

**Grandmont Community Association**  
Grandmont: Detroit's Home of Good Neighbors  
P.O. Box 27790, Detroit, Michigan 48227

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**GRANDMONT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**DATE:** March 5, 2022    **TIME:** 10AM    **PLACE:** Zoom  
**March 2022 Minutes**

**I. CALL TO ORDER: 10:03am**

**II. Board Members Present: Edward Smith, Ethel Smith, Cora Duncan-Foster, Robert Patterson, Larissa Richardson, Samantha Bonaparte, Diane Patterson, Krystal Thurmond, Josh Engle**

**Board Members Absent: Joyce Tatum**

**Committee Chairs / Community Members Present: Alex, Carly, Aaron Hall (Councilman Tate's office), Charlotte Wright, Jenise Collins, Sandi Miller, James Liddell, Yolanda Burnett**

**III. CHANGES TO / ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: Ethel Moved to accept Feb minutes, Ed seconded**

**IV. OFFICERS' REPORTS:**

**A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Update on Asphalt Mill - next hearing date forthcoming in March, strategy meetings happening with community members and environmental justice groups in the area. Invited to do Movie in the Park again this summer with GRDC.

**B. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

1. City Council President Pro Tem District 1 James Tate's Meetings are extremely informative. CERA (COVID Emergency Rental Assistance) helps renters with past due / future rent, utility payments to prevent evictions. This provides basic housing security. This program is administered through MSHDA Funds. These funds were allocated to Michigan through the COVID Relief Bill that was passed in Dec. 2020. Those eligible for CERA have experienced a COVID Hardship. Some hardships include: unemployment income, loss of income, increased expenses due to COVID, past due utility, and rent notice. Apply online or phone (866) 313-2520.
2. Attorneys Tonya Myers-Phillips and Jim Dwight explained a need for the Right to Counsel Ordinance. Evictions are on the rise. Detroit is now 52% renters. 24,000 people have left Detroit because of an eviction. There is a need to keep our tenants and taxes here. Only about 8% of tenants have an attorney when they go to court. Many of these tenants are unable to talk to the judge. 90% of landlords have an attorney. If you are facing eviction, behind on your utilities or need the internet, get a lawyer and help with payment assistance. Phone (866) 313-2520 or visit [detroitevictionhelp.com](http://detroitevictionhelp.com).
3. Rental Assistance: COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) - <https://www.michigan.gov/mshda/rental/cera/covid-emergency-rental-assistance-cera>
4. If you are facing eviction or behind on your utilities or need the internet. Get a lawyer and help with payment assistance. Call 866-313-2520 or visit [DetroitEvictionHelp.com](http://DetroitEvictionHelp.com).
5. Report bad conditions in your rental- Call City of Detroit Building Safety & Engineering at (313) 224-2733 or <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/efa41296fdc646dcadc3cbca2d6fd6ac>
6. HOMEOWNERS – Get property tax help, call Detroit Taxpayer Service Center 313-224-356
7. EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS – Call 313-305-0311 or 211

**C. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

1. Total Savings Ending January 31, 2022: 5809.71 (any shifts had to do with moving prior years paid over to checking or people paying for future years of dues)
2. Total Checking Ending January 31, 2022: \$5558.51
3. Expenses: Holiday Luncheon, Grandmonitor printing, bank fee (\$5), Grandmonitor Ad manager stipend (\$50), final snow service payment (\$1500)
4. Income: Dues for 2022 (or previous years paid up) \$2010

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5. March 4, 2022 Balances: Checking \$4029.37 and Savings \$5960.00
6. Available Balance Checking \$2611.03, Savings \$5809.71
7. Krystal asked if we still make a budget request at one time in the year - Larissa said Committee chairs should submit a budget request to Larissa and Robert by March 20.
8. The board had moved to repay Krystal at the February 5 meeting. Calculations were short by \$0.03 and Robert will roll that to Krystal's next round of expenses for Social Planning. Be careful of your figures.
9. When submitting budget recommendations is it for the whole year or by event? - Whole Year

**D. MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** 103 memberships so far in 2022, 2021 memberships: 223, 2020 memberships: 255 and PayPal account is at \$0.00 as of March 2, 2022. \$794.10 Transferred to Checking Account

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Standing):**

**A. ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR (Jomo King):** no report

**B. BEAUTIFICATION (Larissa Richardson):** Next meeting for the committee in April 6pm on Tuesday, April 12. Topic: Beautification/Garden Club Meeting

1. Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime Join Zoom Meeting
2. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82946606157?pwd=cIRNY0Z2cHlNK2p1SDNPNit0b2ZtUT09>
3. Meeting ID: 829 4660 6157
4. Passcode: b244PA

