

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2011, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 20025 MACK AVENUE, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

PRESENT: Mayor Novitke  
Council Members Bryant, Howle, Ketels, McConaghy, Sucher  
ABSENT: Granger  
  
ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Fincham  
Director of Public Services Ahee  
Treasurer/Comptroller Irby  
Recording Secretary Ryska

Mayor Novitke called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Howle, that Council Member Granger be excused from tonight's meeting.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Howle, Ketels, McConaghy, Novitke, Sucher  
No: None  
Absent: Granger

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Howle, that all items on tonight's agenda be received and placed on file.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Howle, Ketels, McConaghy, Novitke, Sucher  
No: None  
Absent: Granger

Hearing no objections, the Committee discussed **Potential Revenue and Cost Containment – Public Services**. As attachments to his memo dated March 9, 2011, Public Services Director Ahee submitted numerous recommendations for potential new revenue sources and fee increases. After lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed to the following:

1. Charge for the use of the activities building racquetball court – four members of the Committee agreed that it is worth while to pursue this recommendation to recoup some maintenance costs and asked Administration to also look into possibly charging for platform tennis.
2. Charge for the use of the activities building basketball court – four members of the Committee agreed that it is worth while to pursue this recommendation to recoup some maintenance costs and asked Administration to consider a group or league rate.

3. Charge for winter boat storage at Lake Front Park – upon consensus, the Committee advised Administration to pursue this recommendation and look into the City's insurance policy and possibly require renters to supply indemnity insurance on their own. The Committee was also in agreement to not allow storage of boat trailers.
4. License all landscape contractors for grass and snow – upon consensus, the Committee advised Administration to pursue this recommendation and develop language to ensure that students will not be subject to provisions of this new licensure.
5. Increase soundstage rental and set-up fees – upon consensus, the Committee advised Administration to pursue this recommendation and to report back to the Committee the initial cost, the life expectancy, and the depreciation value of the soundstage and to determine a competitive rate to charge.
6. Increase charge for rubbish bags – upon consensus, the Committee advised Administration to pursue this recommendation as long as the cost is competitive with like products.
7. Have contractors remove leaves, reducing city cost for hauling from yard – upon consensus, the Committee advised Administration to pursue this recommendation.
8. Charge a per guest fee for group permits at Lake Front Park – one member was in agreement due to the additional maintenance needs of having non-residents utilize the park. The other Committee members agreed that Administration might want to consider limiting the number of group permits issued.
9. Charge a fee per guest for all non-residents entering the Lake Front Park – one member was in agreement due to the additional maintenance needs of having non-residents utilize the park. Upon consensus, the Committee advised Administration to look into possibly just limiting the number of guests passes allowed per cardholder as opposed to charging a fee. Decreasing the number of allowed guests will decrease the added maintenance requirements. Based on the 2010 Lake Front Park Attendance chart submitted by Director of Public Services Ahee, guests account for 19% of park attendance.
10. Charge a fee to use the water slide at Lake Front Park – consensus of the Committee was to deny this recommendation.
11. Rent pool to Gators Swim Team – upon consensus, the Committee advised Administration to pursue this recommendation.

The Chair declared a recess at 8:40 p.m., and reconvened at 8:48 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding, potential revenue and cost containment items recommended by the Director of Public Services.

12. Eliminate bridge attendants – Lake Front Park budget – Director of Public Services Ahee withdrew his recommendation.
13. Eliminate bridge attendants – Boat Dock budget – Director of Public Services Ahee withdrew his recommendation.

14. Reduce seasonal office assistant by implementing online registration and credit card processing – Treasurer/Comptroller Irby informed the Committee that this is currently being pursued for the Community Center as well as the Finance department.
15. Eliminate contribution to Babe Ruth & Little League – since it has been a number of years since either organization has approached the City to make a donation, consensus of the Committees instructed Administration to eliminate this line item from the budget.
16. Keep water slide closed and one baby pool closed – consensus of the Committee was to deny this recommendation.
17. Close pool at 8:00 p.m. – upon consensus, the Committee advised Administration to provide usage numbers in two weeks.
18. Change pool hours to 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. after swim lessons end – upon consensus, the Committee advised Administration to provide usage numbers in two weeks.
19. Only distribute passes to children 8 years old and older – upon consensus, the Committee advised Administration to provide usage numbers in two weeks.
20. Eliminate bus services – upon consensus, the Committee advised Administration to provide usage numbers in two weeks.
21. Reduce bus service from 10 weeks to 6 weeks – upon consensus, the Committee advised Administration to provide usage numbers in two weeks.
22. Eliminate food at City Picnic – consensus of the Committee was to deny this recommendation.

The next item on the agenda was regarding **Court Collections**. City Administrator Fincham outlined the lack of success with Municipal Services Bureau (MSB) serving as a collection agent on behalf of the City. He requested approval to hire a Court Collections officer on a trial basis to serve on a warrant team and assist on court days, freeing up a Public Safety Officer to be on the road patrol. Consensus of the Committee was to allow the hiring of a 1099 Court Collections employee at a rate of no more than \$18.00 per hour, under the condition that the City be able to terminate after six months depending on performance. Additionally, the Committee agreed that the current contract with MSB be terminated.

The next item discussed was regarding a **Parking Enforcement Officer**. City Administrator Fincham requested approval to hire a part-time union Parking Enforcement Officer to work on the off days of the current officer, which would give the city at least 5 days of coverage. Consensus of the Committee was to allow the hiring of a part-time Parking Enforcement Officer.

The next item on the agenda was regarding **Parks & Recreation – Community Center Office Expansion**. Director of Public Services Ahee requested approval to expand the Community Center offices. With the park staff moving to the Community Center for winters, space is limited, causing safety hazards as well as limited space available to serve residents. Director of Public Services Ahee is recommending combining the existing offices with the lobby

by building a counter across the lobby area. Consensus of the Committee was to allow the expansion of the Community Center offices.

The next item discussed was the **Ad Hoc Public Safety Report**. City Administrator Fincham distributed the Grosse Pointes Dispatch/Lock-up Collaboration Effort report to the Committee. He discussed three options that the Ad Hoc Grosse Pointe Public Safety Committee addressed. The first option considered was for the cities to become a part of South East Regional Emergency Services Authority (SERESA), whereby each community would pay a formulated fee to essentially outsource their dispatching services. It was reported that this option is cost prohibitive. The second option considered was for a five city combined dispatch. This option is cost prohibitive due to the necessary capital outlay expenditures. The third option considered was smaller units of intergovernmental cooperation. This option will be pursued among the communities with the intention of moving toward a five city joint plan in the future.

The Committee agreed that the remaining agenda items will be addressed at a later date.

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Ketels, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 9:46 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.