

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012, 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 Fincham  
City Treasurer/Comptroller Irby  
City Attorney Don Berschback  
City Clerk Hathaway  
City Engineer Lockwood  
Recreation Supervisor Byron  
Director of Public Works Ahee  
Building Official Tutag

Due to the number of individuals in attendance at tonight's meeting, the meeting was moved into the Council Chambers.

Mayor Novitke called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Motion by Koester, 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 discussed was regarding **marina dredging**. The City Administrator provided an overview discussing lower lake levels, complaints from boaters of vessels that hit bottom and that many moved out of the marina, the Department of Public Works removed buoys that were not floating but rather laying in the mud, and that there was an average depth of 3' this past summer with expectations of levels dropping lower next season. He explained that it is important to take action now if dredging work is to be completed by the spring. He reported \$401,000 remains in the Boat Dock Enterprise Fund. Work needing to be done includes dredging, electrical and waterline updates at docks, installation of tier docks, replacement of boards, painting the seawall, and installation of a gate to replace the snow fence at boat ramp used to contain geese. The marina has 50-60% occupancy, which is down from 78%. The City Administrator recommended approval of the marina improvements in order to attract new residents and use of the marina. He stated three permits are required from the St. Clair Shores Water Resources Board, Corps. of Engineer, and DEQ. The marina was last dredged in 2005. He stated the approximate cost, without having engineering soundings completed, is \$132,000-202,000. Dredging

would include 40' wide channel or 70' wide channel, 1,200' in length. An additional well cost in the amount of \$16,000 (\$60 p/well) will need to be added for 1' of soil removal, 2' wide path, 10' long in each well, or \$140,000-217,000. Administration is seeking approval to apply for the permits with the Army Corps. Of Engineers and DEQ, and to prepare for the St. Clair Shores Water Resources Board.

The Director of Public Works explained that much needed miscellaneous work includes installation of a gate at the ramp, replacement of dock boards and steps, water line repairs, shore power boxes, lighting, floating docks for wave runners, painting the seawall, grass, painting the structural steel on the docks, evaluate pontoon boat used for buoy and dock maintenance; items are at a cost not to exceed \$60-70,000.

The breakdown of cost is:  
\$200,000 dredging canal  
\$ 17,000 wells  
\$ 70,000 miscellaneous  
\$287,000 Total

Recreation Commission Chair McConaghy recommended approval of the project and that it be done as quickly as possible. The Treasurer/Comptroller confirmed that funds obtained for the Boat Dock Enterprise Fund are used only for boat purposes.

Administration confirmed they would work with the City of Grosse Pointe to obtain optimum cost estimates.

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Shetler, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend to City Council approval of an amount not to exceed \$287,000 as indicated by administration for dredging the channel and wells, and to perform other necessary repairs as recommended by administration.

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Shetler, to amend the previous motion by deleting, "\$287,000" and inserting "\$290,000."

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

The City Engineer agreed to look for federal grants for dredging including the Milk River Drain Board.

The Chair declared a recess at 8:23 p.m., and reconvened at 8:41 p.m.

The next item discussed was regarding **budget review/fiscal projections**. The City Administrator provided an overview.

The Treasurer/Comptroller provided information regarding budget shortfalls and causes. She stated \$650,000 is needed, in addition to \$50,000 for a restricted fund, totaling approximately \$700,000. Causes include \$45-225,000 in revenue loss due to elimination of personal property tax, and there will be a revenue drop in permit fees for the Rivers project. She reported some items not included in previous fiscal forecasting, which include the upcoming bid for the City's rubbish contract; Pension Board Actuarial fees increasing \$150,000 next year; WCA Assessing contracts \$80,000; and \$50,000 is needed for major roads. Inflationary costs have also not been factored into projections.

The City Administrator discussed the following cost cutting items:

Lake Front Park:

- Heating system for platform tennis is in need of replacement at a cost of \$10,000 – do not replace.
- One of two baby pools has a leak requiring a liner replacement at a cost of \$18,000 to repair – do not fix.

