

Minutes for the June 23, 2021
Gerald Park Association Annual Budget Meeting
Held at the GPA Park

The meeting was called to order at 6:06pm. A quorum was established. Board of Directors members present were Linda Blakesley, Lisa Catanese, Pam Cropley, Eric Miller, Raymond Perugini, John Petrovits, Kevin Ryan, and Dave Sutherland. Absent was Steve Belanger.

Audience of Members: Approximately 20 GPA members were present.

- A member asked about finishing the walkway to the park, to fill in the openings in the cement pavers. Board members replied that funds to do this were included in the Beach Repairs line item in the proposed budget, which would be voted upon later in the meeting.
- Kelley Sutherland, a member of the GPA Member Involvement subcommittee, said she was looking for volunteers to join her in beautifying the park by weeding, planting shrubs and flowers, etc. Anyone who enjoys gardening and would like to help from time to time is invited to contact Kelley. Send an email to geraldparkcoventry@gmail.com and it will be forwarded to her.

Minutes: Minutes from the September 24, 2020, Annual Meeting were unanimously approved with no changes.

President's Report: Linda Blakesley welcomed GPA members and encouraged them to participate in GPA activities and events, which are described on the GPA Facebook page and GPA website.

Tax Collector's Report: Laura Young shared a report showing a 98.44% collection rate for current taxes. Board members said that this high collection rate is due to Laura's excellent efforts and pointed out that it helps to keep taxes lower for everyone.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Sutherland shared the current 2020-2021 budget showing that the total amount of line items approved for this past year was \$16,750 and the amount spent was \$9,354. The lower spending is primarily due to this having been a COVID year, where some planned expenses did not happen. In addition, the costs for the attorney to represent the GPA in the Avery Shores road turnover were less than anticipated this past year. As always, the unspent funds are rolled into the next year's budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Avery Shores Turnover: John Petrovits explained that because the town has stopped replying to the GPA's requests to meet again concerning this issue, our attorney is pursuing legal means to show that Avery Shores should already be considered a town road. A GPA member said minutes posted from a town Steering Committee meeting seemed to indicate that the town was willing to work with the GPA, but others who have been involved with the issue for some time said their impression is that the town has no interest in taking over the road.

Beach & Beautification: John Petrovits said some funds are being proposed in next year's budget to replace a bench that could not be salvaged when the beach repairs were made last year. GPA member Kelly Sutherland discussed in greater detail her hope for a small group of residents to help with beautifying the beach.

Member Involvement Committee: Linda Blakesley discussed some of the activities planned by the committee, including sunset kayaking/canoeing, movie nights at the park, and a Gerald Park Block Party planned for Saturday, July 24.

Environmental: GPA member Scott Gallo, a member of the town's Lake Advisory Committee, said another lake hydrilla treatment is planned for this summer. He also said that the town has a watershed awareness initiative that all GPA members are encouraged to learn about. Details will be available in a summer newsletter that will come out soon.

Fuel Oil Cooperative: Harvey Barrett coordinates a group fuel oil purchase each winter that has saved members around 25 center per gallon. Anyone interested in participating for next heating season can send an email to geraldparkcoventry@gmail.com and it will be forwarded to Harvey.

Website: Lisa Catanese explained the various types of information about our association that can be found on www.geraldparkcoventry.com and encouraged members to visit from time to time to see what's new.

Welcome to GPA: Lisa Lowell reported that six new families have moved to homes in the GPA and she has been distributing Welcome Baskets to them.

Beach Rules subcommittee: Eric Miller read the proposed revisions to the beach rules to be voted upon later in the meeting. Only a few changes had been suggested, such as clarifying that only paid Airbnb guests could use the park and beach and that members must inform the GPA Board in advance if planning a gathering of more that 15 people.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vote on the updated beach rules: Printed copies of the proposed rules were shared to GPA members and were approved unanimously with no changes. The new rules will be mailed to all GPA members as per our bylaws and also will be posted at the park and on the GPA website.

Vote on the 2021/2022 budget: Printed copies of the proposed budget in the amount of \$24,975 was presented to members. In response to questions about the proposed kayak rack, Board members said it would either be a third rack that could hold about a dozen more canoes/kayaks/paddleboards, or that wood from one of the existing racks would be repurposed to build single a larger rack. Either way, volunteers will be needed to help with building it.

A lengthy discussion took place around one of the items: a cost of \$7,700 for beautification and improvements at the park. Eric Miller explained that there were three components to this line item: \$500 for the new bench, \$1,000 for the new kayak rack, and the remaining \$6,200 for tree work. The tree work would consist of removing dead limbs from the large oak trees in the center of the park, taking down smaller trees that are growing into the east fence, and taking away the wood.

Several members questioned why those smaller trees needed to come down, since they appear to be healthy, and expressed concern that there wouldn't be enough shade at the beach. Others said the trees would have to come down eventually because they were being blocked from sunlight by the neighboring trees on private property, and they also are damaging the fence.

A GPA member made a motion to change that line item from \$7,700 to \$3,500, which would be enough for the bench, kayak rack, and removal of dead oak limbs. The motion was seconded and passed by a vote of 12-3.

A GPA member made a motion to approve the revised 2020-2021 budget in the amount of \$20,775, and the motion was passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: The next Board of Directors meeting will be held Thursday, July 15, at 6:00pm at the GPA park if the weather cooperates; otherwise, via Zoom.

The Annual Meeting of the GPA, at which three new board members will be elected, will be held on Wednesday, September 22, at 6:00pm at the park. All GPA members are urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm.