

February 19, 2025

Mayor and City Council  
City of Grosse Pointe Woods  
20025 Mack Plaza  
Grosse Pointe Woods MI 48236

RE: Committee of the Whole (COW) Meeting February 24, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council,

As Community Tree Commissioners, we volunteer to represent the citizens' interests in trees as a distinctive hallmark of our city --the WOODS of Grosse Pointe Woods. We've joined the Commission as a commitment to reforestation and tree conservation, wishing to see taxes put to best use for a healthy, sustainable tree canopy. Our remit is to *assist the city to establish and maintain a comprehensive forestry program... to plant, care for and protect trees... to Keep the Woods in Grosse Pointe Woods.* (See *Celebrating the Trees of Grosse Pointe Woods* 2004 P1) In our ongoing effort to that end, we've requested the COW meeting February 24, 2025.

As the Commission learns more about reforestation, tree conservation, and environmental sustainability, we recognize great opportunity for GPW to expand its efforts to grow and sustain a thriving urban forest that attracts residents, businesses and enhances citizens' health and well-being. (See *2024 Master Plan* p 42).

The Commission seeks to build **collaboration** with the Council and Forestry Division to assist in creating a long-term Tree City Strategy, including short-term actions that will have an immediate positive impact. Fortunately, with adoption of the **GPW 2024 Master Plan** we now have a guide for strategy, goals and actions. The Master Plan specifically emphasizes the need to **Increase healthy tree canopy throughout the City.** (Goal 5 – Resiliency Objective 2).

***COW Meeting Goal: Our goal for this meeting is to promote clarity and mutual understanding between the Council and Tree Commission about commitment to a comprehensive forestry program that sustains a lush, healthy canopy in our city.***

**-- Key Questions to Explore--**

1. What is the Council's **Vision** for "celebrating the trees of Grosse Pointe Woods," including reforestation and conservation? (*Celebrating the Trees of Grosse Pointe Woods* 2004 P 12)  
⇒ Example – Tree Commission Draft Vision: **A community that models reforestation and tree conservation, promoting a healthy, vibrant, lush 'Tree City' true to our name Grosse Pointe Woods.**
2. What is the Council's **commitment** to abide by **Master Plan Goal 5** to "**Increase healthy tree canopy throughout the City,**" and create a **Strategic Plan** to be implemented by the Forestry Division?

-- Key Questions to Explore --  
(Cont'd)

3. What are possible **Strategic Priorities**, guided by the 2024 Master Plan? For example:
  - ⇒ **Healthy Tree Canopy**: Conservation-Restoration-Reforestation (E.g., Mack Avenue Corridor, Vernier Median, Lochmoor Median, Parks, Neighborhoods)
  - ⇒ **Education** (E.g., Arbor Day, Communication [Website, Other])
  - ⇒ **Community Engagement** (E.g., Memorial Trees Program/Grove, Holiday Tree Lighting)
  - ⇒ **Resources** (E.g., Budget, Grants, Consulting Agencies, Benchmark Communities, Tree Nursery)
  
4. What are the **Roles & Responsibilities** necessary to successfully complete the strategic plan?
  - ⇒ Forestry Division (Licensed Forester; Forestry Division Representative attending each Tree Commission meeting)
  - ⇒ Tree Commission (E.g., Expanded role beyond Memorial Trees, Arbor Week, Fall Tree Planting)
  - ⇒ Mayor/Council (E.g., Ordinance for City/Business/Resident Compliance per Tree City USA guidelines)
  - ⇒ City Administrator
  - ⇒ Other
  
5. What is a reasonable **Budget** to support fulfilling the strategic plan?

We are eager to engage with you at the COW meeting to discover and determine how we can better partner to develop and implement an enhanced comprehensive forestry program that earns the prestige of Tree City USA.

Additionally, we extend an open invitation to you to join us at any of our monthly meetings.

Sincerely,

*Paul G. Lechner*

Paul G. Lechner  
Chair, Grosse Pointe Woods Community Tree Commission

CC: City Administrator  
Tree Commission Members