The Recreation Supervisor then reviewed cost cutting items for the Committee's consideration:

- Eliminating the buses would reduce wages by \$11,600;
- Buses need new oil pans and one air conditioning unit requires repair at a cost of approximately \$3,500 each, or \$7,000;
- Eliminating the bridge attendant would reduce wages by \$6,381, but would result in the bridge remaining open. (There was a suggestion to staff the bridge on weekends only);
- Change winter hours at the park: M-F 2-9 p.m.; Sat/Sun 12-9 p.m., saving \$10,800 on gate attendant wages;
- Close the park at 10 p.m. in the summer saving \$4,166;
- Close waterslide for entire summer saving \$17,210. There was a suggestion to reduce the hours of operation to only Saturday and Sunday;
- Limit diving well hours to 5 hours, 1-6 p.m. saving \$3,540;
- Close baby pool #1 due to a necessary replacement of the pool liner at a cost of \$17,900; and will attain additional cost saving for wages. Administration was requested to provide demographics;
- Eliminate early morning lap swim saving \$6,500;
- Change pool opening hours from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Friday saving \$2,898; open at 12 p.m. Saturday saving \$2,184; open at 12 p.m. Sunday saving \$2,184; August 19-30 after conclusion of swim lessons open at 12 p.m. Monday-Thursday saving \$1,932;
- Change winter activities building hours to be the same as the park hours saving \$9,819;
- Change summer activities building hours to 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. saving \$7,634;
- Eliminate Community Center building attendant for after-hours city meetings saving \$980;
- Charge \$1 for guests at the park, increasing revenue by \$25,000;
- Charge \$4 for morning swim, if 30 people per day then \$7,900 in new revenue;

- Increase swim programs average fee to \$5.39 per lesson, currently \$4.33, producing approximately \$13,967 in increased revenue;
- Charge \$25 for winter kayak storage, \$800 in revenue;
- Rent the gym/racquetball at \$10 p/hour from 5-9 p.m. for \$21,600 in revenue;
- Charge \$10 for special visitor passes for \$2,100 in revenue;
- Charge \$10 for each park pass for \$174,730 in revenue. There was discussion regarding a lesser amount or a per-family fee.

Approximate Proposed Cost Cutting Totals:

\$128,000 Cost savings

\$243,800 additional revenue

The Treasurer/Comptroller stated total park operations cost approximately \$1 million.

Discussion ensued regarding establishing a price per individual pass or family pass with approximately 17,560 park passes issued last year.

The Mayor suggested looking at the concept of city events/functions being supported by charging a small fee (Hob Nobbin, Egg Hunt.)

The Director of Public Services discussed items for consideration for cost reductions as follows:

- Eliminate fall tree planting \$10,000, at least temporarily;
- Eliminate mulch services for Mack Avenue planting beds at a cost of \$14-15,000;
- Eliminate holiday lights and garland on light poles \$2,000;
- Eliminate Hazardous Waste Day Shred Service at \$2,200, twice per year;
- Eliminate curbside leaf pick up saving \$112,000, not including the vac-all;
- Cut back on street sweeping to every other week saving \$4,000;
- Eliminate sidewalk snow removal saving \$10-12,000.

There was a consensus of the Committee-of-the-Whole to send these items to the Finance Committee for further review.

The Building Official suggested reviewing building and tap fees with the Director of Public Services.

Discussion ensued regarding the City calendar, and there was a consensus of the Committee-of-the-Whole to:

- Include, "See the City *Update and* website for changes in pool, park and Activity Building hours and sign-up for email notices";
- Identify unpaid furlough days
- Include a disclaimer stating, "Events are subject to change."

Hearing no objections, under New Business/Public Comment:

- The City Administrator briefly discussed, and advised the Committee, that there has been a vacancy in the Community Center Senior Coordinator position caused by filling the vacancy in the Building Department. There was a consensus of the Committee that the Administrator has the authority to fill the vacant position based on discussions held at the previous October 29, 2012, Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

Motion by Bryant, seconded by McConaghy, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 10:16 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kay Hathaway  
City Clerk