

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS/ COURTROOM OF THE ROBERT E. NOVITKE MUNICIPAL CENTER, 20025 MACK PLAZA DRIVE, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m.

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

Also Present: City Manager Como
City Attorney Romer
City Clerk Antolin
City Treasurer/Comptroller Schmidt

Motion by Motschall, seconded by Koester, that Councilmembers Granger and McConaghy be excused from tonight’s meeting.

Motion carried by the following vote:
Yes: Brown, Bryant, Gafa, Koester, Motschall
No: None
Absent: Granger, McConaghy

Motion by Motschall, 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, Koester, Motschall
No: None
Absent: Granger, McConaghy

The first item discussed was regarding the installation of a pavilion at Ghesquiere Park.

City Manager Como stated that the Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation (the Foundation) approached City Administration and was interested in pursuing another project as the City Hall front lawn improvements were temporarily put on hold. There was an interest to have a shaded area in Ghesquiere Park and the idea of a pavilion was presented.

Members of the Foundation, Lisa Fuller and Michelle Billingsley, were introduced. Member Fuller stated it is difficult to request funding when no projects are in progress or upcoming. In order to keep the Foundation viable, projects need to be active and ongoing, short- or long-term. The concept of a pavilion at Ghesquiere Park was actually recommended in their Park Improvement Plan by the Citizens' Recreation Commission back in 2018.

After careful consideration, the Foundation decided they would be interested and enthusiastic to help fund a project to install a pavilion at Ghesquiere Park. With the help of City Manager Como and Director of Parks and Recreation Gafa, they were able to get quotes for the project. Member Fuller stated with the support of the Foundation, they are willing to commit to a grant request of \$35,000. If they can do better in their fundraising, they are willing to share any additional money they receive.

Discussion ensued regarding the placement of the pavilion relative to the other sections of the park, including the playground, bathrooms, baseball fields, and the possible installation of pickleball courts. The size of the pavilion was also mentioned with a pavilion possibly holding 4 to 6 tables.

Mayor Bryant expressed support of the project.

Councilmember Brown asked about the timeframe of completion and governance of the pavilion. The quotes estimate 24 weeks but hopefully sooner. Administration would like to have, at least, the foundation poured in the fall and the remainder of the project completed as soon as possible. Regarding governance, it is City Council's decision, however, Administration would prefer to keep it for the public. There was a majority consensus of the Committee-of-the-Whole to make it non-reservable. There is a concern that someone will arrive early and try to claim the pavilion for the whole day. This will be considered moving forward.

Picnic tables were briefly discussed and there will be a consideration to add more.

Councilmember Koester requested to mark-off the area considered to place the pavilion so City Council can have an actual visual of the concept and to include trash cans on the plan presented.

Motion by Koester, seconded by Motschall, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend to City Council approval of one of the two options presented to install a pavilion at Ghesquiere Park.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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



The previous motion and recommendation will be addressed at the next City Council meeting on June 15, 2026.

The next item discussed was regarding a plaque placed on a stone recognizing the Frank Schulte Trail (Ghesquiere Park Walking Path) to be placed near the Cook Schoolhouse. This plaque commemorates Frank Schulte’s achievements and contributions to the city and its parks. This will be funded out of Administration’s account.

Motion by Motschall, seconded by Brown, that the Committee-of-the-Whole receives and place on file the documents with the plaque options and the various wording options on the plaque.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Sample pictures of plaques and a list of wording options were presented to the Committee-of-the-Whole. There was a majority consensus to select the plaque with half the city logo protruding at the top and verbiage option #3 as follows:

3. Concise & Strong

Honoring (Name)
For outstanding dedication to our parks
and the betterment of our community.

The Committee-of-the-Whole decided it was more appropriate to switch around the words “parks” and “community” to read as follows:

Honoring (Name)
For outstanding dedication to our community
and the betterment of our parks.

The wording will be placed on the plaque under the words “Dedicated 2026”.

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

Motion by Motschall, seconded by Koester, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 8:32 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

Arthur W. Bryant
Mayor