

Grove Place Association  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
September 30, 2018

The first meeting of 2018-2019 was called to order by President Kimberly Russell at 4:08pm in the Carlson YMCA meeting room. Those in attendance were reminded that 2018 dues are due and they can be paid to Treasurer, Rick McGrath at the meeting or sent to his office on Grove Place. Kimberly then gave a brief update on Charlotte Square construction, noting that only one apartment is vacant at present.

We then went around the room introducing ourselves and stating how long we've lived in the Grove Place Neighborhood. Kim followed this with an overview of the association, what it does, and the physical area it encompasses. She encouraged all to consider what it is that we want our association to accomplish and how we can expand our membership to include a more diverse group.

Kim expressed her goal to have a stronger committee system to do the Association's work and have the monthly GPA meeting more of a decision-making body.

Megan DeFranco has graciously accept the role of Membership Chair and spoke on that topic, which then lead into a discussion of past and future activities we might consider. Events that drew favorable responses were a Newcomers Dinner, regular neighborhood dinners at nearby restaurants, and attendance at Red Wings and Amerks games, perhaps renting a corporate suite for the evening.

Suzanne Mayer updated us on the activities of C4, which is an informal association of downtown neighborhood groups. Their next meeting will be on November 11<sup>th</sup> at Grace Road Church, which is the old Baptist Temple space in the Temple Building. Attendees were encouraged to attend future meetings and sign up for the email updates from C4

At large City Councilor Mitch Gruber gave a presentation of his activities, his background as a Brighton native, U of R history graduate, and his current employment at Foodlink. He resides on King Street in the Susan B. Anthony neighborhood. His goal is to attend neighborhood association meetings throughout the city. He commended Grove Place on the number of residents attending this meeting. He introduced his staff liaison, Beth Siebert. He has been on City Council for nine months. His remarks lead into a discussion of the empty property at Scio and University and Conifer's offer to donate some of it as possible urban garden as they don't intend to incorporate that parcel into the Liberty Landing development. He encouraged us to connect with him on matters important to Grove Place and to serve as a resource to our organization.

Rick McGrath gave his Treasurer's Report showing a balance in our checking account of \$5,064.38. Income for the year is \$2,540, of which \$1,940 is membership dues; \$160 is for public art; and \$440 is for neighborhood beautification. Our expenses are \$1,537.28, of which \$460 is for Insurance; \$325 is our donation to the YMCA; and \$752.28 is for our public gardens.

Carlos Mercado summarized the minutes of the last meeting of GPA in April.

Moving forward, our meetings will include an Open Forum where GPA members will have 2 minutes to share community updates, introduce neighbors to something they're passionate about or raise a community concern.

**OPEN FORUM:**

Carlos Mercado spoke of two artistic events coming up at Christ Church on East Avenue across from the Sagamore. Next Sunday begins their First Sunday candlelight Concert Series at 8:30pm, follow by the monastic Office of Compline at 9:00 and an Artist's reception at 9:30. On Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm there is an event in conjunction with their capital fund drive including building tours, and performances on both their pipe organs and choral music by their Schola Cantorum. Any donations are strictly for the preservation of their historic landmark building.

Deborah McDell-Hernandez from Planned Parenthood told us that the 15-foot buffer zone around Planned Parenthood on University Avenue has been reinstated by the courts and enforced by RPD. They are exploring opening up the rear entrance.

Steve Whitman reminded us of the Grove Place Jazz Project that takes place in the Downstairs Cabaret each Tuesday evening. \$5 for GPA members and \$10 general admission. Some of the best jazz in town presented by Eastman Students and faculty.

Tom Fink gave an update on the Conifer project – VOA. The property at University and Scio has been purchased and conifer is willing to allow usage of the front part for a community project. Perhaps the neighborhood should consider buying the 2 properties from Mr. Malek and convert them to some project.

Nancy Martin updated us on the Grove Place Book Club and the next book to be read and discussed.

Our Holiday Party is scheduled for Sunday December 2, at a site to be chosen.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28pm, at which time we moved to Charlotte Square for conversation and refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carlos Mercado  
Secretary