

**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:** December 5, 2020      **TIME:** 10AM      **PLACE:** Zoom

**December 2020 AGENDA**

**I. CALL TO ORDER: Larissa called the meeting to order at 10:01am**

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

**Community Members/Committee Chairs: Mark McCrae, Meichell Betton, Sandi Miller, Rochelle Betton-Ford, Diane Patterson, Aaron Hall, Jenise Collins, John LaCroix, Harrison Duke, Carman Brandon**

**Board Members Not Present: Charity Dean**

**II. CHANGES TO / ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

**A. Sean moved to approve, Cora Seconded**

**III. OFFICERS' REPORTS:**

**A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: no report**

**B. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Happy Holidays safely!**

**C. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**October 1, 2020 Savings amount: \$6743.98 Checking account amount: \$3805.17**

**End of month Savings: \$5925.06 checking account: \$5455.17**

**\$1000 Scholarship check has been sent to Isis King**

**Expenses: \$5 Bank Service Fee and and 1/3 street snow service payment of \$1500**

**New checking account balance: \$3950.17**

**2nd payment for snow service this month of \$1500**

**As of Nov. 29: Savings account - 6404.46 Checking account - 3080.77**

**1 payment will still occur for snow removal in January \$1500**

**Larissa asked if we could have some end of year numbers for our accounts and budget for us to recap as a board. Particularly about the money in PayPal dues collection**

**Cora asked for clarification for end of November accounts**

**D. MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Charlotte absent but sent along report. We are at 230 memberships from 2020 and we have \$924.90 in paypal currently. Ed asked how we can find out exactly who has**

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paid, and Larissa said to reach out to Charlotte in order to find out. Sean suggested a 1 page DID YOU KNOW? Sheet but maybe we should circulate it again or do a final push

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

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

**B. BEAUTIFICATION (Larissa Richardson): no report**

Diane asked about the corner decorations for the holidays - Larissa didn't know who did them, but will reach out to the Beautification committee members to find out

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

**1. Some notices have been sent out about parking on grass**

**2. GRDC/VPTF Zoom Mtg was held at 1pm Tue 11-30-20. Guest speaker was Chelsea Neblett from Mayor's Office-Dept of Neighborhoods. She presented good information on Property Tax Foreclosure Prevention and the importance of making sure you have applied for tax help (exemption) if you need help and are behind in your taxes. You must apply by Dec 14th and have some % of an exemption in place for 2020 taxes to be eligible for the PAYS (Pay as You Stay) program which has the authority to eliminate and/or reduce back property tax, penalty, or interest for PRIOR years taxes. Don't assume you aren't eligible - even if you are over the income level. The Board of Assessors are the only ones to approve an exemption (or partial exemption) and you need that exemption for prior and current property tax help. COVID, medical, job/income loss are all hardships the Board of Assessors might consider in evaluating some percentage of a tax exemption, but you must personally take charge and apply for it. If you had a WCT "Yellow Bag" posted on your door you need to seek help before December 14, 2020.**

**Email: [taxinfo@waynecounty.com](mailto:taxinfo@waynecounty.com) or call 313-224-5990 or 313-224-3035**

- 1. Chelsea also gave information about the Eviction Diversion Program to help tenants remain in their rentals.**
- 2. It was noted that there are fewer vacant properties in all 5 GRDC neighborhoods but we must be vigilant due to COVID concerns. Job/income loss + higher priced house sales and mortgages could present future problems reminiscent of the 2008 mortgage crisis if people can't pay their bills.**

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

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1. Had to create a template from scratch so that was a bump in the road but the template is completed for this month!
2. Sent out all the deadline dates previously but that may change.
3. We are considering changing the frequency of the Grandmonitor to quarterly
4. Sean asked if transitioning to quarterly would impact our sponsors? Also thinks it is a good idea to have a printed version
5. Cora thinks that we should do a printed one for December
6. Diane said maybe we should do a printed in December/January for a year end report
7. Ethel asked about when we would print them
8. Josh asked, didn't we already vote on this to have people opt in? Yes we did, but not too many people opted in and we want to still provide to people.
9. Monthly Grandmonitor online and the possibility of quarterly printed
  1. Cost of printing - \$300
10. Cora moves that we do December printed for everyone, Quarterly in 2021 and we can reevaluate that
11. Krystal said we need to be sure to advertise the annual meeting in April, May and June
12. Samantha said we should be creative in our frequency or size of Grandmonitor - open to a smaller paper or a flyer
13. Cora moved to have a December paper printed and January revisit the conversation, Josh seconded. Vote passes. (Ed not in favor) Motion carries

**E. GRDC (Jomo King/Charlotte Wright):**

no report from chairs.

Diane shared that she listened into the Nov. 19 City Planning Meeting about the old IHOP - they want to tear down a home on Auburn for parking for that new location for an apartment building (mixed use). Just wanted to make us aware of this. Can provide feedback online and can invite GRDC to a meeting in January.

