

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 15, 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 7:15 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Bryant  
Council Members: Brown, Granger, Koester, McConaghy  
ABSENT: Gafa

Also Present: City Administrator Schulte  
Assistant City Administrator Como  
City Attorney Zalewski  
City Clerk Antolin  
City Treasurer/Comptroller Schmidt

**Motion** by McConaghy, seconded by Brown, that Councilmember Gafa be excused from tonight's meeting.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Motion** by McConaghy, seconded by Brown, 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, Granger, Koester, McConaghy  
No: None  
Absent: Gafa

The first item discussed was regarding a **presentation by Virginia Ficarra of the Carra Millennium Healing Tree of Life**. Ms. Ficarra provided an overview of her background and the history of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Manufacturing Plant in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, where she was asked to create a labyrinth or circular walking path. This project was completed in 2015 and

developed into what she called the Tree of Life Walking Path. This became known as the Aerial Foundation Park and was 11,000 sq. ft. in size.

A video titled “A Wisp in the Wind” was presented portraying the importance and benefits of a walking path. It also reflected the history and background of Ms. Ficarra’s accomplishments.

Discussion ensued regarding the location and cost of a similar project within the city. It was stated that the city does not have a lot of available property for the project but it can be scaled down to a more feasible size. The project in Mt. Vernon had an estimated cost of \$250,000 but the reduction of the project size with available grants and funding may allow a more affordable expense.

Committee members were interested with the concept but addressed the difficulty of finding adequate space in the city and funding the project. However, it was stated that this may be a project worth exploring in the future with collaboration of the Tree Commission, Planning Commission, Recreation Commission, and City Administration.

Mayor Bryant stated that the Committee-of-the-Whole will take this proposal under consideration for the future.

Under **New Business**, the following individual was heard:

- Councilmember Brown stated that the Recreation Commission would like to host Movie Night at Chene-Trombley Park instead of a Fall Bike Ride, due to difficulty securing volunteers for the bike ride.

Under **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 7:41 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul P. Antolin  
City Clerk

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Arthur W. Bryant  
Mayor