

Gifford Park Assoc. General Membership Meeting  
October 15, 2022

#### DATES TO NOTE

Thurs., Oct. 27, 6 p.m. via Zoom: the last Elgin community input meeting for the 2023 Strategic Plan (See Miscellaneous #4 for particulars.)

Wed. Nov. 2, 6 p.m.: City of Elgin's first budget discussion meeting, City Hall (See Miscellaneous #5 for other dates.)

Sat., Nov. 5, 10 a.m.: Dedication of Fire Barn #5's Memorial Plaza, 533 St. Charles St.

Thurs., Nov. 17, 7 p.m.: GPA General Membership Meeting, Elgin History Museum

Fri., Dec. 2: GPA's Holiday party (details TBA)

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Bednar, Peggy Bernard, Bill Decker, Barbara Evans, Tyler Grace, Janine Hnatusko, Sarah Hunt, Laura Knoerr, Trish LaFleur, Dan & Pat Miller, Mark & Glenna Preradovic, Jay Herzog

CALL TO ORDER: President Paul Bednar

#### SECRETARY'S & TREASURER'S REPORTS (Barbara Evans & Laura Knoerr)

The motion to approve the minutes of the September general membership meeting was seconded and passed unanimously. So, too, was the report that to date GPA's four CDs are worth \$87,575.39 and its checking account has \$63,585.44 for a total of \$151,60.83.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### 1. Membership (Janine Hnatusko)

To date GPA has 209 individual members coming from approximately 170 households. Three properties in the EHD have been sold; six are currently under contract.

##### 2. Historic District (Sarah Hunt)

All who attended GPA's October 8th's Fall Fest declared it a great success, in part due to the glorious weather that brought 100 youngsters, along with their parents, out to enjoy the games, pumpkin decorating, face painting, balloon artistry, pet contest, food/drinks, and even Gail Borden's bookmobile. In addition to GPA members involved, Sarah thanked the Downtown Neighborhood Association for loaning us tables and chairs.

Ahead is our last major event of the year: the December 2nd holiday party. Paul will check out the availability of Lords Park Pavilion as well as Elgin Academy's cafeteria as possible places for it; Glenna will do the same for Rolling Knolls. And of course volunteers are needed to plan the event. Please contact Sarah if you can help.

All agreed that decorating our historic district signs with wreaths again is a must, so in addition to someone needed to purchase them on Thanksgiving weekend (with GPA funds), three to four volunteers are needed put them up. To sign up for wreath duty, please contact Paul.

Although no motion was made, all agreed that continuing to spend \$20 a week for maintenance of the pocket park in the summer and fall months is money well spent.

Pat Miller suggested that GPA have an interpretive sign at this park; Barbara noted that we could use some of the memorial monies that GPA has been given for it.

Although Dan is waiting to hear back from the City about the purchase of a trash can for the pocket park, he reported that replacements for the EHD's missing street signs not only have been ordered but are now being made.

### 3. Publicity (Trish LaFleur)

GPA has 486 subscribers to our Constant Contact emails; 765 on Instagram; 1,086 on Facebook.

Dan is linking the booklet descriptions of all houses that have been on GPA's historic house tour into GPA's new website.

### 4. Elgin Historic House Tour (Matt Martin)

We will have to wait another month for this report as the Steering Committee's recap meeting will be held Oct. 24.

## OLD BUSINESS

### 1. GPA Insurance

Invited to discuss possibilities with us, Jay Herzog of Elgin's Kirkpatrick Jones & Herzog Insurance began by explaining why his agency, underwritten by Hartford Insurance, could give us the liability insurance—for which we currently pay Scottsdale Insurance over \$1,000—for \$584. And that is because Scottsdale is not headquartered in IL and so has to pay taxes. Hartford's, in contrast, has a subsidiary that is and thus doesn't. Interestingly, the liability insurance underwritten by Hartford covers more than our current policy, in part because it does not require additional money to insure special events. Herzog then detailed the other two policies he believes GPA should but does not currently carry: Accident and Health Insurance for Volunteers and Directors & Officers Insurance. After all our questions about these policies had been answered, Paul thanked him for coming and noted that our board would consider them in a timely manner.

### 2. Great Unveiling Grant

Because the last two months' call for volunteers to go door to door to talk about this grant has yielded no one, Paul asked Dan and Pat to themselves begin meeting with some of the most likely candidates on their list of houses with substitute siding. Dan then asked that people contact him if they know of Elgin Historic District [EHD] homeowners who would be interested in a \$5,000 grant.

### 3. City Maintenance in the EHD

Although the Public Works Department did address the items Paul pointed out to them in August in the area where the house tour would be, still to be fixed are many burned out street lights and bent signs. Paul recommends that perhaps if everyone calls 311 to report burned out lights, some action might be taken.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Election of Officers for 2023

Although all current officers except our treasurer have agreed to serve a second term, nominations will be taken from the floor at the general membership meeting in November for the following positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the two

Members-at-Large. Though we hope that Laura will agree to continue as treasurer, if she doesn't, we'll be in need of someone to step up to serve in that position. And as usual, our secretary will gladly step down if someone else would be willing to do the minutes.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### 1. DNA's Neighborhood Outreach Mixer (Barbara Evans)

Eleven of GPA's 12 board members mingled with board members of other City historic districts as well as with DNA board members at the Elgin Public House in late September to exchange ideas about present and future projects to promote our neighborhoods as well as to increase residents' involvement in them. The welcome bags GPA is now giving new EHD residents, for example, will likely be adapted by others. And there was much interest in coordinating with NENA to feature historic neighborhood garage sales on the same day. As this mixer was as successful as the first (pre-pandemic) one, Neighborhood Outreach intends to make it an annual event.

Special thanks is also due Trish for printing GPA Board badges, for more than several from other 'hoods remarked how professional they were (in contrast to the Hello, My Name Is stickers they'd had to scribble their names on).

### 2. East Side Community Gardens (Laura Knoerr & Sarah Hunt)

A successful season will be brought to a close in early November when the beds will be prepared for wintering. Also scheduled is a meeting of the garden committee to recap the season and make plans for next year.

### 3. Dedication of Elgin Area Firefighters Memorial Plaza

Featuring a stunning statue of a firefighter, this is the memorial to which GPA donated \$5,000, and all are encouraged to attend its Nov. 5th 10 a.m. dedication in front of Fire Barn #5 Museum. The dedication will be followed by the 30th memorial service for Illinois firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty over the past year. Off-street parking will be available at Garfield Elementary School at 420 May Street.

### 4. 2023 Strategic Plan Meeting: Oct. 27 Zoom from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

This is the last chance for input into the City's strategic planning for 2023. As it is via zoom, registration is required.

•English registration link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrceqorjooGdC5p3mc\\_LVOxjqs48BYNbw0](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrceqorjooGdC5p3mc_LVOxjqs48BYNbw0)

•Spanish registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlpdOygrjwpE9ViFN7hy0bc1nCTTRdLFuH9>

### 5. City of Elgin's Budget Discussions

"We want to hear from you!" heads the City's announcement of the discussions to be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on the following dates:

- Nov. 2, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 9, 6 p.m.
- Nov16, 5 p.m.
- Dec. 7, 5 p.m.
- Dec. 21, 6 p.m.

Because funding for grants/projects directly related to the health of our historic neighborhoods, such as de-conversions, are impacted by decisions made by the City, it is imperative that some GPA members are present to give input.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed unanimously, after which those present gathered to informally chat.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Evans, Secretary