

GIFFORD PARK ASSOC. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, July 21, 2022

DATES TO NOTE

Tues., Aug. 2, 5-8 p.m.: National Night Out, Division St. by Congregation Kneseth Israel & Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Wed., Aug. 10, 6 p.m.: City Council meeting at which Lords Park Pool is on the agenda

Sun., Aug. 14, 3:30 p.m.: East Side Community Gardens BLT Fest

Mon., Aug. 15: Deadline for signing up for a free parkway tree

Thurs., Aug. 18, 7 p.m.: GPA General Membership Meeting at History Museum

Fri., Aug. 26, approx. 5 p.m.: ESO Brass Concert at Gifford Park. (Bring seating)

Sat. & Sun., Sept. 10 & 11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.: Historic Elgin House Tour

IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Bednar, Barbara Evans, Sarah Hunt, Trish LaFleur, Laura Knoerr, Dan & Pat Miller, Ramon Payne

R.O.P.E. REPORT (EPD Officer R. Payne)

Late in the evening of June 25, a burglar broke into El Cokito Taqueria at 81 Villa St. and snatched the cash register. After a short foot chase, however, he was apprehended and charged. On July 8, twin sisters were shot at the Willard Street Skate Park by a 17-year-old girl who had also shot a bullet into her ex-boyfriend's car earlier. (The ex-boyfriend was dating one of the twins.) She and another were arrested. Fortunately, because the gun was an old model, the twin sisters' injuries were minor.

Officer Payne passed out the flyers that he and others had distributed in our R.O.P.E. area about the National Night Out sponsored by the EPD. For details, see GPA's Facebook page. GPA will have an information table there, which Barbara Evans and Dan Miller will staff.

Payne then showed photos of the R.O.P.E. camp to which GPA had contributed \$600. He also reviewed other activities the EPD is sponsoring to involve young people in Elgin. Saturday, for example, the EPD is taking Girl Scouts fishing at McGraw Wildlife. Not surprisingly, the slots for the six weeks of weightlifting training that will be held at the Center Aug. 1 thru Sept. 7 were quickly filled.

Although EPD outreach activities are open to all in Elgin, Paul Bednar urged Officer Payne to publicize them at Channing Park, where many area kids gather. As Payne noted, however, participation requires parental permission, and while kids are being informed, the information doesn't always get back to parents. Facebook is the primary means by which the EPD alerts people to these programs.

SECRETARY'S & TREASURER'S REPORTS

The minutes of the June 16th general membership meeting were unanimously approved. So, too, was Laura Knoerr's report of \$64,658.50 in GPA's checking account and \$84,483.55 in four CDs for a total of \$152,142.05.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Historic District (Sarah Hunt, Chair)

All is set for GPA's July 23rd picnic at Gifford Park. The event has been highly publicized in hopes that we see new faces there. In addition to tacos from El Cokito Taqueria, Sarah has

procured the City of Elgin's new Block Party in a Box, which includes tables, chairs, tents and games. (If you're unfamiliar with this, see www.elginchamber.com/news/details/block-party-in-a-box-rolled-out-to-elgin-residents)

Remember, if your parkway is in need of a tree, the City of Elgin will provide you with one, if you sign up for it by Aug. 15. To do so, see <https://www.cityofelgin.org/467/Tree-Planting>

There is no update on the status of the traffic circle at Division and Gifford streets.

2. Membership (Janine Hnatusko, Chair, via email)

Forty-four Welcome to the EHD bags have been delivered to new residents, thanks to Sarah Hunt, Paul Bednar and Barbara Evans as well as Janine. Unfortunately, GPA has not yet received membership applications from them even tho Janine sent out follow-up letters. No properties within the EHD have closed in the last 30 days.

3. Elgin Historic House Tour (Matt Martin, Chair)

This year's tour will feature six homes in the EHD. To see them, visit historichelginhousetour.com While you are there, please click on Volunteer to sign up to be a docent or registration volunteer.

If you live in the EHD, please help showcase our neighborhood by mowing, painting and generally cleaning up your property.

4. Publicity (Trish LaFleur, Chair)

Paul gave special thanks to Trish for revamping our website and to Janine and Sarah for adding posts to Facebook about events and houses. Trish has started exploring tools to put every house that has ever been featured on the Historic Elgin House Tour on an interactive map on the website.

GPA walked in the July 4th parade with the Elgin Heritage Commission and Elgin History Museum and passed out a large amount of Historic Elgin House Tour postcards. Thanks to everyone who walked! Because of threatening weather, the much anticipated Elgin Symphony Orchestra concert scheduled for July 4 in Gifford Park was cancelled, it has been rescheduled for August 26 - the same day the City of Elgin will hold the fireworks.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Flyers have been made up to publicize the Great Unveiling Grant to targeted homes in the EHD. If you are interested in removing the substitute siding from your house with free labor and \$5,000, please call Dan Miller at 847-697-3370

2. All concerned about the possible permanent closure of Lords Park Pool should plan to attend the Elgin City Council meeting of the whole on Aug. 10, when its fate will be discussed. As Terry Gable, on the Board of Directors of Friends of Lords Park Zoo wrote, "What we need most [at this meeting] is a large turnout to demonstrate the community's opposition to this closing," for "the loss of this amenity negatively impacts Lords Park, the east side and the City of Elgin."

NEW BUSINESS

Before the lead-pipe sewer lines were replaced on East Chicago Street, residents were given the choice of having City-provided faucet filters or contracting, at their own expense, to have the non-lead water lines extended all the way into their homes. Seven people opted for the latter. The year after the E. Chicago St. project was completed, the City received a grant that would enable those on E. Chicago St. using faucet filters to have the non-lead waterlines extended into their homes at no cost to them. Needless to say, those who had paid to have this done are upset that they are not being reimbursed. Dan Miller will draft a letter to the City Council urging that they be reimbursed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Hunt invited all GPA members to the East Side Community Garden's BLT Fest at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 14. Bring a dish to pass or food to share. A grill will be available.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Evans, Secretary

POSTSCRIPT from GPA President Paul Bednar

The Saturday afternoon neighborhood party at Gifford Park was well attended. It is estimated that we had at least 80 persons that helped eat 240 fantastic tacos. Many of these neighbors recently moved into the neighborhood. Thanks to everyone that was involved in the planning/set-up of the event, especially Sarah Hunt, Janine Hnatusko Trish, John and two red-headed LaFleurs. It would be great to see more of you at our next party - FallFest in October.