

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

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OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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PARK SITE CRITICIZED, ANOTHER IS SUGGESTED

THE citizens' committee appointed in August to survey lake frontage in Grosse Pointe Park and recommend a site for establishment of a village park made its report to the Commission in September. A lake front park, the committee wrote, is highly desirable. Acquisition of land for its creation was recommended, the committee's choice of a site being an 11-acre parcel consisting largely of "made-land" owned by the Houseman-Spitzley Corporation and lying between the easterly limits of Windmill Pointe at the foot of Trombley Road and the former Tuller property at the foot of Bedford Road.

The water frontage of this committee-site is approximately 750 feet. (No estimate of its cost was given by the committee, but informal appraisals set the likely condemnation figure between half a million and \$600,000. There is one house on it.)

The sole feature of the proposed site which the committee saw fit to emphasize in its report was the large amount of lake frontage. This was compared with the Belle Isle beach, 1,000 feet on the Detroit River, and the beach at Port Huron, 1,050 feet on Lake Huron, both of which were designed primarily to accommodate large city populations with bathing facilities alone.

Suggestions for use of the "beach-park" by the committee included: restrict for residents and their guests only and provide suitable policing; provide parking space for cars within the park itself; permit only structures and refreshment places of substantial material and good architectural design appropriate to neighborhood and site; plant boundaries of park heavily to isolate sight and sound of park activities from adjoining property; develop park in keeping with exceptionally high character of the village. These suggestions are clearly

designed to provide a park such as the Village, Farms and Shores have created for residents.

The Commission has ordered its engineer to make a survey of the recommended site and has instructed its attorney to prepare condemnation proceedings.

Meanwhile, however, opposition to the site chosen by the committee has been expressed orally or in writing to the Commission by various citizens and by representatives of the Houseman-Spitzley Corporation, owners of the proposed park site. While heartily in favor of a village park, John H. Tigchon, a resident and large property owner, in a communication to the Commission listed what he considered disadvantages of the Trombley-Harcourt site and advantages of a site at 16424 Jefferson Avenue, known as the Hannan-Hickey property. Another communication was received from James T. McMillan, who criticized the Trombley-Harcourt site as costly "made-ground" and suggested, instead, a site between Alter Road and Windmill Pointe.

The two sites which have received most discussion to date are the Hannan-Hickey property and the committee choice at the foot of Trombley Road. Facts about each may be summed up as follows:

Hannan-Hickey Site

1. Completely developed; \$100,000 worth of improvements and shade trees now on it; has a residence of goodly size that could easily be transformed into a library or a community center, including dressing rooms, etc., for bathers.

2. Frontage on Jefferson, as well as on Lake St. Clair, makes it quickly accessible. Though apparently located at the eastern end of the Village, the Hannan piece is really centrally located from almost

every part except the Windmill Pointe tip where most residents have lake access and view and need no park. Parking space could be arranged inside to avoid parking on Jefferson.

3. Has 200 feet frontage on the lake, ample for providing access to the water for those desirous of wading and swimming. Shallowness of water all along Grosse Pointe makes it necessary for swimmers to go far out in the lake anyway. Piers could be extended any length necessary, with arms at intervals, for swimming and boating facilities, as has been done at the Grosse Pointe Village park.

4. Contains 6.24 acres, is 1,600 feet deep, beautifully landscaped and can be purchased for about half the estimated cost of the undeveloped Houseman-Spitzley site at Trombley and Harcourt. The park is designed for residents only, so that six acres should be large enough for the dignified use contemplated.

5. Purchase would settle for good the threat of construction of a home for the aged by the trustees of the Hannan Memorial Fund. Unless this site is purchased for a park, it is likely that work may start shortly on the "home" plans, which the trustees are confident cannot be held up by the zoning ordinance.

Trombley-Harcourt Site

1. Has 750 feet frontage on Lake St. Clair, backed by an area of 11 acres, considerably larger than the Hannan-Hickey piece. It compares in size with large public beaches of Detroit and Port Huron.

2. Cost of site is estimated at between \$500,000 and \$600,000, due largely to the high value placed upon lake frontage. To grade it, plant it and develop it in keeping with the village's high character would cost other hundreds of thousands of dollars.

