

# **GIFFORD PARK ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Thursday, August 17, 2023

## **DATES TO NOTE**

Wed. Sept 6, Oct 4, & Nov 8, 6:30pm: Weed Wack Wednesday, Pocket Park (Geneva @ Chicago)

Tues. Sept 12, 7pm: Elgin Historic District Committee Meeting, 155 South Gifford

Fri., Sept. 9: House Tour Docent Orientation at homes to which they're assigned.

Sat. & Sun., Sept. 10 & 11, 9 to 4: 41st Annual Historic Elgin House Tour

Thurs., Sept. 21, 7 p.m.: GPA General Membership Meeting, History Museum

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Paul Bednar, Barbara Evans, John Fitzgerald, Dan & Pat Miller, Joe Lopatko, Mary Ellen Schneider, Mark & Glenna Preradovic, Officer E. Alva

Note: Because we did not have a quorum of board members, no motions could be made.

## **R.O.P.E. REPORT (NENA R.O.P.E. Officer Alva substituting for Officer Payne)**

A traffic stop on July 3rd resulted in an arrest for illegal guns. Since July, there have been three car burglaries in our area, prompting yet another reminder not to leave cars unlocked. Also recommended is installing security cameras, which can be a big help to police in solving crimes.

Between 500 and 600 people attended the EPD's Neighborhood Night Out in our area. NENA also had a similar crowd.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT (Dan Miller)**

GPA's major expenditures this month have been a total of \$1,404.15 for Picnic in the Park, \$290.60 for materials and labor for the pocket park cleanup and though not yet delivered, \$1,704.02 to Pita BBQ for food for the house tour after party on Sept. 10 (advance payment was required). Although as yet only \$2,475 has come in for house tour sponsorships in the tour booklet, Paul anticipates that they will total around \$7,000.

To date, GPA has \$66,393.22 in its checking account and \$87,885.60 in four CDs for a total worth of \$154,379.82.

## **ELGIN HISTORIC DISTRICT (Pat Miller, Chair)**

A major focus of the EHD Committee has been on GPA's grant programs, which will be detailed in a separate section. Relevant here is the makeup of this committee: Pat Miller, Paul Bednar, Tyler Grace, and Janine Hnatusko. That's right: only four people at work to plan and oversee all the work that is necessary to maintain, enhance and preserve the EHD. Their next meeting will be Tuesday, September 12, 7pm at 155 South Gifford. Please show that you care about the EHD by joining them.

To build on the City's program of offering free trees for residents' tree banks, the EHD Committee is planning to actively contact neighbors with treebanks needing trees. Overhead wire-free areas will be prioritized. The target will be the City's spring planting. Completely separate from the City's tree program, the committee is in the process of creating a program to plant "theme trees" on private property. An ornamental species such as Magnolia or Redbud, etc. will be designated and promoted as an ongoing planting program. Hopefully, bulk orders with reduced rates will be possible for those who participate. This could be scheduled once or twice annually.

The grass/weeds of the far-east hill of the Channing School playground will be removed and native seeds strewn as part of the Sustainability Commission's effort to introduce natural plantings to Elgin areas.

Although much work has been done to make the EHD's pocket park on E. Chicago Street attractive, signage is still needed for it. This, as well as other amenities, are in the planning stages. Recently, a load of mulch was spread.

## **GPA GRANT PROGRAMS (Pat Miller, Chair)**

### **1. Architectural Grants 50/50 Program**

An application has been received for the reconstruction of the front porch at 152 S. Gifford, which is the northernmost of the three brick rowhouses. The owner already has a grant from the city to help with this. (As for the porch for the other two rowhouses, which is also non-conforming— one of the row houses is also owned by the owner of 152 but the other by another, which means that it may be a while before it is redone.)

### **2. Proposed Grant for Exterior Paint**

Before reading about the discussion that ensued, please read the attached proposal.

Pat, be sure to attach it.

One of the concerns expressed was that requiring historic paint colors would be too limiting; however, Pat noted that if one consults the historic paint palettes with multitudes of colors, s/he'll find many from which to choose.

