

Gifford Park Association  
Membership Meeting  
February 21, 2020

**Calendar of Upcoming events**

**Membership Committee meeting** – Friday March 6 at 1:00 at the Blue Box Inn.  
**Housewalk Committee meeting** Monday March 23 at 7:00 at the Historical Society museum  
**Deadline for submitting 50/50 and 75/25 grant applications** - Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>  
**Historic District Committee meeting** – 7:00 pm Monday, February 24 at 490 Park  
**Sunderlage Historic Home in Hoffman Estates open house** – watch for details.  
**Strong Towns presentation** - Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> - Chuck Marohn  
**Annual membership pot luck dinner** – Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>  
**39<sup>th</sup> annual Housewalk** - September 12 and 13  
**Mayor's Awards** – Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

**Meeting called to order** by President, Dan Miller at 7:05 PM

**Members in attendance:** Peg Bernar, Bill Briska, Amanda Carlson, Barbara Evans, John Fitzgerald, Karen Fox, Molly Gillespie, Tyler and Cheyenne Grace, Laura Knoerr, Emily Krueger, Paul and Sue Kuester, Tom and Moe Lee, Dan and Pat Miller, Officer Ramirez, Ashley Schiavone, Karen Schock, Joy Symonds, and Steve Thoren

**Welcome and Introductions:** Welcome to new faces, Tyler, Cheyenne, Ashley and Emily, thank you for coming. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and gave home address to help everyone get to know each other a little better.

**Upcoming Library Referendum** – Karen Fox and Karen Schock presented the group with information regarding the upcoming library referendum which will be on the March 17, 2020 ballot. The current building bonds that were issued to construct the Main Library (17 years ago) and the Rakow Branch (10 years ago) will be paid off in 2021. The Gail Borden Public Library Board of Trustees voted unanimously to place a NO TAX INCREASE REFERENDUM. They are asking the voters to approve a “swapping “ money – taking money that is currently being applied to the bond funding and apply it to the operating costs of the library (book, programs, services, and maintenance of the buildings). The referendum question will ask for an increase in the operating fund limiting rate. The rate of the bond fund will be reduced by the same amount. **This will result in no increase to the tax rate.** For more information, please visit [gailborden.info/NoTaxRateIncreaseReferendum](http://gailborden.info/NoTaxRateIncreaseReferendum) or [www.YesToGailBordenLibrary.org](http://www.YesToGailBordenLibrary.org)

**If you would like to help advertise this referendum with a yard sign, please contact the library.**

**Sidewalk Hero's Program / Update City Programs** – Molly Gillespie, Communications Manager for City of Elgin presented:

**Sidewalk Heroes** – we live in the Midwest, snow happens, the expectation is for homeowners to clear snow from the sidewalks. *Not all Heroes wear capes.* The city of Elgin does not have an ordinance for clearing walks, it would be difficult to enforce. The City of Elgin and School District U-46 are looking for Sidewalk Heroes to brave the cold and take a stand for their neighborhood

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this winter season. *Will you step up to the task and be the hero your neighborhood needs?*  
Requirement: Have a big heart, own a shovel or snow blower, own snow gear, cape and mask optional, ability to lift upwards of 40 pounds. Share your good deeds. For more information contact 311 or visit [CITYOFELGIN.ORG/SIDEWALKHEROES](http://CITYOFELGIN.ORG/SIDEWALKHEROES).

**Elgin Census 2020** – Census begins April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Between March 12 – 20<sup>th</sup>, you'll receive an invitation to respond online to the 2020 census. Experts state that each person counted in Illinois represent \$1,500 of critical annual federal grant funds in Illinois to help feed nutritious meals to children in need, help people in need with their health care and much more. Being counted helps with capitol infrastructure programs as well. These counts also help determine democratic representation, planning and much more.

- There are also potential jobs available check the website.
- City is also working with some hard to reach populations arranging to have pastors or others trusted in the city to assist in getting everyone counted.

