

GPA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
May 19, 2022  
7:00 p.m. at Elgin History Museum [EHM] & Zoom

#### DATES TO NOTE

July 23rd: Picnic Gathering at Gifford Park  
Sat/Sun., Sept. 10-11: Elgin Historic House Tour

#### CALL to ORDER

by President Paul Bednar

#### R.O.P.E. REPORT

Neighborhood ROPE Officer Payne was welcomed back after an extended absence and he reported that since April 1st, no significant calls of concern have occurred within the neighborhood. A general increase in catalytic converter thefts has been seen citywide and increased awareness or security measures were encouraged. The Elgin Police Department will be holding a number of events for children within the neighborhood in the coming months including a Kids United Summer Program from June 13th to August 2nd, ROPE Camp, and a fishing event. Additional details can be found on the police department's Facebook page. In response to Officer Payne's report regarding the ROPE CAMP, it was motioned that the Gifford Park Association donate \$600 to allow the ROPE program to include more children in the camp. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

A general discussion occurred regarding the City's recent proposal to remove the traffic circle located at Gifford and Division. Recently the City sent a survey to some residents with two options, the first to remove the traffic circle entirely and return the intersection to a two way stop with stop signs located on Division and the second to maintain a traffic circle but have mountable curbs. Surveys are due May 25th. Due to the limited outreach by the City on this issue, the GPA Board decided to write a letter to the city requesting additional information and suggesting that a third option of a four-way stop be considered.

#### SECRETARY'S & TREASURER'S REPORTS

Laura Knoerr's treasurer's report of \$152,995.43—\$65,570.36 of which is in checking and the rest in four CDs. The treasurer's report was unanimously approved. The secretary's report was delayed until the next general membership meeting.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### 1. Grant (Tyler)

The application for the GPA's grant to support the replacement of missing architectural features has been posted. Applicants can use an electronic form on the GPA's website or print off a PDF application. So far, 1 application has been

received and the Committee will meet shortly to review. It is a rolling application period, so new applications may continue to come in and be reviewed over the summer.

### 1. Membership (Janine)

An updated membership list has been prepared and a printed list was distributed to members in attendance. Janine has put together bags to be delivered to new residents who purchased homes in the neighborhood over the last few years. The bags include, among other things, information about the EHD and other historic districts/historic properties, a \$10 gift certificate for downtown Elgin businesses, tickets to the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, and various household cleaning products. The goal is to have these bags delivered prior to the July 23rd picnic gathering.

### 2. Elgin Historic District [EHD] (Trish LaFleur)

#### 1. Picnic Gathering

The date for the Picnic Gathering has been set and will be on the afternoon of July 23 at Gifford Park. The event will include food, ice cream, and bag games. Details are still a work in progress, but it is intended to have food trucks provide food service. Alternatively, the Committee will be exploring other options including have a food booth staffed by a volunteer organization as a fundraiser.

#### 2. Great Unveilings Publicity

There was discussion regarding the Great Unveilings program and potential best practices for ensuring new applicants. An effort will be made to identify neighborhood properties with substitute siding and conduct direct outreach to attempt to inform the owner of the program and of the hidden potential that lies behind the substitute siding.

#### 3. Neighborhood Plantings

Paul Bednar brought up the idea of neighborhood plantings around all of the Historic District's signs in advance of the housewalk. Some concerns arose around long term maintenance of the plantings. In addition, to offset the overall cost and maintenance obligation, Barb and Tyler suggested limiting any plantings to the area specifically affected by the house walk.

Some additional discussion occurred around plantings in Gifford Park in advance of the summer's events and it was decided that additional outreach should occur to the Elgin Parks Department to determine their openness to having additional plantings within the park.

#### 4. Lords Park Pool

Trish indicated that someone had reached out regarding concerns that the Lords Park Pool may remain permanently closed into the future. It was decided by the GPA Board that a letter of support should be written to the City

expressing support for funding for the Lords Park Pool in the 2023 fiscal year budget.

### 3. Publicity (Trish LaFleur)

1. On May 21st, a photo op event will occur with Elgin Fire Barn 5 for the GPA's \$5,000 donation to the Firefighters Memorial. Local news outlets were contacted and the Courier News indicated that they were interested in writing a story. All were encouraged to attend.

### 4. Historic Elgin House Tour (Paul Bednar)

This year's housewalk is planned for the Elgin Historic District, but the House Walk Committee is having a difficult time finding enough homes willing to participate. Paul stated that 4 commitments have been secured so far and that a total of 6 houses are needed in order for the house walk to move forward in our neighborhood. A final decision on the 2022 House Walk location will be made before Memorial Day.

## ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tyler Grace, Secretary Pro Tem



Check Presentation to Fire Barn No. 5 Museum



Check Presentation to Fire Barn No. 5 Museum