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**MEMORANDUM**  
**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS**  
**CITIZENS' RECREATION COMMISSION**

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**TO:** The Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Citizens' Recreation Commission  
**SUBJECT:** Park Improvement Proposal (PIP)  
**DATE:** February 28, 2023

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Dear Mayor Arthur Bryant and City Council Members:

In 2019, the nine-member Citizens' Recreation Commission performed a comprehensive onsite evaluation of four local parks. For each park, we assessed the safety, quality and condition of the existing structures and amenities. In 2023, the Commission reconvened to review the progress on the PIP and make updated recommendations for the parks in Grosse Pointe Woods. Since all proposed improvements for Chene-Trombley Park are currently being addressed, we focused on Ghesquiere Park, Lake Front Park, and Sweeney Park. In the attached report, we provide a summary of our findings and have highlighted deficiencies and safety repairs needed at these designated parks.

- Our parks represent an important investment in our community and one that will generate favorable outcomes, including: Attract future residents, especially young families
- Full utilization of park properties will allow for more recreational activities for our residents
- Positively impact the health and wellness of our residents
- Provide a safe and fun space for adolescents and young adults to enjoy
- Improve the safety, comfort and enjoyment of the parks, thereby increasing utilization
- Preserve our City's reputation as one of the top, safe, family-friendly places to live

Our overall analysis is that the parks in the City of Grosse Pointe Woods lack toddler age-appropriate equipment, gathering areas for larger groups outside of Lake Front Park, activities suited for adolescents and young adults, and full utilization of park properties.

We understand that the list of proposed enhancements is exhaustive and therefore, costs, staffing, and other factors will need to be assessed regarding project timing. A three-phase approach was initially suggested to accommodate for project timing. While we have areas of concern at all three parks in this updated improvement plan, we believe Ghesquiere Park has the most potential for improvement and recommend that phase two focus on Ghesquiere and the proposed enhancements outlined in the report.

We request that City Council review this report and further investigate the identified park enhancements. In addition, we welcome the opportunity to present our report in person and have a constructive discussion with you at an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the proposed PIP, please contact the Citizens' Recreation Commission members.

We look forward to your feedback. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

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