

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 20025 MACK AVENUE, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

PRESENT: Mayor Novitke  
Council Members Bryant, Granger, Ketels, Koester, McConaghy, Shetler

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator/Assessor Colombo  
City Clerk Hathaway  
Director of Public Safety Smith  
Director of Public Services Ahee

Also in attendance were Little League representatives Bill Babcock, Tim Campbell, and Curt Marshall; and Jonathan "Jack" Karle.

Mayor Novitke called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Motion by Granger, seconded by Shetler, that all items on tonight's agenda be received, placed on file, taken in order of appearance.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Granger, Ketels, Koester, McConaghy, Novitke, Shetler

No: None

Absent: None

The first item on the agenda was regarding **proposed Ghesquiere Park Improvements – Little League**. Mr. Babcock stated representatives came before the Committee to discuss the idea of making improvements to Ghesquiere Park and to obtain input and ideas from Council prior to investing in plan designs. Little League is proposing ideas such as rebuilding the concession stand including restrooms, a re-utilization of the old tennis court space to construct an athletic facility, and to raise the outfield fencing along the two parking lots adjacent to Diamonds 1 and 3 to prevent balls from going into the parking lot. Improvements would be paid by Little League fundraisers and donations.

The first item discussed was a proposal to construct a concession stand with restrooms. Mr. Marshall stated the old concession stand is not conducive to the needs of Little League due to age; it does not have bathrooms, electricity, or needed storage. They proposed tearing down the old building. A new concession stand is proposed in the square area where the old gazebo was located (currently a skating rink in the winter), including bathrooms. The Director of Public Service stated one concern is access to water and sewer, and stated he would take a closer look at the area. Member Koester requested multiple plans and an aerial view showing placement of the new concession stand. There was a consensus of the Committee that multiple plans would be needed for further consideration, as well as consideration

given to resident use. The Mayor asked that a timeline be provided. Mr. Campbell suggested a potential two-year timeline. Member Granger suggested placing the concession stand at the park entrance behind the parking lot, and suggested alternative options for restroom accessibility in the meantime.

The next improvement discussed was construction of a multi-use athletic facility. Mr. Babcock proposed removing the old, dilapidated tennis courts to install a multi-use facility with a fenced, open structure constructed with astro-turf, lighting, and a roof. Heating and cooling would not be installed. Intended uses would include soccer, softball, and baseball, a set-up similar to Ann Arbor's facility, and can be used during inclement weather. The current batting cages would be removed and replaced with "tunnels" installed in the new structure. The Director of Public Services stated that the current state of the tennis courts would require total demolition with all new construction if there are to be useable tennis courts in Ghesquiere. There was a unanimous consent in favor of this proposed use and that Little League return to the Committee-of-the-Whole with plans.

The next improvement was installation of taller fencing. Mr. Campbell stated the League's first priority is to increase the fencing height from 4' to 8-12' along the two parking lots. The purpose is to prevent balls from being hit into the parking lots. The intent would be to install the new fencing after this season. There was a consensus of the Committee to permit a minimum 8' fence.

The matter regarding improvements to Ghesquiere Park is to remain on the Committee-of-the-Whole agenda.

The Chair declared a recess at 8:36 p.m., and reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

**Ghesquiere Park Ice Rink Lights**, specifically pertaining to hours, was discussed next. Mr. Karle stated the ice rink with the boards is used to play hockey, and is requesting the lights remain on later than 10 p.m. He attends college from 6-10 p.m., and works full time, and is requesting the lights stay on later, until midnight or 1 a.m. during winter only when weather is conducive for hockey, Fri-Sun. The Director of Public Services stated the park closes at 10 p.m. The Mayor stated that neighbors may have concerns. There was a consensus of the Committee that the hours remain the same, and lights continue to turn off at 10 p.m.

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Shetler, that this item be removed from the Committee-of-the-Whole.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes:	Bryant, Granger, Ketels, Koester, McConaghy, Novitke, Shetler
No:	None
Absent:	None

Motion by Granger, seconded by Koester, regarding **items for removal**, that the Committee-of-the-Whole remove the following items from the Committee-of-the-Whole list of topics:

1. Water/Sewer Rates;
2. Fiscal forecasting;
3. Audit Presentation w/Plante Moran;
4. Park Pass Fees;
5. "Music on the Lawn" (Community Events Committee);
6. Trolley;
7. DTE Update and Supporting Data.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Granger, Ketels, Koester, McConaghy, Novitke, Shetler  
No: None  
Absent: None

New Business:

- The City Administrator/Assessor stated the Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation requested to install a board (sign) for miniature golf course fund raising. There was a consensus of the Committee to allow the sign at City Hall. In addition, the Foundation requested to install a sign at Lake Front Park no larger than 3' x 4'. There was a consensus of the Committee to permit installation of a sign at Lake Front Park, but that a plan be presented for administration's review and approval, and that administration obtain the City Attorney's opinion.
- The City Administrator/Assessor stated that engine work is needed on the trolley at a cost of approximately \$7,500. He also stated if the engine is removed from the chassis the cost will be an additional \$2,500. He is requesting a total of \$10,000 for engine repair and \$5,000 for air conditioning repair, which is included in the proposed 2016/17 budget. He would like all of the work done at the same time, and therefore is requesting a budget transfer from the general fund, \$5,000 to be replaced after July 1. Administration was asked to also look at the transmission, and determine whether any additional work will need to be done any time soon.
- The Director of Public Services, Joe Ahee, announced he is retiring effective June 24, 2016. The Committee thanked him and wished him well.

Motion by Granger, seconded by Bryant, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 9:31 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kay Hathaway  
City Clerk