

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

Vol. 5

NOVEMBER, 1927

Number 5

EXPERT PREPARING NEW ZONING ORDINANCE

Memorial Home Project for Hickey Property Reported Abandoned

PASSAGE of a "stop-gap" zoning ordinance in Grosse Pointe Park on August 26 to delay use of the Edward J. Hickey property for a proposed home for aged persons of refinement as planned by the purchaser, the widow of W. W. Hannan, has led to appointment of a special committee of the village council to plan a thorough revision of the building code in order to preserve the village's residential character from possible invasion by apartments and business buildings where not wanted.

By invitation, a zoning committee of the Grosse Pointe Park Protective Association is deliberating with the council building code committee and an expert on zoning, T. Glenn Phillips, consultant of the Detroit City Plan Commission.

The Protective Association grew out of the opposition to the location in Grosse Pointe Park of the proposed home for the aged. It sponsored and secured passage of the hastily-drawn "stop-gap" zoning ordinance. While Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Shores and the Village of Grosse Pointe all took time by the forelock and prepared and adopted carefully-planned zoning ordinances with expert advice, as recorded from time to time in Civic News, Grosse Pointe Park alone delayed until property owners insisted on immediate, official action.

(Editor's Note—More than 30,000,000 people in 553 municipalities and representing over 55 per cent of the urban population of the country now have the protection afforded by city-wide zoning ordinances, the U. S. Department of Commerce reports.)

400 at Hearing

At the call of the Protective Association, more than four hundred citizens appeared at a hearing on the proposed zoning ordinance before the Council on August 26, and with but few exceptions, urged its adoption. The Council thereupon adopted the

ordinance drawn by its village attorney. Plans to replace this legislation with an ordinance prepared under expert advice are now progressing.

The executive committee which led the zoning fight for the Protective Association included Charles S. Cole, F. C. Sutter, L. J. Bulkeley, M. J. Cosgrove, Mrs. L. N. Hilsendegen, Dr. Louis J. Hirschman, Armin Rickel, Mrs. Morse Rohnert, Fred M. Sibley, C. J. Spitzley, Edward VerLinden and W. W. Hannan.

The Association's call explained that the object of the association was "preservation and protection," the aim being to keep apartments and multiple dwellings within certain limits, so as to do justice to all concerned and give due recognition to established business and multiple-dwelling requirements of the village.

Work on revision of the building code of Grosse Pointe Park is now in the hands of the Council's committee, consisting of Messrs. Alfred J. Garska, ex-officio, William P. Shoemaker, chairman, Joseph L. Kolley and Samuel Bastien, and an Association committee consisting of Messrs. F. C. Sutter, chairman, W. W. Hannan and William Krieghoff.

History of Sale

The situation which led to the present agitation for a zoning ordinance arose through the sale of the Hickey estate, 16424 Jefferson Avenue, which has 200 feet frontage on Jefferson and is 1,600 feet deep, extending to Lake St. Clair. The property was purchased by trustees of the proposed Luella Hannan Memorial Home.

In his will, Mr. Hannan had authorized his widow to devote the estate to charity, including a home for aged persons of refinement, who, through misfortune, might be unable to provide themselves with the necessities of life. A million dollars had been set aside by Mrs. Hannan for the insti-

tution, while plans were reported for making a total of \$5,000,000 available for maintaining it in perpetuity. Mrs. Hannan proposed to erect several units of strictly residential type, Grosse Pointe standard 2½ story height, English, Norman and other styles, on the Hickey property, with appropriate landscaping.

According to Mr. Hickey, he was considering subdividing his estate when approached by representatives of Mrs. Hannan. After consulting adjoining property owners and ascertaining that location of the proposed institution was agreeable to them, Mr. Hickey said he decided to sell to Mrs. Hannan.

When agitation against the home started, Mr. Hickey said he apprised the Hannan representatives of the opposition they might meet, but acquiesced in accepting a deposit when the representatives expressed themselves as still desirous of acquiring the property.

Injunction Dissolved

An injunction obtained by William W. Hannan, nephew of the late W. W. Hannan, and Herbert W. Noble restraining the Hannan trustees from going through with the transaction, was dissolved in November, and the Hickey property purchase was completed.