3. Much of it is "made-land" reclaimed from Lake St. Clair by filling in.

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Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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CENTRAL LOCATION

OBJECTIVE ABANDONED

The rate of growth of junior high school population in Grosse Pointe indicates that the first junior high school will be needed in September, 1930. That is two years off. Usually school sites are selected and purchased about five years in advance of expected need. Unfortunately, Grosse Pointe has had its nose to the grindstone catching up with school growth that was not planned for in advance, so that, though the new site problem has been brought up from time to time in recent years, it has been sidetracked for more important business.

Delay has added to the Board's difficulties, especially in the matter of junior high school sites. One of the first things the present superintendent of schools did last year upon taking office was to make a survey of the district and recommend sites for schools to be needed in the future. And, last November, the Board of Education, realizing the urgency of the matter, voted to start proceedings for acquisition of five sites. Two elementary site proceedings are well along, but the junior high school sites have struck a snag.

The difficulty centers entirely about the proposed westernmost site. Almost always, those owning property immediately adjacent to a proposed school site object to its location, but in this case the opposition has been organized and determined. Apparently, certain residents of Grosse Pointe Park would rather see the whole school district suffer for years to come through mislocation of a school than permit a junior high school in their district.

To solve, if possible, the dilemma that arose because of such concerted

opposition, the superintendent formulated a plan in September calling for four junior high schools, instead of three. The four sites proposed were:

- (1) Nottingham and Berkshire.
- (2) A parcel near Kercheval Avenue and adjacent to the present high school site.
- (3) Cook Road near the D. U. S.
- (4) Roslyn Road district in Lochmoor.

This, of course, would be more expensive than the three-site plan, which calls for schools in the vicinity of (1) Audubon and St. Paul, (2) Ridge and Lothrop, and (3) Fairway Drive, south of Lochmoor Boulevard.

Abandoning the central location objective entirely, the Board late in September ordered surveys for two junior high school sites, one adjacent to the present high school, the other near the D. U. S. on Cook Road. Each of these sites could support a school of 1,500 capacity, it was determined, and thus care for the ultimate junior high school population of the district without building any other junior high schools, unless the future should recommend a four-school program.

(As was pointed out in the last issue of Civic News, the law will require the School Board, in case these schools are not centrally located, to provide transportation for practically all the school children using them.)

When the surveys of the two above-mentioned sites were presented to the Board on October 8th, the Board changed its mind again. On the theory of getting sites for the two-junior high school plan more centrally located, the Board voted to locate the westernmost site on the seven-acre parcel in Grosse Pointe Village bounded by Cadieux, Kercheval, Notre Dame and St. Paul. The second site, while not definitely determined, is contemplated for the district between Cook Road and Lochmoor Boulevard.

After the Board determined its choice of sites last winter, public hearings were held and the Board's policy explained. Now that the policy has been changed and other sites selected, the Board ought, of course, to hold public hearings again to permit objections to its new plan to be raised and met, if possible.

NEW COTTAGE HOSPITAL TO BE OPENED IN NOVEMBER

The beautiful new cottage hospital, which is nearing completion on Kercheval Avenue at the head of Mapleton Road in Grosse Pointe Farms, will be formally opened to visitors on Saturday and Sunday, November 3rd and 4th, it was announced early in October by Mrs. R. P. Joy, member of the board of trustees. Dr. Charles G. Jennings will be chief of staff.

Like its predecessor, the present cottage hospital on Oak Street, the new institution is designed for care of all residents of Grosse Pointe and vicinity who need medical and surgical attention. Prices for services are to remain practically as at present.

Designed by Stevens & Lee of Boston, hospital architects, the structure is modern in every respect. Equipment includes laboratory, X-ray, operating rooms, and a children's wing with four private rooms and a four-bed cubicle ward with a sunny playroom at the end of the corridor. Accommodations for adults include 27 cubicle ward beds, 10 private rooms, an isolation ward and a maternity suite with 13 infants' cribs. Facilities are also provided for accident and emergency cases. An extensive out-patient department is planned.

The building is fireproof, built of brick on hollow tile and stone, with steel and concrete construction throughout. Two coats of white paint on the common red brick exterior give the structure an appearance from the outside of having been built many years ago. Corrick Brothers were the general contractors.

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 8)

That a lake front park in Grosse Pointe Park is desired by a great majority of its citizens is apparent. Doubtless the Commission will soon order an election to vote on the proposition and authorize the sale of bonds to finance purchase of such a park. Since entering office in March the Commission has shown a commendable desire to represent public sentiment in its village. It will doubtless fully recognize the wisdom of allowing citizens at the election not only to approve the general idea of purchasing a lake front park but also to choose between the two best locations.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION (Articles No. 5)

At the annual township election held in the spring the following officers are chosen:

Supervisor—One-year term.

