

## **Gifford Park Association General Membership Meeting**

**January 18, 2024, 7:00 PM**

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Paul Bednar, Barbara Evans, Tyler Grace, Trish LaFleur, Jerry Lopatka, Monica and Ysabel Lopez, Dan/ Pat Miller, ROPE Officer Payne, Glenna/ Mark Preradovic, Andrew Stein, James Carrigan

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Tyler Grace called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. He asked all in attendance to introduce themselves with names and addresses.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes of the November 16, 2023 meeting. Motion seconded and minutes approved.

### **ROPE Officer Report**

Officer Payne reported that on 12/15/23 a projectile was fired through a window of a home in the 200 block of South Channing. The resident came home and found the projectile on their couch. It was related to a shooting the previous day at 200 S. Channing.

Officer Payne reminded the membership to be mindful of the snow route regulations, especially if you have guests. East Chicago, Gifford, (from Villa and Summit) Hill Street, are snow routes. Regulations go into effect if there are 2 or more inches of snow. Fines are \$50 (ticket) and \$500 (tow). Cars parked on the snow route are ticketed and the owner is given 24 hours to move the car. The next day unmoved cars are ticketed once again and then towed. Cars were both ticketed and towed during the most recent snow storm January 12-16. Police try to get the car owner's attention before they ticket and tow (blink lights, honk horn).

There was a police officer-involved shooting on the west side of Elgin. The shooting occurred during a response to an emergency mental health/self-harm situation. Upon entering, the officer was met with a subject who had wounds to his torso and neck. Upon trying to treat him for his wounds, the Officer and Subject got into a scuffle. The Officer was able to disengage (getaway) from the subject. The subject came at the officer with a knife in hand. The Officer fired 2 shots, and then put the subject in cuffs. The Officer treated the Subject's wounds while waiting for the paramedics to arrive on the scene. The subject was transported to the hospital where he was treated and is in stable condition. This information has been on several news sources.

## UPDATES ON CODE ENFORCEMENT

Monica Lopez reported

- 159 S. Channing- Working on getting compliance from the owner. The owner was out of the country but is back now. He will be working on some large projects when the weather breaks.
- 418 DuPage St- The owner is losing the house. He was trying to get a loan on it to do some work. The bank will not agree because he is behind on his mortgage payments. At some point, he will be forced to leave the property.
- Paul Bednar asked how inspections on rental and vacant properties are handled. Monica responded that when a bank takes over a property, the city goes through and makes a building inspection. They write up a list of violations. When someone buys the property, they sign an acknowledgment form that they will be fixing the issues with the property. The City then follows up and makes sure the issues are fixed.
- The City has limited information on the owners of vacant properties. It does not have a system to contact landlords. Information often comes from police encounters.
- Information regarding property owners can be accessed through county tax records. Tax records can be located online for free. Sometimes county tax records are not accurate.

Tyler Grace thanked both Monica and Officer Payne for taking the time to attend the GPA meetings and keep the group informed.

## New Business

**Approval of Grant Committee Membership-** (GPA 50/50 Restoration Grant, Chain link fence, Paint Grant, Great Unveiling Grant)

- Grant Committee members are not eligible for funding.
- Presently the Grant Committee members include Paul Bednar, Pat Miller, and Tyler Grace. There are a couple of applications already in the works. Motion to approve the members of the Grant committee unanimously approved/ second. Additional members are needed.

## Treasurers Report (Dan Miller)

Checking Account	\$88,083
Certificates of Deposit (4)	\$88,050

Total assets	<u>\$176, 133</u>
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Expenses since last meeting (November 16, 2023)

Membership supplies	79.66
Fall Fest Clown	200.00
Pocket Park Mowing	100.00

Porch Grant – 150 S. Gifford	2000.00
Constant Contact	161.70
Wreaths	220.07
Holiday Party	959.01

Treasures report approved.

## **Approval of 2024 Budget as seen at the end of this document**

### **Budget highlights- Tyler/ Paul**

#### **Operating expenses-**

- Insurance- better coverage less cost. Last year insurance cost \$504 (2023). \$800 budgeted in 2024. Includes liability and insurance for the board.
  - Significant boost in printing budget - all printing except House Walk. This includes the grant book and calendars, fliers, reading material, and brochure.
  - If the budgeted amount is not enough to cover printing, committees will come to the board and request more funds.
- Grant category does not include any expenses associated with the programs

#### **House Walk Committee – Budgeted \$12,000**

Trish LaFleur reported:

- 18 packets were given to prospective homeowners in the National Watch District
- The committee has asked for the owner's decision to participate by the end of January '24.
- Two homeowners have tentatively agreed to include their homes on the House Walk
- The House Walk is focusing on the National Watch District in an attempt to showcase/ save the neighborhood.
- The board agreed it was acceptable to make less profit in this location.
- It was noted that the neighborhood has improved.
- Discussion following touching on a possible school closing, and appropriate use of the property/ land if a school is closed.