Mr. Hickey since has purchased the Lew Tuller property on Lake St. Clair at the foot of Bedford Road, 350 by 650 feet, where he plans to build a home, following a long vacation. Illness forced Mr. Hickey to retire last Spring from the Grosse Pointe Board of Education.

While the Hannan trustees have not announced plans for disposition of the Hickey property, it is understood that because of the widespread objection to the memorial home, they do not intend to proceed there with that project.

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

P. O. Address, 51 Warren Ave., W., Detroit

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B. E. Meyers, Editor

Printed once a month as the official publication of the Citizens Association of Grosse Pointe Township, under the authority of the following board of directors:

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COMMENT ON THE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

As noted in the October issue of Civic News, comment on the June school trustee election, in which two discharged teachers openly campaigned for certain candidates with the object of securing reinstatement, was reserved for this issue because of lack of space in the October number.

In a letter to the editor of Civic News, Fred C. Fischer, deputy commissioner of schools in the Wayne County department of rural supervision, pointed out that the Michigan School Laws require the superintendent of schools to nominate all teachers.

"It is my opinion," Mr. Fischer wrote, "that this rule should be followed."

Mr. Fischer stated further that he does not believe in Teachers' Committees, adding, "The Detroit Board of Education abolished the idea of a teacher committee a long time ago, and there is little doubt that the present plan of placing this power in the hands of the superintendent of schools is the better one."

Mr. Cody's Views

In a similar vein, Frank Cody, superintendent of the educational department of the Detroit Board of Education and member of the Michigan State Board of Education, declared that the Detroit Board had long ago abolished the committee system in favor of regular meetings and meetings in committee of the whole.

A carefully-drawn set of By-Laws defines the duties and prerogatives of every official and employe of the Detroit Board of Education. Mr. Cody pointed to Section II of the By-Laws, which contains the superintendent's duties and powers.

This section provides that the superintendent shall be the Executive Officer of the Board and shall have

sole power to nominate, assign, transfer and demote or suspend all assistants, principals, teachers and other employes of the Board.

The following section indicates how the business duties of the Board are handled. It provides that the business manager shall be Secretary of the Board and shall be directly responsible to and under the direction of the Superintendent.

Mr. Cody suggested that the adoption of a set of By-Laws—if none now exist—defining the superintendent's duties and abolishing Board committees would very likely insure the Grosse Pointe Board against a recurrence of the recent unpleasant situation.

Expert's Opinion

In the opinion of Dr. Samuel M. Brownell, superintendent of Grosse Pointe public schools, the recent controversy should be considered a closed book.

"No good could come of reopening this matter," Dr. Brownell told the writer. "The thing to do now is to look ahead. The Board has employed me as a school executive to advise them on policies and ways and means of improving our school system. It is universal good practice, as well as state law in many commonwealths, that the superintendent has with the approval of the Board, sole power of hiring and discharging teachers. All school executives now consider that practice fundamental, and, of course, I am in favor of it."

NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB ACTIVITIES

BEAUTIFULLY decorated and furnished from basement to roof, fully equipped with every convenience for healthful play and recreation and exquisitely set off by lovely bouquets of flowers donated by the Mesdames D. M. Ferry, Jr., E. L. Ford, James S. Holden and E. B. Whitcomb, Grosse Pointe's newest social and recreational club, welcomed friends and visitors who called Thanksgiving Day on the occasion of the club's public housewarming.

Indoor activities are getting into full swing, George Elworthy, director, announced, while work proceeds outdoors on completion of two baseball diamonds, three soft-ball fields, six tennis courts and a football gridiron, which will also be a skating rink beginning next winter.

The staff of the Neighborhood Club, in addition to the director, consists of

Miss Hettie Taylor, social worker and visiting housekeeper; Miss Elizabeth Jordan, secretary; Mr. Raymond Kaulatz, part-time boys' worker; Miss Lela Ream, part-time girls' worker; and Lee Pascoe, part-time supervisor. Miss Ruth Bundy, librarian, located in a separate building west of the Neighborhood Club, conducts Grosse Pointe's only public library.

