

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023, 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 8:40 p.m.

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

Also Present: City Administrator Schulte  
City Attorney Tomlinson  
City Clerk Antolin  
Director of Public Services Kowalski  
Recreation Supervisor Gerhart

**Motion** by McConaghy, seconded by Gafa, that all items on tonight's agenda be received, placed on file, and to reverse the order of Item A (Lake Front Park Splash Pad Improvement Project) with Item B (Dog Park at City Hall for further consideration).

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

The first item addressed was regarding **Item B - Dog Park at City Hall for further discussion**. The Committee-of-the-Whole did a walk through of the two proposed locations for the dog park near city hall. The first location is south of city hall near Mack Avenue and the city parking lot. The second location is in Ghesquiere Park, adjacent and south of the children's playground.

After the Committee reviewed both locations, there was a majority consensus to place the dog park at the front area near city hall.

**Motion** by Gafa, seconded by Granger, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommends to City Council the approval of the Dog Park near City Hall at the front area location.



Motion carried by the following vote:

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

The next item discussed was regarding **Item A - Lake Front Park Splash Pad Improvement Project.**

**Motion** by Vaughn, seconded by Granger that the Committee-of-the-Whole receive and place on file the document pertaining to the mayor's survey taken at the various splash pads of the other Grosse Pointe communities.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Mayor Bryant presented his findings of his survey and stated that the usage is not as utilized as it may seem. However, his survey was only a snapshot of particular times and days of activities at the various splash pads.

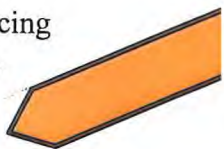
City Administrator Schulte provided an overview of the Splash Pad project. He stated that multiple concepts have been considered and converting the mushroom pool using the same filtration system was most cost effective, since it was discovered that the liner needed to be replaced. AEW provided a quote of \$750,000.00 to move the splash pad and start from scratch. The conversion of the mushroom pool was estimated to cost approximately \$241,000.00 with option 1 through splash pad vendor Vortex.

Another option would be to use a flow through water method which uses fresh water from a watermain, however, this is an expensive option that costs another community approximately \$40,000.00 per year to run their splash pad.

The Committee considered the possibility of opening the splash pad early in the season and remain open later in the season. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of using the splash pad once the main pool closes. The ability to use the filtration system for the splash pad while the main pool is not in use needs to be determined. Michigan laws and liability issues need to be addressed. City Administrator Schulte stated the splash pad can be opened a month earlier.

Other topics discussed was regarding accessing the splash pad when main pool is closed, fencing off the splash pad, additional seating, tents to remain up, and the use of concrete for flooring.

There was a consensus of the Committee-of-the-Whole to move this item to the next City Council meeting for approval.





The next item discussed was regarding **Painting of Murals on Businesses (via Planning Commission)**.

City Attorney Tomlinson provided an overview stating that the Sign Ordinance is near completion but wanted to get Council's perspective whether or not to include murals within the ordinance. He recommends possibly finishing the Sign Ordinance and creating a separate mural policy/ordinance on a parallel path of the Sign Ordinance.

Discussion ensued regarding other communities that allowed murals and ended up in litigation.

The Committee addressed concerns about the uncertainty of the definition of murals and how it can be perceived differently from the community.

The Planning Commission has been working with the Master Plan and hopes to draw interest to the community. Other communities have a strong support for art, and murals have progressed through the years.

**Motion** by McConaghy, seconded by Gafa, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommends the Planning Commission to continue to finish the sign ordinance exclusive of the mural issue and possibly create a parallel path to a mural policy/ordinance.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Brown, Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Vaughn

No: None

Absent: None

The next item discussed was regarding **Ordinance Amendment for Business Parking**.

City Attorney provided an overview stating that the intent to review the parking ordinance is to make it more friendly and less restrictive for businesses.

**Motion** by McConaghy, seconded by Gafa, that the Committee-of-the-Whole authorize Administration to review the parking ordinance and report to Council for recommendation.

The Committee wanted good evidence what other communities are doing and get feed back from the Avenue in the Woods and Mack Avenue Business Study Committee.

City Administrator Schulte deferred to the Planning Commission the review of the parking ordinance and to provide a recommendation to Council.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Brown, Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Vaughn

No: None

Absent: None

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 10:11 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Paul P. Antolin  
City Clerk

---

Arthur W. Bryant  
Mayor