

**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: November 6, 2021    TIME: 10AM    PLACE: Zoom  
November 2021 AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER: 10:04am**
- II. Board Members Present: Ethel Smith, Cora Duncan-Foster, Robert Patterson, Larissa Richardson, Samantha Bonaparte, Diane Patterson, Joyce Tatum, Edward Smith**
- Board Members Absent: Krystal Thurmond, Josh Engle,**
- Committee Chairs / Community Members Present: Mara Crawford, Anu Teli, Sandi Miller, Sharon Shaw, Yolanda Burnett, Jenise Collins**
- III. CHANGES TO / ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: Cora moved to accept the minutes and Diane seconded. Adopted by common consent!**
- IV. OFFICERS' REPORTS:**
- A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Larissa gave recap of changes to executive board. Flooding over the summer and need assistance until November 12! Vaccinations have been approved for everyone ages 5 and up by the CDC!**
- B. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: no report**
- C. TREASURER'S REPORT: September Income and Expense Reports**
1. Savings: \$ 6154.06; Checking: \$ 6863.92
  2. Income: donations for scholarship, Grandmont advertising, membership dues for 2021 and 2022, (Scholarship and all memberships from 2022 go to savings account)
  3. Expenses: website fee (\$155.88 from PayPal); \$342.65 for annual meeting, Gov Fees/LARA/Post Office: \$87; Bank service fee \$5.00;
  4. Savings: \$6309.20; Checking: \$7044.27 <--Ending Balances as of 09/30/2021
  5. Ending Balances in Nov 1, 2021: Savings: \$7044.27 and Checking: \$5,787.77
  6. Robert shared budget projections for the rest of the year.
  7. Need to make plans for a robust membership drive for 2022. Table conversation about that for this meeting or December.
  8. EOY Balance is healthy, we need to use more of our money, no need to save money year to year according to Robert. Samantha shared that we should remember that lots of events just didn't happen or we didn't give to support them, so this is why we have a surplus in funds.
  9. Presentation of dues envelope
- D. MEMBERSHIP REPORT: 209 memberships for 2021, PayPal Balance is at \$91.17**
- V. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Standing):**
- A. ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR (Jomo King): no report**
- B. BEAUTIFICATION (Larissa Richardson): The committee is continuing to meet to discuss curb appeal award recipients. Always looking for nominations but they need to be current dues paying members. Selected Yolanda as our curb appeal award recipient for this month! Will be using this as a way to advertise and take a picture of the properties and recipients! Joyce asked if they become current on their dues if they can be considered: Can consider them if they pay their dues in the next month!**
- C. ENVIRONMENTAL/VACANT PROPERTY TASK FORCE (Harrison Duke III & Diane Patterson):**
1. VPTF met on November 4 at Public Square - working on preventing foreclosures
  2. Zoom meeting on Nov. 2 with the Detroit Neighborhood Housing Compact - Efforts to work with a coalition of people to make Detroit a better place to live