The House Council, consisting of two representatives from each organization using the club house, has decided upon a dollar membership charge, expected to raise about \$700, to help defray club expenses. Following is a schedule of regular activities now housed at the Neighborhood Club, St. Clair Ave., Neff St. and Waterloo Ave.

MONDAY

Detroit Edison Company basketball team, gymnasium, 3 to 6 p. m.

Grosse Pointe Athletic Club, competitive basketball games with outside teams, gymnasium, 6 to 10:30 p. m.

Junior Girls' Athletic Club, ages 14 to 18, games room, 3 to 6 p. m.

Grosse Pointe Athletic Club business meeting, 8 to 10 p. m.

Grosse Pointe Dramatic Club, assembly hall, 8 to 10 p. m.

TUESDAY

Chauffeurs' Club, gymnasium, 7 to 8:30 p. m.

Boy Scouts, gymnasium, 8:30 to 9:30 p. m.

Boy Scouts, Boy Scout Room, 7:30 to 9:30 p. m.

Grosse Pointe Glee Club (being reorganized), assembly hall, 8 to 10 p. m.

WEDNESDAY

Neighborhood Athletic Club (boys 14 to 18 formerly Lakeside Athletic Club), gymnasium, 6:30 to 8 p. m.

Neighborhood Athletic Club, games room, 8 to 9 p. m.

General Gym for men (Grosse Pointe Athletic Club), gymnasium, 8 to 10 p. m.

Chauffeurs' Club, assembly room for meeting, 8 to 10 p. m.

THURSDAY

Campfire Girls, gymnasium, 7 to 8 p. m.

Campfire Girls, campfire room, 7 to 9 p. m.

Grosse Pointe and Eastern Michigan Horticultural Society (gardeners' club), assembly room, first Thursday of each month, 7:30 to 10 p. m.

Board of Trustees meeting, assembly room, 10 a. m.

FRIDAY

V V V Girls, age 16 and up, 9 to 10:30 p. m.

Gym for women planned.

SATURDAY

Junior Boys' Club, age 6 to 12, gymnasium, 10 to 12 a. m.

Grosse Pointe School of Dancing (ballet and interpretative dancing classes for girls, 6 to 11 years old, under expert teacher), 9:30 to 12:30 p. m.

Neighborhood Athletic Club (competitive games in Metropolitan Community House League), gymnasium, 1 to 3 p. m.

Bluebirds, junior girls, gymnasium, 3 to 3:30 p. m.; campfire room, 1:30 to 3:30 p. m.

PLAN TO ACQUIRE SITES FOR FIVE NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS

A MOTION directing that preparations be started for acquiring as soon as possible sites for five school buildings in anticipation of future needs of the Grosse Pointe district was passed unanimously at a joint meeting of the Board of Education and the Building Committee on November 29, following study of a survey by Dr. Samuel M. Brownell, superintendent.

Approximate location of the sites proposed to be obtained follows:

Elementary school site, Oak and Ridge (or Charlevoix) in School District No. 4, which includes the territory between Rivard and Moran.

Elementary school site, Kirby and Charlevoix, in School District No. 5, between Moran and Cook.

Junior high school No. 1 site, Three-Mile and St. Paul.

Junior high school No. 2 site, Ridge and Lothrop.

Junior high school No. 3 site, Fairway Drive, south of Lochmoor Boulevard.

Acquisition of the first four sites named above was considered an immediate necessity by the superintendent. At the suggestion of Mr. P. Hudson Bradley, president of the Board, the third junior high school site was also included in the motion.

Based on the distance pupils will have to travel and the number of pupils that will have to be taken care of by the public schools of Grosse Pointe Township, the school district will ultimately require nine elementary schools and three junior high schools according to the report received by the Board of Education on Oct. 31 from Dr. Brownell.

Dr. Brownell's report, made for the purpose of advising the board on what sites it is advisable to obtain soon to avoid paying high prices, points out sites most desirable for the territory not served by the Trombly, Defer, Lochmoor and Roslyn Road sites, which are considered as permanent.

