

Gifford Park Association - General Membership Meeting
Elgin History Museum
March 21, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE

Jim Berry, Paul Bednar, Bill Briska, Barbara Evans, Susan Kuester, Christine Lee, Dan & Pat Miller, Mark & Glenna Preradovic, EPD Officer Ramirez, Warren Tejes, Janine Hnatusko

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome to Janine Hnatusko who resides on Division Street.

Mark brought in The Oprah Magazine for this month which mentioned the Walking Book Club of Elgin which meets on Wednesdays. The club meets Wednesday at the Edward Schock Centre, 100 Symphony Way from 7 – 8:30 PM. April's book is Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate

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

Nothing alarming to report in the neighborhood.

Upcoming events this month:

- March 25th Chief's monthly meeting, at 6 PM held at the Police Department
- March 28th Coffee with a Cop at 10 AM at the Elgin Clock Tower Dunkin Donut

Next month:

- April 27th EPD is sponsoring Active Shooter Response Training, sign up in advance, there are two training sessions 9 AM and 1PM, check the EPD website or Facebook page for sign up and further information

Officer Ramirez reminds everyone to check the Elgin Police Facebook Page for all upcoming police events as well as their website.

Complaint of homeless becoming more aggressive/annoyance to local business, Officer Ramirez suggests contact PD.

SECRETARY'S AND TREASURER'S REPORTS

Minutes from January 2019 meeting approved as presented.

Treasurer's report

Checking account balance is	\$43,500.
FFSB CD #1	31,500.44
FFSB CD #2	10,500.51
PNC CD #1	10,200.22
PNC CD #2	<u>30,600.13</u>
Total	\$ 126,300.

Expenses over the last two months related to a deposit for replacement street signs in the Historic District for approximately \$620. There were no deposits this month.

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

Paul recognizes need for a historic district meeting is needed very soon to plan activities for the year.

Community Garden / Neighborhood Garden – Going to the Planning and Zoning committee on April 1st to request rezoning to allow the garden and park at the Channing/Division open space. When approved there it will move to the city council for approval around April 10th. Gifford Park Association has agreed to sign the lease with the city as required.

- Over thirty people have committed to participating in the gardens
- Scheduling a work day for building the beds, first one is to be 4/27th
- A Neighborhood Improvement Grant has been applied for.

Motion by Paul Bednar to ask GPA for \$3000.00 to purchase materials for the building of the gardens with understanding will be reimburse when money from grant is received. Seconded by Barb Evans, approved by board.

Spring Tree Planting Program – Pat discussed the cities tree program. She states city requires homeowner to request the tree and agree to water and trim as needed. To request a tree review the recommended species list and fill out the Tree Ban Request & Tree Selection Form, available at cityofelgin.org/treeplanting. Application deadline for spring planting is April 15th.

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

Annual Potluck Dinner will be on April 26th, at Lord's Park Pavilion, starting at 6:30 P.M. We will be celebrating our 40th Birthday!!! Dan has put together our accomplishment over the past 40 years and will present. Typically GPA furnishes the main course. The potluck will be in place of our monthly meeting.

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

Site selection is currently underway. This year the tour will features homes north of East Chicago Street in the Historic District as well as homes to the east around Lords Park. Many packets have been distributed. Steering committee for house tour will meet on April 1st at Elgin History Museum at 7 PM

New Information:

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH PROGRAM - Jennifer Fukala from DNA has started an outreach program. Membership in the program will include members from the neighborhood associations which surround the downtown which include, Near West Neighborhood Association (NWNNA), Southwest Neighborhood Association (SWAN), Gifford Park Association (GPA), Northeast Neighborhood Association (NENA) and the Watch Factory Historic District. Barb Evans has graciously agreed to sit on this program.

The goal of this program is to provide feedback to DNA from the neighborhoods on current activities they have planned, which then can be publicized to help recognize Elgin and its neighborhoods. Questions ideas contact Barb Evans at evanselgin@yahoo.com or 847-742-2265.

Tim Solarz – Solar energy

Tim stated Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin are currently behind in solar energy. It is expected to have 25% solar energy support to ComEd by 2025. Solar energy is here. Currently there is a 30% tax credit for installation of solar panels

The city of Elgin is currently participating in the SolSmart program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative, which helps local governments reduce barriers to solar energy growth and make it easier for homes and businesses to go solar.

Recognizing that local governments have influence over the prospects for solar energy growth, SolSmart assists in streamlining paperwork, red tape, and other requirements to encourage solar development, so cities become “open for solar business”. The city of Elgin is currently working toward a Silver designation by SolSmart. The city is expected to be recognized in May.

The city currently has process in place for anyone interested in installing solar panels. For the historic district, guidelines are from National Preservation. For more information go to the city of Elgin web page and then to Solar Landing Page.

Upcoming informational events related to solar energy

- April 22, at 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm, Solarize Chicagoland – open to all residents throughout Cook, Kane, Dupage and Will Counties. Learn the basics of solar, its financial implications and how the solar group buy program works. This meeting is being held at the Elgin Township Supervisor’s Office, 729 S Mclean Street Elgin For more information www.solarizechicagoland.com, or Citizens Utility Board at www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org

Questions can be directed to Tim Solarz at spacetaste@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted
Susan Kuester