

SPECIAL JOINT SESSION OF CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION
06-19-23 – 001

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION – MASTER PLAN UPDATE WORKSHOP OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2023, IN THE COUNCIL-COURTROOM OF THE ROBERT E. NOVITKE MUNICIPAL CENTER, 20025 MACK PLAZA DR., GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 p.m. by Mayor Bryant.

PRESENT: Mayor Bryant
Council Members: Brown, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Vaughn
Planning Commission Members: Chair Gerhart, Bailey, Fenton, Gilezan, Hamborsky, McNelis, O’Keefe, Vitale
ABSENT: Fuller

Also Present: City Administrator Schulte
Treasurer/Comptroller Murphy
City Attorney Tomlinson
City Clerk Antolin
Assistant City Administrator Como
Giffels-Webster Planner Bahm
Giffels-Webster Planner Osborne
Giffels-Webster Planner Kim
McKenna Planner Smith

Council, Administration, and the audience Pledged Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Motion by Vaughn, seconded by Koester, that Commission Member Fuller, be excused from tonight’s meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

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

The purpose of tonight’s meeting/workshop was to discuss the Master Plan Update collaboratively with the City Council, Planning Commission, and the city planners from Giffels-Webster and McKenna.

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Brigette Smith of McKenna, introduced herself as the new City Planner for Grosse Pointe Woods.

Jill Bahn of Giffels-Webster, introduced herself and planning group associates, Rose Kim and Stephanie Osborne. Giffels-Webster has been working with the Planning Commission regarding the Master Plan Update and the Clearzone program. Ms. Bahn provided an overview of what to expect at tonight's workshop.

Rose Kim reviewed the results of the survey received from the administration, City Council, and Planning Commission. Discussion ensued regarding the strengths and weaknesses perceived by the participants of the survey.

Some of the strengths and weaknesses discussed were as follows:

- Strengths: parks and recreation, effective government/administration, location, public safety, city services and the Mack Avenue business district.
- Weaknesses: Mack Avenue business district challenges, school system concerns, fear of change, lack of parking, and size of city (developed/established).

The next topic discussed was regarding emerging trends in Grosse Pointe Woods. Some of the trends discussed included:

- Higher density, high-end living options, interest in aging population and resulting in lack of housing, Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU), walkability, parking, 15-minute neighborhoods, EV charging stations, short term rentals, pedestrian/traffic safety, drugs, and social district areas.

The City Council, Planning Commission and Administration broke out into small mixed groups to discuss opportunities and threats. The groups were directed to sort the opportunities and threats into high, medium, and low priority. Each member of the groups was asked to identify their top three opportunities and threats.

Ms. Bahn stated that the results from the group activity will be reviewed to identify goals and objectives to be discussed with the Planning Commission in preparation for questions to ask the community for feedback at the upcoming open house. Once the feedback of residents are

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reviewed, there will be updates to the Master Plan vision in preparation for Phase 2, which will include a public hearing and final adoption.

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

Motion by Granger, seconded by Koester, to **adjourn tonight's meeting** at 9:08 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

Arthur W. Bryant
Mayor