

**Grosse Pointe Park
Beautification Commission Minutes
December 6, 2023 – 7:00 PM**

Location: Grosse Pointe Park City Hall

1. Call to Order: Kimberly Clexton, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:22 PM

2. Roll Call:

Present: Kimberly Clexton, A. Pat Deck, Armen Gulian, Alicia Klein, Anne Billiu, Cheryl Gauss, Barbara Miller, Lisa Kyle, Diane MacConnachie, Nicholas Gwozdz, Brian Colter

Excused: Shellie Hansen

Guests: Kelly Konieczki

3. Approval of Minutes: November 23, 2023, minutes approved as submitted
Motion to approve made by Brian Colter, second by Cheryl Gauss, all in favor

4. Chairperson's Comments:

a. 2024 Commission Schedule: Kim provided a copy of the proposed 2024 schedule of meetings and events. Courtney is checking dates with the city calendar and Chad Craig confirmed the locations.

b. Commissioner Renewals & Appointments: Cheryl Gauss, Armen Gulian and Nicholas Gwozdz are being renewed; their applications have been submitted. Kelly Konieczki submitted her application for appointment to the commission. Carolyn Byrd is not renewing. The council will vote to approve at their January 2024 meeting. Kim reminded the commission that applications remain valid for 2 years. Kim reported that our council representative has not been announced yet.

c. Beautification Awards Review: Kim thanked the commission for their efforts supporting the 2023 program and for holding a successful awards ceremony. The commission discussed feedback and suggestions for 2024:

-Business Awards: Chamberlain Hospitality approached city management about not receiving an award notification for their two businesses. Lisa Kyle reported that she emailed the city digital reproductions of the letters that were sent; letters were sent at the same time as the civic and sustainability letters, and they received theirs. The letters were followed with an email and phone calls directly to the businesses.

-Century Awards: Brian said five awards instead of two were too many; Anne replied that there were over two hundred homes that had to be visited and they narrowed it down as much as possible. Assigning the century awards to area teams was discussed as well as costs and options for award plaques, particularly the wooden awards.

-Commissioners would like a program next year and options were discussed; the split-screen PowerPoint slides were difficult to read and should be single slides in the future.

5. Correspondence: Brian reported we received two apologies from award winners who replied to attend the ceremony but could not.

6. Publicity: none

7. New Business:

a. Park Communicator: Anne reported that she spoke to Parks and Recreation briefly, they indicated cancellation of the publication is being considered. The commission discussed options to support keeping it. We promote much of our programming through this publication sent to every household, including Arbor Day, annual awards, plant exchanges and holiday awards.

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b. Commission Webpage: Pat Deck noted that the Commission page was outdated and new content is needed. Lisa reported she has been working on updates with Courtney, including adding a new Sustainability page, but that they have had difficulty with the web staff's ability to make the requested changes. We will work with the city to resolve this.

8. Forestry Report: Tree planting is continuing with the warmer winter weather. Brian will give a full report at the February meeting.

9. Old Business:

a. Holiday Awards: Pat passed out the nomination guidelines and asked commissioners to canvas their areas before decorations are taken down. Areas are limited to 10-15 awards per area, nominations should be emailed to Pat Deck by January 2, 2024.

10. Public Comment: Kelly Konieczki reported that she submitted the 2023 NWF Monarch pledge, we will retain our leadership status with the number of actions completed this year. Photos require a photo release before she can submit them. Michele Hodges will recommit for 2024. Kelly asked for the commission's support to add "invasive species" to the noxious weed ordinance, we discussed issues with the broad description and narrowing it down to specific species.

Adjourned at 8:20 PM

Motion to adjourn made by Anne Billiu, second by Brian Colter, all in favor.

Next Regular Meeting: February 7, 2024, City Hall Council Chambers/Courtroom