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3. **Valentine Fundraiser from GRDC for Vacant Property Task Force in the works, trying to get the people who own the vacant properties to step up. Only in Grandmont where we are using the funds for lawn maintenance on lots. The lot on Woodmont will be purchased by the neighbor.**
  4. **Wayne County Tax foreclosure notices-30 houses max**
  5. **Environmental : Commercial vehicles on a regular basis, trying to work with NPOs to prevent that - Sheriff Washington will help with the trucks parked in neighborhood**
  6. **Short term rental ordinance that has passed the House and moving on to the Michigan State Senate (State Senator Betty Jean Alexander) - Diane advised we oppose because there's no respect for local ordinances in this resolution - would impact our community's ability to locally control how short term rentals can impact the community.**
- D. GRANDMONITOR (Sandi Miller):** November issue has gone to the printer, December is being worked on, need to revamp how articles are submitted, Sandi has less time to put things together. Lack of community information to put in - need more to reach 12 pages. Larissa and Sandi are trying to come up with a solution to make it less stressful for Sandi. Potential solutions: 2nd editor to help with it. Joyce suggested all board members submit articles and cc Larissa Sandi needs articles early and responses ASAP in feedback for proofing.
1. **Advertising Grandmonitor (Phil Foster): Income from advertising: \$265**
- E. GRDC (Jomo King/Charlotte Wright):** Still looking for an executive director of GRDC. GRDC got our \$300 donation and thanked us.
- F. RAMSAY PARK (Edward Smith):** The City is changing leadership for the Parks Department - reestablishing relationships to keep things moving and maintaining the park. Robert asked: "When will the last grass cutting take place?" Need to find that out
- G. RIPPLING HOPE (Cora Duncan-Foster):** Seeking Donations. Currently no work is being done. Free Bread available. They also have other free items at the center.
- H. SCHOLARSHIP (Cora Duncan-Foster):** Scholarship donations were given in memory of Mark McCrae. The Scholarship Committee appreciates all donations! Those that donated were: Mark and Julie Janusch (\$100); Linda Pride (\$100); Philip and Cora Foster (\$100); John Kimball (\$100); & Marilyn G. Aitken (50.00). 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
- I. SAFETY/SECURITY (Joyce Tatum):**
1. Hearing shots fired? Call 911 even if you aren't sure if it is fireworks or gunshots.
  2. Sheriff Washington was on Radio Patrol Meeting - calls for unauthorized vehicles can contact Joyce (810-447-8044) if you need help with anything in this area with vehicles - Call Officer Childrey (NPO) 313- 590-5199
  3. Wanda Cannon, John Cannon, Yolanda Burnett - new Radio Patrol Members
- J. SOCIAL PLANNING (Krystal Thurmond):**
1. **All 90 GCA volunteers will receive an invitation with instructions to pick up a carry-out meal from GCA from New St. Paul Church on 12-11-21. So far, everything is lined up.**
  2. **Have already spent: \$28.61 for carry out containers, \$16.99 for saran wrap, \$9.51 for sign, \$112.50 deposit to caterer for 50 meals - can adjust based on RSVP (for example 25 more meals) which would mean an additional \$262.50**
  3. **Asking for \$750 for the event, asking for 672.50 because \$77.50 was already submitted to the caterer. (Will still need \$41 in stamps, \$10 in copies for invitations, \$50 donation to church,**
  4. **Consider ordering inexpensive bags for the Holiday Drive-By that will have Grandmont's name but not logo on them. Cost: \$140 (Not for sale)**
- K. STREET & BLOCK CAPTAINS (Jibreel Tatum):** Joyce reported on behalf of him: Jibreel and his little brother (Donald) - they will distribute to the captains for the Grandmonitor. Ethel said thanks and she's still here for support.
- L. YOUTH AND EDUCATION (Jenise Collins):**

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1. The Youth and Education Committee has two new members, Yolanda Burnett and Sharon Shaw. Welcome!!
2. **Hat and Glove Collection and Drive:** There are currently four locations that are hosting donation collection boxes in our community. Locations are as follows.  
John E Cash State Farm Insurance  
Hardware Express  
Royal Fresh Market  
Craft Car Care
3. Actual donations are coming in slowly, but we are confident they will increase closer to the November 20th deadline. The Hat and Glove Drive will take place at Ramsay Park on November 20th from 10am to 2pm. We are collecting new/ unused items only. We would like to have help during the hat and glove drive collection. If you would like to volunteer a few hours, please contact Jenise Collins at (313) 473-9603.
4. We are partnering with Mittens for Detroit. Mittens for Detroit, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that collects, purchases, and distributes new mittens and gloves to children, teens, and adults in need in Detroit, Michigan, and other underserved cities. Founded in 2010, MFD is now in its 11th Collection Season. Mittens for Detroit has generously offered to donate boxes for collection and distribution of items, as well as supplement hat and glove donations as needed. Information about the event has been sent to media outlets, posted and shared on Facebook, as well as flyer distribution at community events
5. The Youth and Education Committee would like to request \$100 from the Youth and Education Committee budget to purchase hats and gloves for the Drive. (new business)
6. **The Grandmonitor**
  1. We are hoping to start a monthly article called "Spotlight on Grandmont Youth" which would showcase outstanding youth and youth organizations in the grandmont community.
7. **Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway Edison Elementary School**

The Edison School Advisory Committee (SAC) is seeking help to create Thanksgiving baskets for their student families that are in need. Attached and below, please find a list of items that are needed to complete the baskets. The Youth and Education Committee will contribute items as a committee project. For all others who would like to help, donations should be given to the main office no later than 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 18th at Edison Elementary School, so baskets can be delivered on Friday, November 19, 2021.
8. **Youth and Education Committee Meeting:** Our next meeting is Saturday, November 13, 2021 at 10am via Zoom. All are welcomed. If you would like to attend or join the Youth and Education Committee, please reach out to any committee member for information.