Treasurer—One-year term.

Clerk—One-year term.

Justice of Peace—Four-year term.

Member, Board of Review—Two-year term.

Four Constables—One-year term.

The supervisor corresponds very roughly to the mayor in a city, yet he is not directly responsible for any other office than his own. He is eligible for re-election, and it is customary to continue him in office for several terms. His salary in Grosse Pointe Township is \$2,500 a year, with an automobile allowance of \$1,000 a year. The exact amount of time spent on this position is difficult to determine, but a large portion of each day is said to be necessary on township work.

Through the supervisor the township receives a voice in county government. By virtue of his office, he is a member of the Board of Supervisors, the legislative board of the county. A village has no representation on this Board, except through the township supervisor; the city is represented by various city officials, the number being apportioned according to the population; and the township is limited to but one, regardless of population. For his services on the Board of Supervisors the supervisor receives \$5 per diem, for 31 days annually, in addition to the township salary.

The supervisor divides his time between two important offices—one, the township assessor; and the other, the director of the welfare work of the township. In the ordinary township, the welfare work is so slight that it can be considered a very minor function, but in Grosse Pointe it has grown to a job of importance. The supervisor is charged with the sole administration of the poor fund, although a custom has arisen whereby the township board assists in deciding the justness of any claim for help.

(The next article in this series will explain the duties of various township boards.)

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Middle of September enrollment figures for Grosse Pointe public schools reveal a total of 2,363. Last

year the early September total was 1,847. The increase, thus, is 516 or 35.7 per cent. Following is a comparison of September enrollment in 1927 and 1928.

	'27	'28
Senior high school students	177	303
Junior high school students	401	603
Defer School	582	608
Trombly School	302	263
Cadieux School	676	326
Kerby School	154	161
Vernier School	133	116
Total	1,847	2,363
Enrollment by Grades		
	'27	'28
Kindergarten	162	183
First Grade	221	280
Second Grade	193	212
Third Grade	173	219
Fourth Grade	190	191
Fifth Grade	152	224
Sixth Grade	178	165
Seventh Grade	162	219
Eighth Grade	124	182
Ninth Grade	115	192
Tenth Grade	69	154
Eleventh Grade	60	76
Twelfth Grade	48	66

ZONING HEARING

At the public hearing on October 5th on the revised zoning ordinance proposed for Grosse Pointe Farms, an objection to having a parcel of property at Lakeshore Drive and Moross Road put in Class B was voiced by the representative of an adjoining property owner, who declared that such action would destroy values of property in the finest residential district in the world worth millions of dollars. The whole village would be harmed, he contended, by opening the door for erection on this parcel of a hospital, sanitarium, educational or philanthropic institution.

Practically the entire village is placed in Class A residence district. In addition to the above-mentioned Class B parcel, other Class B property is included in the area between the Black Marsh Ditch and a line 100 feet back of Mack Avenue and in the area bounded by Kercheval, McMillan, Mapleton and Grosse Pointe Boulevard. Only one local business district is designated, that being Kercheval Avenue between Fisher and a point just east of Oak Street. Mack Avenue and the adjacent 100 feet throughout the village is placed in a local commercial district.

Due to a desire to act on the proposed ordinance with a full attendance of councilmen, the Council adjourned after the hearing to meet again on Tuesday, October 16th.

COMMITTEE IS STUDYING TOWNSHIP PARK PLAN

The need of a township park for recreational purposes was discussed at a joint meeting in September of the Board of Education and representatives of village governments. The meeting was called by the Board, which invited each village government to send a representative. Following discussion, a committee was appointed, consisting of P. Hudson Bradley, president of the School Board; Edmund C. Vernier, supervisor of Grosse Pointe Township, and Julius A. Stork, councilman of Grosse Pointe Village, with instructions to report findings and recommendations at an early date.

EVENING CLASSES

Opening of evening classes for any person not attending day school was announced for October 8th and 9th, and registrations may also be made October 15th and 16th. Any course will be given for which there is a minimum of 15 to form a class. The Board of Education has set \$2 as a registration fee for residents, \$5 for non-residents. The courses are to extend over a period of 15 weeks, with one meeting each week.