**C. ENVIRONMENTAL/VACANT PROPERTY TASK FORCE (Harrison Duke III & Diane Patterson):**

**1. VPTF Updates**

1. Next VPTF meeting scheduled for 10am, Tue 3-15-22 (zoom)
2. Updates about various homes for sale, vacant or struggling with taxes/foreclosure

**2. Environmental Updates**

1. Sent courtesy letters to residents for trash can placement, removal in a timely fashion
2. **Street Lights:** Grand River (since Jan. 2021) and neighborhood street lights still not repaired, but still in the system per Feb 2022 phone call. Supply/material issues.
3. Still some issues with continuous lawn parking – visible lawn ruts/damage not attractive or good neighbor behavior – most are rentals.
4. FYI – Received phone call 3-3-22 from neighbor on Grandmont concerning alley behind Tubby's Pizza/ Party Store and that she may be responsible for alley-water-hole repairs –(which is ridiculous since that area has been a constant source of dumping, litter, and bad behaviors and not her private property.) Aaron Hall is also helping with this issue. Questions and seeking explanation about the alley and who is responsible for it. Josh mentioned that the only reason the sinkhole would be the property owner's issue is if the plumbing line has a problem from the property owner.
5. Aaron Hall contact for issues: hallaar@detroitmi.gov

**D. GRANDMONITOR (Sandi Miller):**

1. The March issue of the Grandmonitor was completed, printed and delivered to residents. Due to the current paper shortage, the printed issue had to be shortened to not face a delay in the print order being received. This will continue to be monitored with the printer.
2. Just a reminder that articles should be received by the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month unless the article is not time sensitive. Also, I hope to create a new format for the Grandmonitor that will hopefully decrease the number of pages produced for printing but still cover valuable information needed by the Grandmont community.
3. I was able to discover how to perform minor updates to the GCA website and managed to upload some of the missing issues of the Grandmonitor. However, in this process, I also

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discovered another benefit to having a maximum of 12 pages. The website has a size limit for documents being uploaded and without the correct software to compress the file, issues over 12 pages couldn't be uploaded.

4. Vote on two items in New Business: **Vote on whether we will continue to alternate between online and printed monthly or designate the issue as a print version based on content and timing. and Vote on the minimum and maximum page size of the Grandmonitor.**
  5. Amount of papers needs to be reduced, that should be communicated to the printer. Charges are based on pages printed.
  6. **Advertising Grandmonitor (Phil Foster):** Ad report for March Income from Jan/Feb 2022: \$265 and Amount due for March 2022: \$270
- E. GRDC (Jomo King/Kevin Johnson):** Having meetings regarding mixed use development projects, still looking for an Executive Director of GRDC.
- F. RAMSAY PARK (Edward Smith):** Detroit Partnership Day Ramsay Park Clean up is Saturday, April 9, from 10 am - 3 pm. Participated in a meeting virtually, more information forthcoming.
1. Aaron Hall received a grant for a free dog training event in the park - need help to choose a date.
- G. RIPPLING HOPE (Cora Duncan-Foster):**
1. Nine Boston College Students will arrive tomorrow, March 6<sup>th</sup>. They will service the Detroit Community until March 11, 2022. On Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, Krystal Thurmond and I will provide dinner for our volunteers.
- H. SCHOLARSHIP (Cora Duncan-Foster):**
1. The Scholarship Committee appreciates all donations! Now, the GCA Scholarship Total is \$1,505.35. At this time the scholarship will be strictly from private donations from residents and friends. Donations are always accepted. Please mail to Grandmont Community Association Attention: Scholarship, P.O. Box 27790, Detroit, MI 48227
  2. Scholarship committee met on February 10, 2022 and discussed the following: The changes for the scholarship application were: the 2022 year and due date of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The team suggested that I send an article and note that the application is available for the March Grandmonitor. Suggestions made for how to get an applicant were as follows: send application and note to high schools, put information on Facebook or other media. The schools given were: Cass Tech, King High, Communication & Media Arts, Redford High, Renaissance High, and River Rouge High School. Larissa has a contact for River Rouge High. Midnight Golf should be contacted. Also looking for ways to seek more donations from local businesses or doing something like a GoFundMe. More information to come.
  3. We have a young person who would like to apply. Attends Renaissance High School.
  4. Diane asked if the scholarship can apply to someone attending technical college/trade school. Yes.
- I. SAFETY/SECURITY (Joyce Tatum):** Cora reported on behalf of Joyce
1. Having issues with people bringing in their garbage cans on time
  2. Radio Patrol Meetings on the first Monday of the month always have guests with great information.
  3. 313-334-7922 Domestic Violence Hotline shared with us by Robert
- J. SOCIAL PLANNING (Krystal Thurmond):**
1. 8 cards have gone out for the Sunshine Committee.
  2. Garden Tour upcoming event. This event will help contribute to the scholarship fund.
- K. STREET & BLOCK CAPTAINS (Jibreel Tatum):** 1058 Grandmonitors were printed up. He got out all the Grandmonitors. If you need more, contact him. Krystal needs about 8-10 more until August for Raffle item donations.
- L. YOUTH AND EDUCATION (Jenise Collins):**
1. Youth Spotlight: We are still accepting submissions to highlight youth and youth organizations that are doing outstanding things in our community in The Grandmonitor. If you would like to submit information about outstanding youth or youth organizations, please forward that information to [gcayouthandeducation@gmail.com](mailto:gcayouthandeducation@gmail.com).

