

Minutes for the Gerald Park Association Annual Meeting Held September 26, 2019, at the Coventry High School Cafeteria

John Petrovits called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. A quorum was established, and members of the Board of Directors were introduced. Board members present were Steve Belanger, Lisa Catanese, Jim Cropley, Sharon Morel, John Petrovits, Sharon Powers, Ray Shedrick and Dave Sutherland. About a dozen Association members were present.

Audience of Members: A member questioned whether individuals can remain Association members if they quit-claimed their home to a family member. John Petrovits said this issue had come up in the past and it was determined that as long as the individuals were still living there and the household maintained just one vote as usual, there was no problem.

Minutes: Minutes from the June 20, 2019, annual budget meeting were approved with no amendments.

President's Report:

John Petrovits reported the following:

- Volunteers are needed at the beach the weekend of Oct. 5 & 6 to help with the planned repairs and upgrade work. The work will begin at 9:30 am Saturday and will continue on Sunday if necessary. Snacks will be provided. If we do not get enough Association members to help, the work may have to be postponed.
- John showed members a Certificate of Appreciate that our Association received from CoventryFest as thanks for our donation toward that annual community event.

Tax Collector's Report: Laura Young reported an 87% tax collection rate to date, with the number of delinquent accounts remaining about the same as in years past. There are 157 total accounts in the Gerald Park Association.

Treasurer's Report: John Petrovits shared the current balance sheet with members and indicated that spending is on target. Of the \$17,000 budgeted for this year, about \$8,300 has been spent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Beautification: The swim ropes and speed bumps will be put away the weekend of Oct. 5 & 6, in coordination with the beach improvement work.

Beach: Utilization of our beach has increased among Association members, which is good news. Fewer nonmembers seem to be using the beach and fewer cars have been found parked there overnight, which is also good news for the safety and maintenance of our beach.

Environmental: Sharon Powers said the third and final lake hydrilla treatment for this year will be on Monday, September 30. Swimming is not allowed that day, but boating and fishing are permitted.

Fuel Oil Cooperative: John Petrovits reported that Harvey Barrett is inviting Association members to join in a group purchase of fuel oil. The more Association members who participate, the better the price he is able to negotiate. He has asked anyone interested in obtaining fuel oil through this cooperative to contact him personally or via email; his email is on the GPA website.

Announcement:

Association members were reminded that our Association has a website where they can find news, meeting minutes, photos and more: www.GeraldParkCoventry.com.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of New Board Members: This was postponed until the end of the meeting.

FOI Clarification: At the September 5 Board meeting, a question was asked concerning the sharing of information by members of the Board of Directors. John Petrovits reminded Board members that they cannot talk about GPA business with each other outside of our public meetings, but they can speak with other Association members about GPA business as long as they make it clear they are speaking as a fellow member and not as a Board member.

OLD BUSINESS:

Avery Shores Turnover: Attorney Walter Twatchman, who represents the GPA, had an initial meeting with the Town Attorney, Town Manager and other officials to discuss turning the road over to the town. Atty Twatchman prepared an informational document to be shared at a second meeting. However, the Town Attorney has said he will not meet again with Atty Twatchman until he receives permission from the town to proceed. John Petrovits has reached out to a Town Council member to ask how we can move forward with the turnover discussions.

Hazardous Tree Update: A failing tree at the end of Avery Shores was taken down, at a cost that was less than half of what was budgeted, which is good news for the Association. The final cost was \$2,260. John Petrovits pointed out that the Association likely will be facing tree work such as this every year as trees age. A question was asked about failing trees on private property that may threaten Association property. John said the Association still would have to cover any damages that may occur but has the right to trim dangerous limbs that overhang our property. A question asked about installing a storage shed at the beach. John explained that this was suggested but not funded by Association members this year because of more pressing needs and suggested that it be brought up again at next June's budget meeting.

Election of New Board Members:

Nine members serve on a volunteer basis on the Gerald Park Association Board of Directors. Each member's term is three years. Each year, elections are held for three of the seats. This year, the terms of Jim Cropley, Sharon Powers and Ray Shedrick were expiring, and none of them had planned to run for reelection.

John Petrovits opened up the floor to nominations for the three seats. Four Association members were nominated: Linda Blakesley, Pam Cropley, Mary Ann Hansen and Raymond Perugini. A private written vote was taken and results were tallied. The final count was Linda Blakesley 14, Pam Cropley 13, Raymond Perugini 12, and Mary Ann Hansen 4.

Therefore, the three new members of the Board of Directors, serving until 2022, are Linda Blakesley, Pam Cropley and Raymond Perugini. The new members were thanked for their willingness to volunteer, and the outgoing members were thanked for their work on behalf of our Association.

Date for Spring Budget Meeting: A tentative date and time of Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at 7 pm, was established.

Before the meeting concluded, an Association member offered to build some wooden Gerald Park signs for our side roads to help foster our Association's sense of community. He was thanked and encouraged to proceed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Board of Directors met to nominate officers. The following positions were confirmed unanimously: John Petrovits, President; Linda Blakesley, Vice President; Lisa Catanese, Secretary; and Dave Sutherland, Treasurer.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Wednesday, November 6, 2019, at 7 pm in the Library Media Room at Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School, 1776 Main Street, Coventry.