

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

GRANDMONT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE: January 9, 2021 **TIME:** 10AM **PLACE:** Zoom

January 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER:10:01 AM

Board Members In Attendance: Charity Dean, Cora Duncan-Foster, Ottumn Kennedy, Sean Novak, Larissa Richardson, Samantha Bonaparte, Ethel Smith, Robert Patterson, Ed Smith, Josh Engle, Krystal Thurmond

Community Members/Committee Chairs: Charlotte Wright, Ethel Smith, James & Latasha Holly, Sandi Miller, Kitty Yarbough, Diane Patterson, Mark McCrae, Jenise Collins, Rochelle, Aries Winans, Yvonne Sanders

Board Members Not Present:

II. CHANGES TO / ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. Sean moved to accept the minutes, Larissa seconded

III. OFFICERS' REPORTS:

A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Happy New Year! Excited to see the rollout of the Covid-19 Vaccine! Excited to see action in the new year and see how we are adapting to meeting this way. Text Charity with any concerns, that's the best way to contact her. Please remember to wait to be acknowledged by the chair in order to share or ask questions.

B. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Happy New Year! Requested face masks from Wayne Co. Health Department before Christmas, would like to distribute them in the community, soliciting ideas for how to get them to folks in the community. Perhaps the block captains and street captains can assist? GRDC did a drive through face mask distribution last year at Bushnell--maybe this is a way to go about it? Would love volunteers. Ethel, Cora, Sean

C. TREASURER'S REPORT:

November 30, 2020 totals

Savings: \$5,925.06 Checking: \$3,950.17

Ending balances as of 11/30/2020 after all expenses/incomes:

Savings: \$6,405.44 Checking: \$3,075.77

Cora asked about Grandmonitor Ad revenue - have answer for that in Feb

Jan 8, 2021, the ending balances were:

\$6,406.53 in savings and \$1,421.77 in checking

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\$450 payment for the 16 page Grandmonitor is not cashed yet

\$20 payment to State of Michigan is outstanding

\$50 check to Phil Foster outstanding

Checking balance less those amounts

Robert has been doing forecasting looking at previous budgets and how people have paid their dues in advance.

\$2,621.27 in checking and we have our final snow payment this month as well as a webmaster fee to Mark McCrae of \$50

We are solvent and can even afford to print another paper Grandmonitor.

4,936.53 currently in savings

- D. MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** Charlotte reports that Paypal amount \$1,017.51 - will be transferred to the MFCU account soon now that it is over \$1,000. 232 final count of memberships for 2020, 2021 there are 61 memberships as of today. Continue the same strategies this year to collect membership dues and remind at every opportunity. Ed asked for a copy of his block's membership status (14500-14599 Longacre for Ed's Block). Cora asked if we can collect for years behind and the current year, the answer is yes!

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Standing):

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

- B. BEAUTIFICATION (Larissa Richardson):** Garden Club will need to discuss Garden Tour, Flower Sale and refreshing the planters at the end of each block. Ed asked if Ramsay Park can be included in beautification efforts with extra flowers. Yvonne was responsible for the holiday decorations! Thank you!

1. Robert shared: each committee is Allowed a \$50 budget without asking the board for permission for more.

2. Charity said please come to the board with any spending requests due to our financial situation

- C. ENVIRONMENTAL/VACANT PROPERTY TASK FORCE (Harrison Duke III & Dianne**

Patterson): Diane shared that June-Dec 2020 we have had 16 houses sold to make sure that we are acknowledging the new residents with welcome packets and information about the community. She will reach out to Charlotte, Ethel and Yvonne to work on that outreach to new neighbors.

1. 13900 Rutland for sale - oldest house in the community, current owner has put work into it but dropped the price

2. Home on Archdale and Lyndon from GRDC is still being rehabbed

3. Stop signs knocked down on Ray Monnier and Lyndon and Diane used the Improve Detroit app to report issues, the city worked quickly to resolve the issue!

4. Sean asked about 13900 Longacre and what is going on there - Diane has not heard from lawyer/landbank recently but will check in on Monday

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D. GRANDMONITOR (Sandi Miller & Phil Foster):

1. Work on Grandmonitor by committee (Krystal, Carmen, Mary Muhammad, Diane Patterson, Phil Foster, Cora Duncan-Foster) and they will meet to make further plans, asking for community feedback in terms of what they would like to see.
2. Decide on schedule for digital vs. print
3. Phil shared his report for Ad revenue - some businesses have credit on their accounts because pre-pandemic they made payments (1 year, 6 months etc.) December income for ads is \$366. (Community First Tax services would like an insert but Phil didn't know if we would have a printed paper/when so he has held them off.) Needs clarification on digital vs. print to know how to discuss with advertisers. Need to create an official letter to help show them options. Larissa and Sean will help create a letter! People are still interested in advertising!
4. Alternatives for digital advertising - emails in GIN, Facebook posts

E. GRDC (Jomo King/Charlotte Wright): Kitty Yarbough shared on behalf of GRDC - Property Tax Exemption for eligible residents, please call Kitty to make an appointment to help with this 313-387-4732 x103. First Crime Prevention task force meeting January 19, 2021, 7pm-8pm virtual Zoom meeting. email Kyarbrough@grandmontrosedale.com for more details about the meeting!

F. RAMSAY PARK (Edward Smith): Spoke with City Engineer for D1 - sent a crew out from Michigan Recreational Construction Company to replace the pylons on the playscape. Working on more improvements now that we have that contact. Ed's presentation discussed at December meeting was not what he anticipated - it was an attempt to connect you with resources but no guarantees. Larissa did an awesome job helping Edward out. Ed would love to have a committee/volunteer team. Charity wants us to have a virtual meet and greet for people to get connected and for committees to get new volunteers! Looking at Sat. Jan. 30th for our Call for GCA Committee Volunteers!