**F. RAMSAY PARK (Edward Smith):**

Ed got an email from the Detroit Pistons who are sponsoring a clinic and ways to improve the neighborhood parks. They want a plan for the areas you want to improve in the presentation. This is an undertaking but Ed would like to proceed but he will need help to create a team. Train people as to how to create plans and how we can improve our neighborhoods.

- baseball diamond, updated playscape, Josh suggested a pavilion, Larissa suggested more planting near and in the park, additional seating,

Larissa, Justin (Jenise Collins), Sandi will help

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- G. RIPPLING HOPE (Cora Duncan-Foster):**I attended the Rippling Hope Board Zoom Meeting on Thursday, December 3th. The Rippling Hope Fundraiser is continuously bringing in donations. The Rippling Hope Garden is now shut down. Pictures of the garden will be posted. 300 people in the community had received food from this garden. Due to the virus, there were few volunteers to service the community. The volunteers only serviced 27 people in Detroit this year. Two volunteer groups have confirmed to service our Detroit Community next summer. There is plenty of free paint at the Rippling Hope Center on Joy. This is the tenth year for Rippling Hope Free Home Repair. We have been with this organization since the beginning. I gave Carl and the organization a great thank you for the many Grandmont Residents they have serviced over the years.
- H. SCHOLARSHIP (Cora Duncan-Foster):** Now, the GCA Scholarship Total is \$1,055.35. Isis cashed the \$1,000 check last month.
- I. SAFETY/SECURITY (James Liddel):**
1. Cora - Meeting for the Radio Patrol on Zoom at 6pm on Monday
  2. Diane - November 29 (4-6am) 14600 Abington street a neighbor called 911 to help a woman in distress/abused
  3. Larissa - Be aware and alert - some theft and robberies have been occurring - make sure you report any problems
  4. Ed - be alert with your packages
  5. Sean is putting together an online social hour on Sundays at 4pm and there was some discussion with the Radio Patrol so it may come up at their meeting- The main point was that he had inquired about using the Radio Patrol Zoom account for a program. There was a misunderstanding that it was a request from the board. It was not. The event is not intended to be an official GCA event. It was for a personal interest as a community member. (the funds for the Zoom account for the Radio Patrol come from the city)
    1. Need to revisit having a purchased account for GCA - Larissa is happy to help in the meantime. We will table this for January- with detailed information
- J. SOCIAL PLANNING (Krystal Thurmond):**
1. Sunshine Club has sent out 6 cards in October and November
  2. June 26th and rain date of June 27th for annual meeting
  3. 100 people to aim for attending
  4. 22 tables, 107 chairs (we may have to rent) Check with GRDC and city of Detroit Parks dept, Christ the King

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**K. STREET & BLOCK CAPTAINS (Yvonne Sanders & Ethel Smith):**  
no report but interested in the hard copies of the Grandmonitor - should have them by the end of the month - within the week  
the printer only delivers to a business will check with GRDC

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

**M. SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

- 1. WEBSITE (Mark McCrae):** no
- 2. SOCIAL MEDIA (Samantha Bonaparte):** increased likes and following, create reminder texts/liking messages to share

**V. ACCEPTANCE OF ALL REPORTS:** Sean moved, Ethel seconded- motion carries

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**A. Rochelle, Carman, Jenise community members**

**B. Sean shared that his wife has started Grandmont Mommy group for new moms in the neighborhood and surrounding areas (it will be in Grandmonitor)**

**C. Harrison shared that the grassroots and everyday people need to come together and use the resources that the board has to challenge candidates for public office to make focus groups to discuss issues and understand where others are coming from. Get small groups together to try to find some common ground. Discussion from Josh and Rochelle.**

**1. Harrison will bring a proposal to the next meeting around this and how we can take action.**

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

Sean's comment - assess and evaluate monthly rather than 120 day  
Larissa understands the reasoning but would like a little more flexibility for the board. Have comments prepared for January meeting - Krystal said we need to put it in the Grandmonitor for the meeting

By-laws are online on the website. Can also reach out to Cora.

Robert shared more clarification on the thought process behind the bylaw amendment

Ethel and Josh seconded to extend the meeting past 12pm

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

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- A. Diane shared that we have GRDC beautification funds - reached out to Greenfield Garden supply company and she discovered Schoolcraft Improvement Association has good community engagement - check it out**
  
  - B. GRDC used to sponsor a senior luncheon for the 5 neighborhoods but Diane was able to get masks and Krystal and Diane will be distributing goodie bags to the by mid December and Larissa and Josh will help with safe delivery**
  
  - C. Car Parade on December 19th Larissa will help to coordinate**
  
  - D. Josh shared that he's concerned we aren't doing enough for our community in this current state - Larissa shared that people are creating community in the safest ways possible**
- IX. ADJOURNMENT: Cora moved to adjourn, Ethel seconded**

**NEXT MEETING: January 9, 2021 @ Zoom, 10 AM**