The concern expressed about Board members being ineligible was quickly dismissed when we were reminded of Bill Briska's explanation of why we should do so when the Architectural Grants' program was written. It was suggested, however, that the ineligible members could be limited to those on the grant committee.

That all sides of the primary structure needed to be painted was questioned when Barbara reminded people that Paul Kuester methodically painted one side of his house each year, every year. Others thought that mere touch-ups should be included.

The major discussion, however, was over the amount of the grant and its limitation to paint and primer. Because labor is such a large part of the cost of painting, it was suggested that the amount of the grant should be increased and not exclude labor.

The committee is taking the above into consideration and will report back about any changes made in the proposal at the September general membership meeting.

### **3. Possible Grant for Chain Link Fence Removal**

Though the EHD has few chain link fences remaining, this is being considered for another grant.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

1. John Fitzgerald noted that he as yet has received few recommendations for a list of contractors that he's preparing. If you have had personal experience with one and wish to make a recommendation, please email him at [jpaulfiz@johnandcor.com](mailto:jpaulfiz@johnandcor.com).

2. In regard to a concern expressed, it was explained the port-a-potty at Channing Park is often locked because it was placed by the soccer clubs, who don't want it open at all times for the public.

3. The City of Elgin is requesting residents to complete a survey about the North Grove Redevelopment Area (by Gail Borden Public Library). To learn about the draft concept plans and then give feed back about them, see [www.surveymonkey.com/r/35TL79V](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/35TL79V).

Respectively submitted,  
Barbara Evans, Secretary

Here is the draft of the proposed GPA paint grant program that was discussed above.

## **GPA PAINT GRANT GUIDELINES**

### **Draft 2**

- Gifford Park Association shall budget an amount each year for the Paint Grant Program. Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until budgeted funds are exhausted.
- Up to \$1500 total grant amount toward exterior paint and primer of which up to \$500 of the \$1500 may be for paint color consultation for color selection and color placement.  
(NOTE: City of Elgin Preservation Specialist will recommend paint colors with no fee.)
- Cost of paint, primer, and/or color consultation will be reimbursed after application of paint and submission of receipts. GPA shall own and retain a copy of the color consultation plans.
- Tools and equipment are not included in the grant.
- This grant may be combined with other GPA or City of Elgin grants. Only one Paint Grant per property every seven years.
- Eligible properties shall be located in the Elgin Historic District. Current members of the GPA board shall not be eligible for paint grants.
- Only projects which include the primary structure and include painting all sides of the exterior shall be eligible for a paint grant.
- Paint color, to be approved by GPA, should be based on historic color palettes of Benjamin Moore or other similar historic paint palettes. Approval should occur before purchase of paint.
- A minimum of a three-color paint scheme should be used: BODY, TRIM, ACCENT.  
BODY is defined as clapboard siding, shingle siding, stucco, previously painted brick (unpainted masonry must remain unpainted. The color of the brick or stone may count as one color/body in a three-color scheme)  
TRIM is defined as window casings; window hoods and crown moldings; door casings; door hoods and crown moldings; water table boards; corner boards; porch posts, balustrades, wood porch aprons; brackets, and friezes; porch step risers and stringers; roof soffit, fascia, cornices, brackets; gable ornaments, etc.  
ACCENTS are defined as doors; shutters; window sash, storms and screens; garage doors; basement trap doors; porch floors; etc. Judiciously placed accent color to highlight decorative features of the TRIM may be used/approved.
- Structures with substitute materials such as: asbestos siding, asphalt siding, aluminum siding, vinyl siding, T-111 siding, etc. shall not be eligible for paint grants.
- City of Elgin permit and COA is the responsibility of the property owner.
- Possible Color Consultants: The Color People: [www.colorpeople.com](http://www.colorpeople.com)  
The Old House Guy: [owner@oldhouseguy.com](mailto:owner@oldhouseguy.com)
- Exceptions to the above guidelines shall require approval of GPA board.