Dividing the township into nine districts, in none of which the walking distance for the farthest elementary school child would exceed 1.2 miles, and the farthest junior high school child 2.5 miles, Dr. Brownell gives the following approximate location of most desirable sites:

For Elementary Schools

District No. 1—Nottingham and Kercheval. (Defer).

NEW CHARTER READY FOR VOTERS TO BALLOT UPON

THE proposed new charter for the Village of Grosse Pointe Park is completed, has been approved by the Charter Commission, the Attorney-General and Governor Green and is ready for submission to the voters, it was announced in November by Julius L. Berns, village attorney.

Publication of its provisions in detail is planned for January, the attorney said. The new charter, he explained, provides a commission-manager form of government of the Cleveland, O., type, considered the most economical for administration of public affairs.

[Editor's Note.—Eleven cities with 380,000 total population adopted the commission-manager form of government in 1926, the largest being Oklahoma City. A total of 364 cities now have city managers. This form leads the procession of new charters adopted "where citizens are interested in business-like city administration and continuity of service of employes for efficiency and the carrying-out of logical, continuous programs," according to *The American Public* of October, 1927.]

Provisions of the new charter for Grosse Pointe Park as outlined to Civic News include:

Election of six commissioners and a village president, which body may appoint a village manager if it sees fit.

District No. 2—Beaconsfield and Essex. (Trombly).

District No. 3—Cadioux and Kercheval.
District No. 4—Oak and Ridge or Charlevoix.

District No. 5—Kirby and Charlevoix.
District No. 6—Streets not as yet cut through.

District No. 7—Streets not as yet cut through.

District No. 8—Vernier and Grosse Pointe (Porath Site).

District No. 9—Roslyn and E Street. (Schmidt Site).

For Junior High Schools

District No. 1—Three-Mile and St. Paul.
District No. 2—Ridge and Lothrop.

District No. 3—Fairway Drive, south of Lochmoor Boulevard.

Sites which should be obtained in the near future, in the superintendent's judgment, are those for proposed elementary schools in Districts 4, 5 and 9 and those for junior high schools in Districts 1 and 2. Property available is indicated in the report on maps showing location, acreage and buildings now in use.

Commissioners' salaries, \$600 each; president, \$720.

A commissioner at the head of each of the following branches of government: Finance, Public Works, Public Health, Public Safety, Water Supply and Public Affairs.

Election of Village Clerk whose salary, to be fixed by Commission, shall not exceed \$4,800, the amount to depend on the extent of the duties he may be required to assume. Treasurer and Assessor to be appointed by the Commission, as well as man or men necessary to execute highway, engineering and other village business.

Candidates for office to be nominated at a non-partisan primary election in which anyone may run for office who files a petition signed by 25 to 50 voters, depending on which office he seeks. Elections to be held every year, clerk election in odd years for two-year term, Commissioners' election in even years for two-year terms.

Commission given power to finance closing of drains; bonding limit raised from present 4 per cent. to 10 per cent. maximum. (Aimed to facilitate construction of closed sewer planned for mile of Fox Creek which runs through Grosse Pointe Park).

Power given Commission to regulate transportation facilities and to improve water front, as well as full authority to zone village, to enforce subdivision restrictions, to cut down business districts if it sees fit and to grant public utility franchises.

Initiative, Referendum and Recall provisions for voters' use.

Fiscal year to begin third Monday in March, same day officials take office.

Date of assessment roll, May 15; tax roll, June 15.

D. U. S. HAS NEW SITE

An 18-acre site for a proposed new building for the Detroit University School, the oldest boys' school in Detroit, which was established in 1899, has been acquired on Cook Road back of the Country Club in the Village of Lochmoor, and if a campaign now under way to raise a \$400,000 fund is successful, a new school designed by Robert O. Derrick, Inc., is to be erected.

D. H. Fletcher, headmaster, explained in November that the present building at 548 Parkview Avenue in Detroit has been full to its 150 capacity for the last three years. The proposed new structure would care for 200 boys between five and twenty years old, from first grade to college. A committee consisting of Edsel B. Ford, C. H. Haberkorn, Jr., and Allan Shelden is in charge of the campaign for funds.