**Special events for 2020-** A few large events will not take place in 2020, including Elgin iFest, the Elgin Civil War Experience and Elgin Hay Day. The Elgin Valley Fox Trot will be supported by a community group and plans to be on the weekend after Memorial Day weekend. It will also have a new route. The Art and Soul Fest will occur in a modified format. These events will be run by community groups, with a City sponsorship to help cover some costs related to staffing (public works/land management, police, fire). There will still be the usual line up of concerts in the park, movies in the park, the Fourth of July parade and fireworks and other annual ceremonies and small events.

**A reduced events lineup** - for 2020 will provide time for market research where the Elgin community will be asked to get involved and help share a vision for the future of events in Elgin. Stay tuned for information on focus groups and surveys where you can provide valuable input.

**Update ROPE Officer Ramirez (847-289-2700)**

Officer Ramirez reported since our last meeting there have been 308 calls in our neighborhood. Of those calls 13% have been for traffic stops. Nothing else major in our neighborhood.

**Upcoming events:**      **February 24<sup>th</sup>** Lunchtime live with Chief Lalley at noon on Facebook. Ask questions of the chief live.

**February 24<sup>th</sup>** Chief monthly meeting, 6 – 7 PM, at 151 Douglas Ave

**March 4<sup>th</sup> Coffee** with a Cop, 2-3 PM at the Gail Borden Library, purpose of these meetings are to break down the barriers between police officers and the citizens they serve.

**March 14** 9:00 – 12:00 recruiting at the Elgin Police Department begins and continues through May 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM. See website for information.

[Cityofelgin.org](http://Cityofelgin.org) or [cityofelgin.org/recruiting](http://cityofelgin.org/recruiting)

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**Annual Crime** stats for the City of Elgin, 2019 is posted on the City web site. Check it out!

**Chicago Street Reconstruction:** Officer Ramirez shared with the group an issue he had regarding his sewer line as a result of the construction on E. Chicago St. It seems with all the digging that took place many of the sewer lines which are clay are becoming unstable and collapsing. Officer Ramirez had water coming up in his basement. His neighbor also experienced similar problems. It appears, that it may only be happening on the north side of street. Officer Ramirez recommends contacting 311 if you should have any issues with sewer backing up if you reside in the construction area. It is possible city may help with the cost of repair.

**Secretary's Report** – Minutes of January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting approved with noted changes. Dan to post revised minutes to website.

**Treasurer's Report** - Checking account - \$ 58,680.14

CD's (4 in total)    \$ 84,803.89

Total            \$143,484.03

Reminder that we have allocated \$50,000.00 to the D.C. Cook Mansion Project and \$1,000.00 to Iglesia Principe De Paz for stained glass window repair.

**Finance Chair** – Dan discussed that GPA bylaws require a Finance Chair as part of the Officers for GPA. He stated there has not been a finance chair since 1991. Tom Lee had verbalized an interest in the position last month and had worked diligently with Dan and Pat to create a 2020 budget. Barb Evans nominated and seconded by Peg Bernar, Tom was nominated for Finance Chair and approved by the board.

### Committee Reports

- **House Tour – Mike Haskins, Chair (630-880-7276 or [haskinsmichael@sbcglobal.net](mailto:haskinsmichael@sbcglobal.net))** Barb presented in Mike's absence. First meeting for this year was held on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The tour this year will 8 homes north of Lawrence Ave and east of Wing Park Blvd. None of these homes have been on previous tours. House tour is scheduled for September 12 and 13, Saturday and Sunday, from 9 – 4. Ticket prices will remain the same as last year.
  - **Next meeting** of the Steering Committee is scheduled for 7 PM, Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Elgin History Museum. All who are interested in playing a role in preparing for our 39<sup>th</sup> annual tour are invited to attend.

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▪ **Some specific help for the following:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade
- Public Relations/Marketing
- Sponsorships
- Tour booklet writing
- Registration co-chair
- Logistical pre-tour vendor supplies and permits
- Homeowner gifts (ideas needed)
- After party

If you're willing to lend a hand, plan to attend the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and/or contact Mike

Kudos to Liz Marston who persisted and obtained a refund of \$680 from Danny's for a mistake in billing from last years after party.