**M. SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

1. **WEBSITE (vacant):** Cora and Larissa are working to find a new webmaster - may have to start from scratch and forward from the current website to a new platform. Dreamhost platform needs verification from estate to let us in.
2. **SOCIAL MEDIA (Samantha Bonaparte):** no report
3. **WELCOME COMMITTEE (Sean Novak):** no report - Joyce and Larissa will talk

- VI. **ACCEPTANCE OF ALL REPORTS** Joyce moved to accept, Cora 2nd - approved by common ascent
- VII. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Anu Teli (he is in Grandmont) and Mara Crawford (excited to be involved but she is in Grandmont No. 1 - we will get her connected with Mr. Oliver with their improvement association)
- VIII. **OLD BUSINESS:** none
- IX. **NEW BUSINESS:**

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- A. Youth and Education \$100 request for Hat/Glove Drive
    - 1. Cora moved to approve the request, Ethel seconded. Everyone approved by vote. Can come from Y&E committee budget.
  - B. Paying our Editor, Sandi Miller via store gift card since she can not receive any monetary stipend at this time.
    - 1. Cora moved to compensate \$300 to Sandi for her work as she has not been paid for her year of service. Joyce seconded. Cora amended her motion to include \$50 per month going forward. Joyce seconded.
    - 2. Sandi cannot accept cash as part of her job. It gets complicated with monitoring and paperwork. She can accept a gift.
    - 3. Joyce moved to give \$300 in gift cards to Sandi for her 1 year of work. \$50 every month moving forward as a gift. Cora seconded.
    - 4. This would function as a reimbursement to the board member who purchases the card(s). Roll call vote: Yeas have it, 1 opposed.
    - 5. This is a unique situation! Robert doesn't feel it is good practice, but nothing illegal about it.
  - C. This is a preliminary sample (attached) of the Dues Envelope that could be printed by our Grandmonitor printer at a cost of \$125.00 per 1000 envelopes. Seeking approval.
    - 1. Cora moved that we print these envelopes for our community. Ethel seconded
    - 2. Larissa shared that We need to edit this. Envelope is a good thing, just content needs changing. Diane shared thanks for the initiative but the committees need to not be listed. Suggestion blank and bigger space for information. Ed is objecting to the costs for this - doesn't want to spend on this. Robert says that it fits in the budget so it doesn't need to be approved. Larissa would like to see a different version of this before we move forward
    - 3. Samantha suggested removing the committees like Diane and Larissa said and putting the website on here for people to pay online. Put together all feedback. Table for next month and want to include Charlotte in these conversations.
    - 4. Move to table for December meeting - give all feedback before December meeting.
  - D. Social Planning funds request \$750
    - 1. Cora moved to give Social Planning her monies requested, Ethel seconded.
    - 2. Samantha shared that Krystal has given her more detailed information about costs and her planning. The costs will also depends on the number of meals which will be determined by RSVPs. Cora has confidence that Krystal will use the money wisely.
    - 3. Robert shared there is a budget of \$750 - Krystal has spent and \$90.06 - can give her the remaining budgeted amount \$659.94 without a board motion. Would need to approve \$90.06 in additional funds.
    - 4. Samantha asked: would it make more sense to approve her for the remaining budget or if we need to approve the extra today since expenses aren't finalized. Robert says it is important to plan your budgets early. Funds that have been provided by the membership need to be spent!
    - 5. Samantha moves to release \$659.94 from the budget for the social planning committee and will give an advance payment of \$90.06 for the Holiday Luncheon. Cora seconded - none opposed. Krystal has \$750 for the holiday appreciation luncheon.
  - E. GCA fundraising- tabled to next month old business
- X. **ADJOURNMENT:** Cora moved to extend the meeting to 12:15, Ethel and Robert seconded. Cora moved to extend by 15, Robert seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 by Cora and Ethel.

**NEXT MEETING:** December 4, 2021 at 10AM