G. RIPPLING HOPE (Cora Duncan-Foster): Paint is available every 2nd Wednesday, 3-5pm & 2nd Saturday, 10am-noon at the Rippling Hope Center for Mission and Service, 12801 Joy Road (corner of Joy & Appoline). **The paint is free to all residents not only Rippling Hope Recipients.** Make sure you tell Carl Zerwerck, Rippling Hope Executive Director, you are from Grandmont Community Association. His contact Information is email: carl@ripplinghope.org. Phone number is (313) 704-1230.

H. SCHOLARSHIP (Cora Duncan-Foster): Now, the GCA Scholarship Total is \$1,055.35.

I. SAFETY/SECURITY (James Liddel):

1. Bushnell incident [News Article](#)
2. Radio Patrol Meeting on Monday, January 4. Coffee with a cop on January 13 event coming back. Looking for more volunteers to be a part of the Radio Patrol. We are trying to continue to patrol safely. New lighting for the Radio Patrol Cars.

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3. NPO David Sharp - we need to get the phone number for this officer still. email:

sharpd413@detroit.mi.gov

4. New Neighbors can go to www.detroitmi.gov to find out lots of information based on their address

5. Diane shared that there is a new owner of the party store on Woodmont and Grand River

J. SOCIAL PLANNING (Krystal Thurmond):

1. Sunshine Club in 2020- 38 cards sent out. Anonymous donor contributed some cards.

Hoping to have yard sale, Annual meeting in June, Holiday Party, Christmas decoration contest in 2021.

K. STREET & BLOCK CAPTAINS (Yvonne Sanders & Ethel Smith): no report but we have new neighbors to connect with!

L. YOUTH AND EDUCATION (Carla White-Smith): no report

M. SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

1. **WEBSITE (Mark McCrae):** no report

2. **SOCIAL MEDIA (Samantha Bonaparte):** no report

V. ACCEPTANCE OF ALL REPORTS Cora moved to accept reports , Sean seconded- Motion carries

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT: Cora shouted out Sean's social hour on Sundays! Cora and Krystal said we need to have board training. Sean shared his Social Hour for the community Topic: Grandmont Social Hour, Time: Sunday's from 4p - 5pm, Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81270567568?pwd=ZEs4NHJHanJ6OERWWUZmYUtxdmpYZz09>

Meeting ID: 812 7056 7568 Passcode: 890096

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Follow up with Mr. Harrison Duke regarding proposal

B. By-laws language:

Charity asked if we can push discussion of this to February. Create Google Document with this and share with Lorenzo Blount.

Ed asked about terms for board members - we might need to edit by-laws language for that.

Dues increase for apartments needs to be brought to annual meeting

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Bushnell incident- Diane had asked for us to write a letter of support that these perpetrators of the crime be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law to keep our community safe. Diane is willing to draft a letter for us to submit as a community. Charity said we should be careful as to how we intervene. We want to support Bushnell as a community in any way we can but we

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want to be careful. Ask the church what we can do to support them. The church's leader, Ken Moody, asked for a victim impact statement. Larissa suggested that we share how positive Bushnell is for our community and our relationship with them. Diane should bring a Community impact statement to the February meeting.

- B. Grandmonitor Schedule:** Krystal would like to see every other month hard copy published and coordination amongst 5 communities of GRDC papers to advertise events across the neighborhoods. Cora said we need to give people time to know we are changing things. Larissa reminded us we can do flyers for events if we aren't printing every month. Cora moved that we have a January paper printed. Phil said that the Tax Services Business have a specific ad to run in January. Committee - needs to meet in January to discuss revenue/budget and come back in February to share proposals. they also need a letter to businesses for advertisements, need a plan for what ads look like moving forward. need to come back with a proposal for how often we will print the Grandmonitor. Diane suggested making some edits to the paper before print to cut down on costs.

1. Cora moved that we have a January paper printed. seconded by Ed

1. 5 in favor, 3 opposed, Charity abstains from voting - motion carries.

C. Sean's Items:

1. Follow-up to Waste Management Service concern - email went around about a trash receptacle that was mishandled, Charity still needs to follow up

2. Proposing a formalized process for board response to city service concerns- move to old business

1. Larissa reminded us that we should come up with escalation policy

2. Diane shared about the all neighborhoods meeting on January 11 at 5pm to get updates and to get involved - find out about the department head for an area of concern/interest <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/3631409738> .

3. GCA collective stance on issues of safety and well-being - move to old business

D. Cora's Item

1. Grandmont Community Association Leadership Training Workshop is needed for our board of directors. The knowledge gained from this training will assist them in

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excelling in their role within our community. Trainers include: experienced/retired officers and committee chairs.

- 2. Charity has deputized Cora to hold this meeting we need to have one for current board makeup and then carry on to have another one**

Charity's statement for the closing of the meeting: Robert's Rules of Order need to be followed. Time Limits need to be enforced for committee reports and questions. Please submit your committee report to Samantha by the Sunday before the GCA meeting. Sunday, January 31st is the deadline for the February 6th meeting.

approval for the agenda at the meeting

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Cora moved to extend the meeting past 12pm. Krystal seconded, motion carries.

A. Sean moved to adjourn, Larissa seconded. Meeting is adjourned at 12:30pm

NEXT MEETING: February 6, 2021 @ Zoom, 10 AM