- **Public Relations – Peg Bernar, Chair ([pegbernar@gmail.com](mailto:pegbernar@gmail.com))** Continue posts to our Facebook page focusing on membership etc. Looking at joining the Elgin Chamber of Commerce to help promote GPA.

Dan thanked Peggy for her creative and informative posts.

- **Membership – Janine Hnatusko, Chair** Peg presented in Janine's absence. Working to welcome new residence of our neighborhoods, by leaving a Welcome basket along with a little note of welcome and inviting them to attend a GPA meeting. It works as Tyler and Cheyenne came tonight as a result of receiving a basket.
  - **Potluck** is planned for Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Lords' Park Pavilion. We will be inviting the 2020 Husetour homeowners and showing of the homes.
  - **Reusable bag** – considering a reusable bag with GPA logo to help promote our neighborhood.
  - **Next meeting** – March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM at Blue Box Café. Janine would like anyone interested in helping to attend.
- **Historic District – Amanda Carlson, Chair ([abcarlson80@gmail.com](mailto:abcarlson80@gmail.com))** We had 5 people attend our January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. We discussed the purpose of the Historic District Committee, what type of events to engage new and current members, how best to execute this and the budget. Our goal for 2020 is community – building, both in engaging non-participating members and welcoming new people to our community. We are looking to plan events for April, May, June, July, August and December for around \$300.00 per event. We have 6 events in consideration – in addition to partnering with the Community Garden Events Coordinator for others We would continue the Fall Fest as the largest event of the year with the biggest budget of \$1500.00. We also plan to work with Membership Committee to make our endeavors mutually beneficial.

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- **Next meeting** – February 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM at Amanda’s house, 490 Park Street.
  
- **Community Gardens – Laura Knoerr** All forty beds have been spoken for and we could use even more. Planning an event monthly beginning with Sunday, March 2 as the Kickoff for the 2020 Community Gardens. In April we are planning a build day weather permitting to finish pergola.
  - Also looking to have more involvement, from kids. Considering a butterfly garden and planting of some fruit trees. She also shared the Seventh Day Adventist Church, on Bode Road is interested in starting a garden. It was also verbalized the gardens at Sherman hospital may have some open beds.
  
- **Special Committees – Grant Program- Tom Lee, chair** – submitted minutes from February meeting to secretary. Goal is to get GPA money working in the community. The committee is working diligently to formalize the program. Plan to use the city of Elgin grant application as a guide. The committee will have \$10,000.00 to use for grants, much focus on architectural detail to returning home to original. Grant will not be for painting or fencing.

Dan thanked Tom for all the work he and the committee have done so far.

- **Finance Committee – Tom Lee, Chair** - Tom presented those in attendance with Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss Statement for January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 through February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The 2020 Budget was also presented. The bylaws state yearly budget should be approved at the January meeting. as a result of the addition of a finance chair, the budget was reviewed during the general membership meeting (2/20/20), by the board. All categories listed were discussed, some changes made, and final budget was approved by the GPA board of directors.
  - Board apologizes for the time spent in discussion.
  - Plan going forward is for P/L and Balance Sheet to be submitted monthly, as well as committee reports/bills.

**Other Concerns:**

- **Special Yard Work Offer** – Peg was talking with Chris Flaherty who owns Green Guerrilla. This company is based in Elgin and they offer eco-friendly lawn services in conjunction with natural weed control, and Spring/Fall yard cleanup. They were awarded the sustainability Honor Roll in 2019 by the City of Elgin Sustainability Commission. He is offering a 15% discount to anyone who wants to utilize their seasonal lawn services. He can be reached 630-270-9483 or email

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[greenguerrillallc@gmail.com](mailto:greenguerrillallc@gmail.com) Mention the discount code (GPA) when you contact him. He will come out do an assessment and send you a quote.

- **At large Board vacancy** – as a result of Tom Lee becoming the Finance Chair, there is a vacancy of an At Large Board position. Peg nominated Paul Kuester for the position, Barb second and all approved Paul as At Large.
- **March Meeting** – Dan proposed a movie night. Movie will be on the rebuilding of a historic home in Florida that was destroyed by fire.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

Respectfully submitted

Susan Kuester