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION TO BE HELD DECEMBER 12

ELECTION of two members of the Board of Directors, review of the past year's work, discussion of plans for the future and presentation of a survey of the township government of Grosse Pointe made by the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research are subjects on the program of the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township for its fifth annual meeting in the Cadieux School, 399 St. Clair Avenue, on Monday, December 12, at 8 p. m.

The directors whose terms expire are Charles A. Dean, Jr., and Raymond K. Dykema.

The Association was organized in 1923 "to guard against abuse of the elective franchise, to publish information regarding public affairs and to promote governmental efficiency within the township of Grosse Pointe."

Voluntary subscription was adopted from the start as the means of financing the association's work, including cost of printing the Civic News, executive secretary's salary and routine office and bookkeeping expense. The directors of the association give freely of their time to the work without monetary remuneration, as do many members when occasion arises and their help is solicited.

Active members of the Association pay dues of \$1 to \$10 per year; contributing members, \$11 to \$25 per year; sustaining members, \$26 to \$35 per year. No individual contribution is accepted in excess of \$100 in advance for three-years' dues.

Non-members desirous of receiving Civic News will be placed on the third-class mailing list if they will send their names and addresses to the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township, 51 W. Warren Avenue, Detroit, Mich.

The Association is desirous of having every resident of Grosse Pointe receive a copy of Civic News regularly, whether a member or not. Your help is earnestly solicited to furnish us the names and correct addresses of citizens who are not now receiving Civic News. There is no charge to members or non-members for delivery of Civic News.

ARCHITECT CHOSEN

At a joint meeting of the Board of Education and the special Building Committee on November 29, George J. Haas was appointed architect for the proposed new Lochmoor School. Present at the meeting were Messrs. W. Howie Muir, L. S. Trowbridge and Joseph E. Beaufait of the Building Committee and Trustees P. Hudson Bradley, Charles A. Parcels, Charles A. Poupard, Dr. L. E. Maire and Julius L. Berns. The appointment was made in executive session.

TAX STATEMENTS

BEGINNING December 10 and continuing to March 1, 1928, taxes collected by the Township of Grosse Pointe for township, school, health, state, county and good roads purposes will be received by the Township Treasurer, Stephen H. Van Tiem.

The treasurer has asked that no requests for statements be made before December 25. Preparations are now going forward to mail bills to those who paid taxes in 1926. (The advantages of pre-billing taxes have been pointed out often by Civic News. This is the first instance of a treasurer in Grosse Pointe giving such service.) Those who did not pay taxes in 1926 will have to write or call for statements. Payment by mail is preferred, the treasurer announces, though collection hours for those who wish to pay in person will be maintained:

Lochmoor Municipal Building, December 10 and January 3.

Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building, December 12 and January 4.

Grosse Pointe Farms Municipal Building, December 13 and January 5.

Township Hall in Grosse Pointe Village, December 14 and January 6.

Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Building, all other days between December 10 and March 1.

The following comparison of the tax rates and total amounts for all purposes in 1926-7 and 1927-8 was furnished Civic News by Edmund C. Vernier, township supervisor:

| | Rate per \$1,000 1926-7 | Rate per \$1,000 1927-8 | Increase 1927-8 | Amount 1926-7 | Amount 1927-8 | Increase 1927-8 |
|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Tax | .50 | .31 | -\$.19 | \$ 53,000.00 | \$ 35,000.00 | -\$18,000.00 |
| Township | 3.05 | 3.66 | +.61 | 327,456.00 | 416,000.00 | + 88,544.00 |
| School | .14 | .20 | +.06 | 14,000.00 | 20,985.00 | + 6,985.00 |
| Health | 2.12 | 2.82 | +.70 | 227,620.69 | 320,469.83 | + 92,849.14 |
| State | 1.55 | 1.74 | +.19 | 166,184.52 | 198,290.13 | + 32,105.61 |
| County | .92 | .94 | +.02 | 98,015.35 | 106,640.22 | + 8,624.87 |
| Good Roads | | | | | | |
| Totals | \$8.28 | \$9.67 | \$1.39 | \$886,276.56 | \$1,097,385.18 | \$211,108.62 |

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