

Grove Place Association  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
May 3, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 4:01pm by President Kim Russell. There being 30 present by way of electronic attendance (Zoom application) and with 4 proxies in hand, a quorum was established.

We were also honored to be joined by Mary Louise Lupien, City Council Member for the portion of our neighborhood south of East Main Street who spoke to us about several City matters. One positive aspect of the pandemic is that Council and Committee meetings are being streamed live and also recorded for additional review. The annual budget is to be voted on May 15<sup>th</sup> and the Capital Improvement budget proposal has been recorded. While 4<sup>th</sup> quarter taxes came due on April 30<sup>th</sup>, the City is prepared to be flexible as a result of the economic hardships from the pandemic. Interest and late fees will be waived. Clean Sweep's date is uncertain, and will have to wait for restrictions to be lifted for public gatherings. Mary can be contacted through her web page – [Marylupien.com](http://Marylupien.com). Information on how to contact our city council members is in each of our neighborhood updates.

Rick McGrath provided a financial synopsis of the fiscal year ending April 30, 2020. His financial report is attached under separate cover.

Megan DeFranco gave a Membership report noting that our membership year runs May – April, so this month we'll be sending the renewal form for the new year via email. Current members are Kim Russell, Carlos Mercado, Bob Keck (for IT support), Chris Caretta and Scott Zorn.

Pam DiPaola gave the Beautification Committee report. The committee is preparing to fill the planters on Gibbs, Selden, and Windsor streets in a couple weeks as weather permits. Some pots have been planted with pansies, courtesy of John Paris to brighten the neighborhood in early spring.

Pam also reported that the Book Club is not meeting for the time being.

Incoming President, Bob Keck, presided over the Annual Corporate Meeting business. Using the previously received proxies and the polling function of Zoom, the officers for 2020-22 were elected:

President – Robert Keck  
Vice President: Bob DiPaola  
Vice President: Katherine Cove  
Treasurer: Rick McGrath  
Secretary: Carlos Mercado

Dues for the coming year will remain the same by unanimous vote: \$30 per member and \$35 for a business or not-for-profit membership.

Bob Keck presented the proposed 2020-21 Budget. Due to the uncertainty of continued life under Covid, the executive committee did their best to estimate income and expenses and budgeted for the same level of membership as 2019-2020. The major expense for the year completed was the Legal costs with regard to the 58 University Avenue property which will not be a recurring expense. The rest of the budget is more or less a “business-as-usual” budget with no major changes. Among line items explained to those present were our Insurance policy to cover liability from the street banners and also from any incidents during a GPA activity. As the City considers the banners to be our property, we must insure them. Kim and Suzanne also explained the purpose of C4 and GPA’s support role in it. The budget passed with 2 votes against. **A copy of the adopted budget is attached.**

Suzanne Mayer provided a Hinge update encouraging all GPA members to engage in the process. Kim Russell, Suzanne and Peter Pape are members of the Community Advisory Council for the project and are attending regular meetings. They will report back to GPA. Suzanne has also been appointed to the Technical Advisory Council. Suzanne directed all to both the Hinge and the Inner Loop North websites requesting all of us to complete surveys on both of those sites.

Open Forum.

Concern was raised about the deteriorating condition of the Downstairs Cabaret property. Ed Sapher has seen recent activity at 58 University with hopes there may be a new tenant. Landscaping maintenance was being done.

Kim shared her parting thoughts on completing her term as our President.

Bob Keck, asked members to let him know what issues are most important to each of us for the next two years. One suggestion was how to create a neighborhood vision for University Avenue to pro-actively encourage quality design and development.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Mercado  
Secretary