

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS/COURTROOM OF THE ROBERT E. NOVITKE MUNICIPAL CENTER, 20025 MACK PLAZA DR., GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Bryant  
Council Members: Brown, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy  
ABSENT: None

Also Present: City Administrator Schulte  
City Attorney Walling  
City Clerk Antolin  
Treasurer/Comptroller Schmidt  
Director of Public Services Kowalski

**Motion** by McConaghy, seconded by Koester, that all items on tonight's agenda be received, placed on file, and taken in order of appearance.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Brown, Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy  
No: None  
Absent: None

The first item discussed was regarding the **Grosse Pointe Public Library Board of Trustees Appointment**. Two applications were submitted by Thomas Peck and Cynthia Manardo.

Councilmember Granger provided a background of Mr. Peck as she is involved with activities of the library. She stated that Mr. Peck is completing his first term as a Trustee of the Board, an outstanding board member of "Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library" and volunteered at book sale events.

In addition, Councilmember Granger stated that Ms. Manardo is currently not a member of "Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library" and suggested to reach out to her if she's interested in being a member.

After discussion, there was a consensus of the Committee-of-the-Whole to appoint Thomas Peck for a second term.

**Motion** by Granger, seconded by Koester, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend to City Council the re-appointment of Thomas Peck to the Grosse Pointe Public Library Board of Trustees for a second term starting July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2028.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Brown, Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy  
No: None  
Absent: None

The Committee-of-the-Whole briefly discussed the seventh at-large trustee appointment made by the six Grosse Pointe communities is supposed to be rotated by city. Grosse Pointe Woods is believed to be the next community with that at-large trustee appointment. This will be further reviewed.

The next item discussed was regarding **Reorganizing the Parks and Recreation Department**.

**Motion** by McConaghy, seconded by Brown, that the Committee-of-the-Whole receive and place on file the resume of Owen Gafa.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Brown, Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy  
No: None  
Absent: None

City Administrator Schulte stated that the Parks and Recreation Supervisor, Nicole Gerhart, resigned with June 19, 2024, being her last day. Mr. Schulte, Director of Public Services Kowalski, and Ms. Gerhart discussed previous employees of the city and Owen Gafa was determined an ideal candidate to fill the position from his work experiences with the city and certifications.

Mr. Schulte also stated that he wanted to change from a supervisor position to a director position to head the Parks and Recreation Department similar to the Cities of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Park, and Grosse Pointe Farms. The directorship will oversee operations in maintenance and budgets for Lake Front Park, Community Center, and the pool. This will give direct oversight of Lake Front Park and will assist with complaints making it more streamlined. This will better



enhance and improve the operations of Grosse Pointe Woods. City Administrator Schulte recommended to appoint Owen Gafa as Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Committee-of-the-Whole addressed the structure of the department and the replacement plan. The transitioning of workers should remain seamless. A brief discussion regarding a back-up to the director ensued and will be followed up.

The City Attorney stated that there may be a need to amend Section 2-160 of the city ordinance regarding Parks and Recreation Division.

Under New Business/Public Comment, no one wished to be heard.

**Motion** by Granger, seconded by Koester, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 7:55 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul P. Antolin  
City Clerk

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Arthur W. Bryant  
Mayor