#### **Historic District Committee- \$8,500 budgeted**

Pat Miller reported

- Planned projects include- painting the fence at the Pocket Park, repairing rotted wood on benches, and adding informative signage at the park (English / Spanish per city code).
- Tyler Grace mentioned a desire to purchase branded volunteer vests- for neighborhood cleanup, pocket park work, and events.

### **Grants Committee-** \$18,000 budgeted (amended)

Paul Bednar

- Recommended additions- confident we will be giving out 1 or 2 Great Unveiling 5,000 each (2 possible)
- Tyler expressed concern about giving 6 paint grants (\$3000).
- Andrew Stein- if 7 grants come and all meet criteria are we obligated to fund them?
- If more applications come in than budgeted for, the Grants Committee must come back to the board for approval of additional funds.

### **Program Committee-** \$4,000 budgeted

### **Membership Committee-** \$700 Budgeted (Amended)

Tyler Grace reported:

- \$10 per bag, 30 bags per year
- Gift certificates were not included in 2023. (Ran out in 2022)
- Budget should be increased to put DNA (Downtown Neighborhood Association) gift certificates back into the bags.
- Amount amended / increased \$700.

### **PR Mailings-** \$1500 budgeted

- Postage and printing for PR mailings \$1327 per mailing
- Much discussion ensued regarding the best/ most efficient way to communicate with household in the Historic District. The addresses needed to be more specific. We do not have names, only addresses.
- Andrew Stein mentioned the need for a digital footprint and proposed a restructure of PR mailings to include digital resources, such as the use of QR codes to include information in mailers. People are moving online.
- Tyler Grace initiated a discussion regarding hand delivery of materials to each home in the HD. Dan Miller added that for many years GPA hand delivered quarterly newsletters to 1100. Addresses.

### **Donations-** \$3500 budgeted

Paul Bednar

Think about a \$2000 donation to the Housewalk neighborhood. We also donated \$500 to each neighborhood elementary school.

- Pat Miller reminded the group- Over the past 5 years the GPA has received donations in the name of Chuck Barrons (\$400/\$500), and Mike Aift (\$15,000) to honor these people.
- Plans should be made to begin working on memorials for these individuals.

### **Budget Total 52,898**

Motion to approve the budget. Second. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Approval of 2024 Events Calendar**

Wednesday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Weed Wack Wednesday
Saturday, April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Cleanup
Wednesday, May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Weed Wack Wednesday
Wednesday, June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Weed Wack Wednesday
Wednesday, July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Weed Wack Wednesday
Saturday, July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Picnic
Tuesday, August 6 <sup>th</sup>	National Night Out
Wednesday, August 7 <sup>th</sup>	Weed Wack Wednesday
Wednesday, September 4 <sup>th</sup>	Weed Wack Wednesday
Saturday, September 7 <sup>th</sup>	House walk
Sunday, September 8 <sup>th</sup>	
Wednesday, October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Weed Wack Wednesday
Saturday, October 19 <sup>th</sup>	Fall Fest
Saturday, November 9 <sup>th</sup>	Pocket Park Fall Cleanout
Friday, December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Potluck

- Fall Fest scheduled later in the month as opposed to early. Early is too close to the Housewalk. 10/22 dates avoid Nightmare on Chicago Street activities.
- Motion to approve dates (Dan/ Andrew)

### **Neighborhood Leaflet drop Tyler Grace initiated the discussion.**

- More direct materials drops (promoting events)
- There might be a better response if materials were hand-delivered to each household.
- Items to be hand delivered could include calendars and grant applications.
- Multiple materials could be placed in a bag on the door.
- Materials should be in English/ Spanish
- Targeting March for the deliveries. The hope is to get more people involved.
- Make information simple, direct, eye-catching.
- Consideration should be given to including a QR Code.

Motion to approve (Andrew Stein/ Dan Miller)

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Historic District Committee meets on 2/6 at 6:30 PM at the Miller Home at 155 S. Gifford. The meeting will focus on projects and improvements in the Historic District. All are welcome.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously at 8:27 PM, after which people remained to chat.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ellen Schneider, Secretary