

2.15 GPA Meeting Minutes

Calendar of Events

March 5 – Historic District Committee meeting at 6:30 pm at 155 S. Gifford
March 21 – GPA meeting 7:00 pm Elgin History Museum
March 22 - Preservation Month Event Forms are due
March 29 – Historic Rehabilitation Grant Applications are due
April 3 – Weed Wack Wednesday at the pocket park at Chicago and Geneva Sts. 6:30 pm
April 20 – neighborhood Clean Up, starting location to be announced
May 7 - 34th Annual Mayor's Awards for Preservation, Elgin Armory, 254 Raymond Street
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM (Reception at 6:00 PM; Ceremony at 7:00 PM)
September 7 and 8 – Historic Elgin House Tour

Gifford Park Association- General Membership Meeting

Thursday, February 15

In attendance: Trish LaFleur, Tyler Grace, Andrew Stein, Paul Bednar, Pat Miller, Dan Miller, Monica Lopez, Jerry Lopatka, Mary Ellen Schneider,

Approval of Minutes 1/15/24

Paul Bednar motioned/ Andrew Seconded - Approved

R.O.P.E Officers Report- (Officer Payne was not in attendance)

Code Enforcement Report- Monica Lopez reported on the progress pertaining to problem homes- 159 S. Channing- extension to continue the work.

418 DuPage St.- Monica has been trying to contact the owner to see where things are.

Monica mentioned presently many apartment properties are overcrowded. Overcrowding has led to increased police activity. Monica along with the police made a visit to the apartment building at 25 N. Gifford. They found 10 people in a 2 bedroom unit.

History of the GPA Presentation- Dan Miller

This year marks the 45th birthday of the Gifford Park Association. Dan Miller gave a presentation chronicling the history and accomplishments of the Gifford Park Association since its formation in 1979. The GPA was the start of the preservation movement in Elgin.

The presentation was available on Zoom and will be available on Facebook and GPA website.

Treasures Report- Dan Miller

CD's	33,202.39
	11,095.47
	32,891.96
	10,431.04
Total CD's	88,070.36
Checking	80,083.79

Committee Reports

Membership Report (Barbara Evans)

Already this year four properties in the EHD have been sold: 153 N. Liberty, 40 Hill St., 485 Mary Pl. and 118 Tennyson Court. Within the next two weeks Barbara hopes to not only deliver our GPA welcome bags, but also to visit with them and add four new households to our membership list.

Program/ Events- Janine Hnatusko was not in attendance

Public Relations- Trish LaFleur

Web updates to get the application forms on the website. Presently looking for an online tool to enable the forms to be filled out and sent to the entire committee online.

Housewalk Trish LaFleur/ Paul Bednar

Dan has been working hard and successfully at finding enough houses in the Elgin Watch Factory District neighborhood- 5 houses and a couple public buildings. Still looking for one home.

Historic District- Pat Miller

- Next committee meeting - Tuesday, March 5; 6:30 Miller Home.
- Neighborhood cleanup April 20 (Saturday)

Litter pickup throughout the neighborhood. Hoping to have a lunch and short program at the same time.

- We will continue Weed Wack Wednesday throughout the growing season April through November. 1st Wednesday of each month. The first one is, April 3, 2024, at the Pocket Park Chicago and Geneva Sts.

· After 30 years of being recommended, the city finally has property disclosure. If buying or selling a home in the historic district, the buyer and seller must sign off that they have passed on information to the next owner before a transfer stamp is issued.

- Grants are moving along-

There was an inquiry for the 50/50 grant.

A paint Grant application was submitted, and a request for a paint grant application.

At the last Historic District meeting approved the application forms for a paint grant, a chain link fence grant, and a porch reopening.

and porch.

- City of Elgin 50/50 grant applications for this year are due March 29, 2024
- We will be working on promoting the grants.
- We are working on electronic submission.
- Working on purchasing Volunteer Vests- Yellow vests (Tyler)

Logo on front and back and identifies as a volunteer

- Damage to sign at Liberty and Chicago- old main outline was pulled off- It has been replaced thanks to Jennifer Phillips and Christen Sundquist

- Focus on Pocket park repairs and signage.

Amendment of GPA 50/50 Architectural Grant

Proposing adding a clause that states that all wood elements that are replicated as part of this grant will be painted to match the existing exterior paint scheme.

Motion made by Paul Bednar, Trish LaFleur second to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

Neighborhood Outreach Committee of the Downtown Neighborhood Assoc. (Barbara Evans)

In May of 2023, Illinois Main Street teamed with Main Street America and visited Elgin with the purpose of preparing a strategic report for our downtown. They met with a variety of focus groups, of which the Neighborhood Outreach Committee was one. Information was also gathered from the 1,250 residents who responded to a community-wide survey conducted prior to their visit. The Transformation Strategy for Elgin that resulted has now been published and is online at

<https://www.downtownelgin.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Elgin-IL-Transformation-Strategy-Report-23-Approved.pdf>

Because it will be a guideline for making our downtown a more vibrant/viable place, all are encouraged to read the reader-friendly document.

DNA has also applied to be a designated Illinois Main Street Community. Although only a few communities are so designated in a year, the time its members spent in Elgin should help our case.

DNA is also pushing for the existing Tax Increment Financing [TIF] district to be extended for 10-12 years and has enlisted the help of a TIF advisor to advance this cause. It will be the State legislature that makes the final decision about this.

Motion to adjourn the General Membership Meeting.

Board Agenda

1. Compensation for skilled volunteers/ board members.

Should be discussed. Research for the next meeting. Table until March meeting.

2. Approval of exception of paint guidelines for 15 Rugby Place- applied for a grant before the program was officially approved. Paintwork was completed before the Paint Grant was officially launched.

Approval with the stipulation that the owner would paint the window sashes that were not completed previously.

Painter was supposed to complete this, but was afraid it was too late in the fall to remove the storms and screens.

The owner has agreed to finish the job.

Approved.

Motion to adjourn 8:33PM

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ellen Schneider , Secretary