

Minutes for the May 2, 2023, Gerald Park Association Board of Directors Meeting Held via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm. A quorum was established. Board of Directors members present were Lisa Catanese, Pam Cropley, Eric Miller, John Petrovits, Kevin Ryan, Syd Seale, and Dave Sutherland. Absent were Teri Norman and Raymond Perugini. Also present were GPA tax collector Laura Young and GPA member Sharon M.

Audience of Members: None.

Minutes: Minutes from the March 29, 2023 Board of Directors meeting were approved unanimously. Motion by Eric Miller, second by John Petrovits.

President's Report: Eric Miller stated that the beach cleanup would be Saturday, May 7, at 11am, and that the new swim ropes have been purchased and will be installed at that time.

Tax Collector's Report: Laura Young submitted a report showing the tax collection rate is up to 97.86%, which is excellent and higher than the 95% rate anticipated in the current budget. She stated that the GPA tax rolls include 112 houses, 44 lots, and 1 town substation, for a total of 157 units.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Sutherland presented a report showing that some areas are slightly over budget and some are under budget; overall, spending is on track. As per the vote taken at the March 7 Special Meeting, the \$3,500 moved from Capital Improvements to this year's regular budget to cover the attorney's costs for the Avery Shores turnover must be replaced as part of next year's budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Avery Shores Turnover: John Petrovits reported that the GPA attorney has attempted several times to contact the town attorney for next steps but has not received a response. The next court appearance is May 24.

Beach & Beautification: Beach cleanup day is Sunday, May 7, at 11am, with a rain date of Saturday, May 20. Some landscaping tarp and wood chips will be purchased to keep weeds down in certain areas. Repairs to the beach planned for this year have been held off, since the erosion problem seems to be an issue with a town drain pipe. John Petrovits contacted the head of public works, who came to look at the water runoff problem and said maintenance crews would come to clean up the area and redo the drainage area to stop the erosion. John also said the lake currently is about an inch and a half over summer levels.

Member Involvement Committee: The committee put together a schedule of events, including a s'mores night, plant swap, and several dates for full moon kayaking. These events and dates will be listed on the GPA website.

Environmental: No report.

Fuel Oil Cooperative: No report.

Website: Lisa Catanese renewed the GPA's URL (www.GeraldParkCoventry.com) for five years, so it will not need to be renewed until May 19, 2028. She also said she would finalize the annual Spring Newsletter and will post it on the website. Copies also will be available at the May 31 budget meeting.

Welcome to GPA: No report.

Bylaws subcommittee: On hold.

GPA taxes subcommittee: On hold.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on Chase Avenue: At the special meeting on April 20, the GPA membership voted to put on hold all actions regarding the use of paper roads until after the Avery Shores turnover is complete. The individuals requesting use of Chase Avenue were not present at that meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed budget for 2023-24 to present at the annual budget meeting: A discussion was held regarding each line item for the next budget season. A few items of note included removing the line items for fireworks (no longer are held) and the storage shed (now in place), and increasing the compensation for the tax collector, who goes above and beyond for the GPA and has been working without an increase since 2017.

The total of the proposed budget to come before GPA members for a vote is \$28,375, which is slightly lower than last year’s budget. Line items are:

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| Insurance and taxes | \$6,000 |
| Beach repairs | \$1,500 (carried over from the prior year, since that money wasn’t spent) |
| Beach and beautification | \$ 500 |
| Gerald Park Day | \$ 250 |
| Mowing and trash removal | \$ 950 |
| Port-o-potty rental | \$1,500 |
| Meeting room rental | \$ 100 |
| Office supplies/postage/copying | \$ 750 |
| Lien fees | \$ 125 |
| Legal notices & website | \$ 400 |
| Tax collector compensation | \$2,100 |
| Welcome to GPA baskets | \$ 200 |
| Emergency funds | \$1,000 |
| Attorney fees | \$13,000 (anticipated costs, as well as adding \$3,500 back into Capital Improvements that was borrowed in the previous budget year) |

Total proposed 23-24 budget: \$28,375

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 14, at 6pm via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.