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2. Edison Elementary: March is Reading Month at Edison Elementary. The school will host a month worth of activities around reading. More details to come.
3. Distribution of Information/Possible collaborations and partnerships—To ensure we are reaching a broader youth audience, the Youth & Education Committee will expand our communication of events and programs to include the following schools, as well as establish supportive community ties: Dossin Elementary-Middle School, Edison Elementary School, Christ the King Catholic School, New St. Paul Head Start, David Ellis Academy, Cooke STEM Academy
4. Events Calendar Updates: Due to the ongoing pandemic and health and safety concerns, the Y&E Committee is currently exploring the idea of combining the Youth Expo, Reading in Ramsay Park and Family Fun Day and hosting it in conjunction with the GCA Annual Meeting on July 9th at Ramsay Park. More details to come. Aaron Hall volunteered dogs for the event (training therapy dogs).
5. The next meeting will take place on March 12, 2022 at 10am via Zoom. Please reach out for zoom link info.

**M. SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

1. **WEBSITE (vacant):** Sandi able to make some updates and put Grandmonitor on the website! Still in the process of trying to find a new webmaster.
2. **SOCIAL MEDIA (Samantha Bonaparte):** Facebook account is growing, have answered some prospective neighbors questions on there!

**VI. ACCEPTANCE OF ALL REPORTS: Cora moved to accept all reports, Ethel seconded. Approved by common consent.**

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- A. Aaron Hall shared from Councilman Tate's office - hearing on Monday, March 7 10:05am about the Adult Marijuana Licensing ordinance Meeting information Monday, March 7 at 10:05 am. To join on Zoom use the Meeting ID:858 4690 3626 Marijuana licensing- Join sessions weekly on Thursdays at 6pm using this link: <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/85158450179>

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. GCA fundraising - GCA paraphernalia update? - vendors contacted
- B. Dues envelope- please send feedback

**IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Movie in the park-Hopefully June 18, Rain date or back up June 25 Both of those are Saturdays
- B. Vote on donating \$50 to North Rosedale Park Easter Egg Event
  1. Charlotte shared that the event is really fun and it would be great for someone to replace her. Ethel volunteered to join Cora on the committee.
  2. Krystal moved that we donate \$50 to the Easter egg hunt event. Ethel seconded.
  3. Ethel moved to revise the motion to donate \$60. Krystal seconded. All in favor of donating \$60.
- C. Vote on whether we will continue to alternate between online and printed monthly or designate the issue as a print version based on content and timing.
  1. Larissa stated: We should prioritize content from committee members and community specific things. Paper shortages also make it so that we need to reduce pages. Lead time needs to be a factor. Could have a longer end of the year paper to share our accomplishments for the year.
  2. Cora thinks the online version should be short, printed version longer.
  3. Diane thinks we need to keep it 12 pages. Committee members need to submit articles so we have good information shared.

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4. Samantha shared that the virtual edition can be longer and the printed version should be shorter.
  5. Sandi feels 8 pages is good. If we can rework the format, we can have more to play with. There are things that can be removed or reworked to make space for vital information.
  6. Josh brought up the idea of opting into the print version. Concerns about cost? no but we have factors from the printer about supply/lead time and capacity for our volunteers.
- D. Vote on the minimum and maximum page size of the Grandmonitor.
1. Seems to have consensus to have alternating printing/online, printed versions shorter. If we need to print, we will do that for something VITAL.
  2. Decided to table this discussion for next month. Come with recommendations to vote on in April
- E. Zoom or in person meeting in April
1. Ethel moved that April 2 be on Zoom. Cora seconded. Motion approved.
  2. Josh would like to discuss meeting in person. Larissa said let's look at that for the May meeting. Ed has it on record he would like to meet in person as soon as we can.
- F. Moved to extend the meeting for 5 minutes by Cora.

**X. ADJOURNMENT: Cora moved to adjourn. Robert seconded Meeting adjourned at 12:14pm**

**NEXT MEETING: April 2, 2022 at 10AM on zoom**