

GIFFORD PARK ASSOC. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022

DATES TO NOTE

Aug. 26, 4-6 pm: Elgin Museum Crawl

Aug. 26, 5:30 pm: ESO Brass Quintet's Patriotic Concert in Gifford Park (if rain, in

St. Mary's Catholic Church)

Sept. 3, 10:00-4:00: Paul Durrenberger Estate Sale, 584 N. Melrose

Sept. 10 & 11, 9:00-4:00: 40th Annual Elgin Historic House Tour

Sept. 15, 7 pm: GPA General Membership Meeting, Elgin History Museum

Sept. 18, 4-6 pm: Music in the Park, East Side Neighborhood Garden

Sept. 29, 6-8 pm: DNA Mixer for historic area boards, Elgin Public House

Oct. 8, 1-4 pm: GPA Fall Fest, Gifford Park

IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Bednar, Paul Durrenberger, Barbara Evans, Janine Hnatusko, Sarah Hunt, Laura Knoerr, Trish LaFleur, Dan & Pat Miller, Mark & Glenna Preradovic, Warren Tejes

SECRETARY'S & TREASURER'S REPORTS

The minutes of the July 21st meeting were amended to read that EPD outreach activities are open not only to Elgin's youth but also to those of surrounding areas. A motion that these minutes be approved was seconded and passed unanimously.

Also approved unanimously was Laura Knoerr's report of \$63,811 in checking and \$87,498.89 in four CDs for a net worth of \$151,309.89.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Membership (Janine Hnutasko)

An updated membership list with corrections/additions made to a recent draft is being prepared.

A flag and bumper stickers reading Elgin Historic District were suggested as items to be added to future welcome bags.

2. Elgin Historic District [EHD] (Sarah Hunt)

Sarah thanked all who were involved in making GPA's summer picnic in Gifford Park a success. And for making set up easier than it's ever been, she praised the City's Block Party in a Box.

As our October 8th Fall Fest isn't that far away, Sarah is again calling for help. Pat Miller has offered to be in charge of the games, but needed are people willing to help with cookie decorating, always a fun activity. A Halloween costume contest and/or pet contest are also being considered.

A suggestion was made to consider providing American flags for the flag poles of the two elementary schools in the EHD.

3. Historic House Tour (Trish LaFleur reporting for Chair Matt Martin)

To see the six homes on this year's Sept. 10 & 11 tour as well as to sign up to be a docent or to help with registration, go to historicelginhousetour.com People are especially needed for Sunday shifts.

Tickets are being sold online and at the Elgin History Museum.

Paul Bednar noted that sponsorships have raised over \$6,000, which will go toward the cost of printing the tour booklets.

4. Publicity (Trish LaFleur)

Work on updating GPA's website has come to a halt as Trish is working overtime to prepare the house tour booklet.

ATTN: Whoever started GPA's Facebook page, please contact Trish, for she needs to be added as an administrator of it.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Great Unveiling Grants

Dan and Pat Miller reported that the homes in the EHD with substitute siding number 190. Among them are 114 with aluminum siding, 35 with asbestos and 17 with asphalt shingles. The plan is to have volunteers, armed with the bilingual flyer Paul Bednar had prepared, go in pairs to some of these houses to talk to owners about the grant program. If you are willing to be one of the volunteers, please contact Dan at dmiller155@aol.com

2. East Chicago St's Lead Pipe Water Service

Dan has learned that 33 E. Chicago St. residents benefited from the \$4 billion grant the City received to replace the lead water pipes all the way into their homes. Unfortunately the few who had theirs replaced at their own expense the year before when the sewer work was being done have been told that the remainder of the grant money has already been allocated and that they can't thus be reimbursed. Dan is writing a letter to the City Council asking that they will be.

3. City Action Plan

GPA President Paul Bednar and key people from the City toured the EHD and made a list of things that needed to be done. Most were code violations, but notice was made of the many signs that were bent.

4. Lords Park Pool

At the recent City Council meeting, Paul Bednar spoke on behalf of GPA to advocate keeping/maintaining the pool and thus making it an item in the upcoming budget. Many other people who favored this also attended. As it wasn't an agenda item, however, no vote was taken on the matter.

5. Neighborhood Night Out

Dan and Barbara reported that while they weren't besieged with people at their table, having one of the large, wooden house tour signs there drew those who were interested in learning about the tour. Thus they felt it was worth their while to be there. We also raffled off two tickets to the tour.

NEW BUSINESS

Street Name Signs

The historic-styled street signs were installed in 1998 and totaled 82. Unfortunately, some of them disappear at times, probably because they're hit by cars.

The cost of replacing them is not inexpensive. In 2015, for example, GPA spent \$2,900 and the City \$600 for this purpose; in 2019, GPA spent \$1,200. Now in 2022, 12 signs are missing. While the City will

not give us money to replace them, it will install them for us. After a brief discussion, Glenna Preradovic moved that \$2,400 be allocated for new signs, and Laura Knoerr seconded her motion. It passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. DNA Neighborhood Outreach Committee (Barbara Evans)

Comprised of a representative from each of the historic areas adjacent to downtown, three years ago (pre-COVID) this committee invited the board members of their districts to a mixer in order to exchange ideas and foster cooperation. Now another mixer for these boards is planned for Sept. 29th at the Elgin Public House.

2. East Side Neighborhood Gardens

Sarah and Laura reported that approximately 30 attended the BLT food fest held on Aug. 14th.

The band that will be at their Sept. 18 Music in the Park is the Wooden Ships.

3. Steve Stroud's There Used to Be, Vol. 2

The Elgin History Museum has an abundance of these and is giving many away at no cost. If you would like one, contact Dan at dmiller155@aol.com, for he has the museum's excess.

The motion to adjourn was seconded and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Evans, Secretary