** – (Tim Solarz @spacetaste@gmail.com) or Gary Smith, Director and Founder (GSmith.ElginMensShed@gmail.com)

Tim discussed the newest community program. Elgin Area Men's Shed is a community workshop primarily for senior men. This program is a 501C3. The Elgin Area Men's Shed will provide a range of activities as directed by its members, such as working with wood, metal, leather, or cooking. The Elgin group is the 14<sup>th</sup> in America. Goal is to give men, usually of retirement age a place to go, something to do and people to chat with. One of the big issues for men as they retire is isolation, which affects both mental and physical health. They held their first fundraiser, a pancake breakfast, last weekend and was very successful. The group currently meets in the basement of Blue Box Café on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

Thursday of the month at 1:30 in the afternoon. Dan's addition to the minutes: They recently did a huge volunteer project by making a fancy replacement fence gate for an elderly woman. Her deceased husband had made the gate so it had sentimental value to her.

### **New Information:**

Dan shared a letter from Ivette of the Iglesia Principia de Paz Church formerly known to many as the First Universalist Church at DuPage and Villa. Last month GPA agreed to donate \$1000.00 to the church for repairs to the stained glass windows. "They are very grateful and honored that GPA wants to help the church restore the windows of this beautiful church building." Ivette stated she will be contacting Mary Krebsbach to come out and give them a quote to begin working on the windows.

City planning to build house on vacant city owned lots throughout the city. Completed one on Spring Street. Plan to build one on 480 Park Street. This is funded through Kane Elgin Home Consortium. Purchase price is usually below building price and open to low to moderate income families. Here is the link to the previous post on the home to be built. <https://conta.cc/2x4uZlu>

### **RV issue:**

Moe Lee asked what was the outcome of the city council vote on allowing RVs to be parked in Driveways in Elgin. Dan informed the group that GPA sent out an e-mail blast to residents to encourage them to write to Council members asking them to vote against the new proposed RV regulations. The GPA board was polled to see if they wanted to send a formal request to the City Council. All voted yes with one no and one abstention. GPA sent a formal memo to council asking them not to change the RV laws. Dan said that John Steffen asked the Council to compromise on the issue by basically allowing what is done now. Staff will write the new ordinance and present it to Council for a vote at a future meeting. Here is the Herald article summarizing the compromise: <https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20190613/elgin-backtracks-on-rvs-to-consider-compromise>

### **Volunteers Needed**

July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade – pass out fans with Historic Elgin House Tour advertising – contact Mike Haskins 630-880-7276 or [haskinsmichael@sbcglobal.net](mailto:haskinsmichael@sbcglobal.net),  
August 5<sup>th</sup> - Help with cookies and coffee at the Community Garden program, 7 PM at Gail Borden Library – contact Barb Evans 847-742-2265 or [evanselgin@yahoo.com](mailto:evanselgin@yahoo.com)

Respectfully submitted  
Susan Kuester