Physical education classes are expected to be the most popular. Art, shop work, swimming, dramatics, typewriting, orchestra, gymnasium instruction, chorus work, and other classes for which there may be sufficient demand will be offered at the high school. Gymnasium classes are to be organized also at the Trombly and Defer Schools if there are a sufficient number of registrants. Young folks and adults may enroll. There is no entrance requirement of previous school experience for any of the classes.

WANTED: RADIO SETS

The advisability of having radio sets for the public schools to permit tuning in on special children's musical programs, symphony concerts, presidential inaugural addresses and similar educational offerings from time to time was called to the attention of the Board of Education in October by the superintendent. Because funds for this purpose are not available, it was suggested there might be some citizens in the district who would be glad to present the schools with radio sets if the need were made known.

UNFILTERED WATER IS AGAIN IN SPOTLIGHT

Attention was again called to the use of unfiltered water in Grosse Pointe Farms in September when the Board of Education asked and received permission to arrange for a supply of water for the new high school through Grosse Pointe Village. The high school is located in the Farms, just across the boundary line from the Village.

Grosse Pointe Village is supplied with filtered water by the Detroit Water Board, as is Grosse Pointe Park and Lochmoor. The Farms' and Shores' supply comes from Lake St. Clair through a system owned by Highland Park. Highland Park maintains a filter plant at Highland Park, but the Farms' and Shores' supply is pumped into the mains immediately after chlorination, and its turbidity is quite high.

Turbidity, while not dangerous per se, is held undesirable by health authorities. All water intended for general use should be filtered, in the opinion of health officials. Due to the sediment in the unfiltered Farms' supply, the ozone sterilizing apparatus and recirculating units in the high school have been taxed heavily to keep the swimming pool water in a safe condition for bathers. The vigilance and time needed for this task have been found so great that the pool this fall has not been available for regular use. Getting Detroit water will overcome this handicap.

Grosse Pointe Farms and Shores have two methods available to improve the condition of their water

supply. One is a filtration plant, the other is water from Detroit. Detroit, of course, got along without filtration of its water for many years, but now has a filter plant of the most modern type. Discussion of plans to take this next progressive step in safeguarding community health has been current in official quarters recently, and definite action will likely result.

INFORMATION FOR VOTERS

October 20th is the last day on which voters in Grosse Pointe Township may attend to their first and most important civic obligation, that of registering so that on November 6th they will be able to cast ballots in the presidential election. State law requires a new registration of all voters in every presidential year. Those who registered before the September primary need not register again. Others will have an opportunity to register at their respective polling places between 8 A. M. and 8 P. M. on October 13th and October 20th.

For absent voters, Sidney A. Schute, deputy secretary of state, Lansing, has issued instructions, in part, as follows: "At any time during the 30 days preceding an election any elector expecting to be absent on the day of such election may apply to the township clerk (Daniel G. Allor, 76 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.) in person or by mail . . . for the official ballot or ballots to be voted at such election. The clerk will issue the ballot or ballots and also a return, addressed envelope, bearing upon the

back a printed statement to be filled in by the elector.

"Upon receipt of the ballots, the absent voter may mark them in accordance with the printed instructions, enclose them in the envelope provided and after sealing the envelope, fill in the blank on the back of it and have the same witnessed by two qualified electors."

Clerks are not required to receive applications for absent voters' ballots later than the second day preceding the election. The ballots must be deposited by the clerk with the proper election board before the closing of the polls on election day.

LECTURE COURSE PLAN

An effort is being made to bring several interesting speakers to Grosse Pointe during the fall and winter and take advantage of the new high school facilities for public gatherings. The idea was given the Board of Education's approval on October 1st. Fred Sutter, a trustee, and Dr. Hugh Stalker, 533 Neff Avenue, were named a committee to make necessary arrangements and work out details. An admission price would be charged to defray expenses of renting the auditorium and paying the lecturer, according to tentative plans discussed at the meeting. Co-operation of the Parent-Teacher Associations and of the newly-formed Mothers' Club of the Grosse Pointe High School is to be sought in making known and seeking support for the proposed interesting and educational entertainment.

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**Citizens Association
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP
51 West Warren Ave.
Detroit, Mich.**

Government must do at least as much for its good and healthy citizens through its park and recreation facilities as for the sick and the wayward through hospitals and courts.

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