

## **Minutes for the September 14, 2022, Gerald Park Association Annual Meeting Held at the Coventry High School Lecture Room**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm. A quorum was established. Board of Directors members present were Lisa Catanese, Pam Cropley, Eric Miller, Teri Norman, Raymond Perugini, Kevin Ryan, Syd Seale, and Dave Sutherland. Absent was John Petrovits.

**Audience of Members:** None.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the June 15, 2022, GPA Budget meeting were approved with no changes. Motion to approve by Scott Gallo, seconded by Sharon Powers, unanimously approved.

**President's Report:** Eric Miller said that the swim ropes had become damaged and have been removed. The ropes will need to be replaced in the spring.

At the conclusion of the President's Report a motion was made by Scott Gallo, seconded by Sharon Powers, to move the election up in the agenda. Several attendees pointed out that the rest of the agenda was not expected to be lengthy, so this might not be necessary. The motion was upheld by a vote of 10-5.

**Election of three board members.** An election was held to fill the seats of Raymond Perugini, Pam Cropley, and Teri Norman, whose terms were expiring. All three of them accepted a nomination to continue on the board. Jackie Roy was also nominated and although she was not present, she sent a message that she would accept the nomination. Voting was held by paper ballot. The final results were: Pam Cropley, 21; Teri Norman, 18, Raymond Perugini, 17; and Jackie Roy, 5. The top three vote-getters will continue on the board.

**Tax Collector's Report:** Laura Young presented a report indicating an 87.21% collection rate to date. She said she sent out reminder notices to the delinquent accounts.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave Sutherland submitted a report showing the budget spending to date. He said another payment is due for the portable toilet rental at the beach. In addition, the GPA's \$250 donation for the July 4 fireworks has been returned to us because the fireworks were cancelled. To date, \$16,695.23 has been spent out of the total budget of \$30,837.59.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Avery Shores Turnover:** John Petrovits was unable to attend, but he submitted a report stating that he will be attending a conference with our attorney on September 28. The case will be heard by a judge in October, and the judge's decision on the Writ of Mandamus is expected either at the end of this year or early next year, which should finally settle the issue of who owns Avery Shores.

**Beach & Beautification:** The fall cleanup at the beach will be held on Saturday, Nov. 5, starting at 9:30am (rain date Sunday). Kelley Sutherland is hoping to do some plantings in the spring.

**Member Involvement Committee:** All activities have concluded for the year. The full moon kayaking was enjoyed by a number of residents, and the plan is to continue them into next year along with other fun activities.

**Environmental:** Scott Gallo reported that a State of the Lake forum will be held on Sept. 20 at 7pm at the Coventry High School Auditorium and will be livestreamed for those who can't attend in person. Experts will be available to answer residents' questions about the recent algae bloom, hydrilla, and more. The last hydrilla treatment of the season will be done on Sept. 20 as well.

**Fuel Oil Cooperative:** Ben Emanuele has generously agreed to coordinate the cooperative again this season. He said he surveys all oil dealers serving Coventry to try to negotiate the best price for a group delivery. Anyone interested in joining can send an email to [geraldparkcoventry@gmail.com](mailto:geraldparkcoventry@gmail.com) and it will be forwarded to Ben.

**Website:** Mary Ann Hansen suggested that a page be added to the website where GPA residents who provide home services can advertise their services. Lisa Catanese said she would add that page and send out an email to let GPA residents know about it.

**Welcome to GPA:** Lisa Lowell reported that she has delivered several Welcome Baskets to new GPA residents and has a few more to deliver.

**Bylaws subcommittee:** On hold.

**GPA taxes subcommittee:** On hold.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Election of three board members.** Moved up higher in the agenda.

**Paper roads.** A discussion ensued about the “paper roads” owned by the Association, which are roads that appear on paper only because they have not been developed. Teri Norman offered to lead a committee to look into what can be done with these pieces of property. Mary Ann Hansen suggested the issue be put on hold until the issue of Avery Shores ownership is finalized. Scott Gallo said putting together some basic information now about the paper roads would be helpful. Eric Roy and Mary Ann Hansen, in addition to Scott Gallo, volunteered to join Teri Norman on this committee. Teri also thanked Pam Cropley for the extensive work she had done in looking into ways in which any dead trees can be removed from the paper roads as inexpensively as possible.

**Decorum at GPA meetings.** After disruptions at several meetings, the GPA Board wanted to reinforce rules of decorum at GPA meetings. Eric Miller pointed out that according to our bylaws, we must follow Robert’s Rules of Order. That includes being kind and courteous as we all work for the betterment of our neighborhood. Scott Gallo suggested we continue to hold budget meetings and annual meetings at the high school, which is set up better to manage larger groups. Paul Catanese asked what the process is for managing a disruptive member. Eric Miller said point of order is called twice, and if it is disregarded, the individual is named and point of order is called once again. If the disruptive behavior continues, a member of the audience can make a motion to expel the person. If the person does not leave, police may be called. Scott Gallo suggested that this be put in writing. Eric Miller expressed his thanks to all in attendance for the polite, pleasant, and efficient meeting tonight.

A copy of the policy for managing a disruptive member is attached to these minutes.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the GPA Board met to choose officers and set a date for the next meeting. Unanimously elected were Eric Miller, president; Raymond Perugini, vice president; Dave Sutherland, treasurer; and Lisa Catanese, secretary. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 26, at 6pm via Zoom. A link will be posted beforehand on the GPA website: [geraldparkcoventry.com](http://geraldparkcoventry.com).

## **PENALTIES**

The chair cannot impose a penalty for misbehavior; only the assembly can do so. A member can rise and make a motion proposing a penalty, or the chair can ask, "What penalty should be imposed on the member?" Possible motions that assemblies can make include:

- A motion that the member must apologize
- A motion that the member must leave the hall during the remainder of the meeting
- A motion to censure the member
- A motion to suspend the member's rights for a designated period of time
- A motion to expel the member from the organization

If the assembly wants the member to leave the hall while they discuss the penalty, someone must present this option in the form of a motion, which takes a majority to adopt. If the assembly does not ask the member to leave during the discussion, it should allow that person to speak briefly in his or her defense. If the member denies the charges, the secretary can read back what he or she has said or done.

Any penalty other than expulsion requires a majority vote to adopt; expulsion takes a two-thirds vote. At the request of a single member, the vote on a penalty motion must be taken by ballot.

### **Removing an Offender from the Assembly Hall**

Anyone attending a meeting can be removed from the assembly hall. The chair has the power to remove a nonmember at any time during a meeting, and this person has no right to appeal the chair's decision. (However, a member can make an appeal on behalf of the nonmember.) An assembly vote is required to remove a member from the hall.

If a person is asked to leave the assembly and refuses, the chair should take the steps necessary to see that order is enforced. The chair must carefully appraise the situation and act wisely. The chair can either appoint a committee to escort the person to the door or ask the sergeant-at-arms to remove the person. (The sergeant-at-arms is the person who acts as a doorkeeper, maintains order at the direction of the presiding officer, and is responsible for the comfort of the assembly.) Those escorting someone to the door must be careful how much force they use, because they can be liable for damages or be sued. If those appointed to escort the person to the door can't persuade the person to leave, they should call the police. However, the police may not want to get involved unless the organization is willing to press charges.