



Arboretum Committee

Tuesday, April 26, 2016
Town Offices, Penn Place
7:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Consideration of minutes

Group

Keswick Street

- **Progress to date**

Bill Elwood
Committee members
Phil Normandy
Gene Swearingen

- Document:

- Tree suggestions for Keswick Street (October 2015)*

- **Keswick Street neighbors' input**

Keswick neighbors

- **Final recommendations for GP Town Council**

All

- **Summer meetings (July and August?)**

All

Adjournment

Announcement:

Spring Tree Walk: Saturday, May 22, 1-3 p.m. ☺

Future meeting dates

May 24, 2016

June 28, 2016

March 2016 minutes:

Members present: Kathy Benjamin, Bill Elwood, Jenny Krivanek, Michael Spekter, Jill Lisle Stevens

Town staff/officials: Elizabeth Henley, Hans Wegner

Guests: Gideon Kantor, Bonnie Tyler

The committee greeted our returning visitors from Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Members revisited the remaining selections for the east/odd-numbered side of Keswick Street. Jill presented a number of recommendations of native species suitable to grow beneath powerlines. The group engaged in a thorough discussion including the fact that these blocks of Keswick included existing groups of foliage near the street. Nevertheless, the group recommended to plant serviceberries and short, native magnolias—the placement of which left to the discretion of Phil Normandy, Gene Swearingen, and town staff.

The members considered an advance copy of the Mayor's April *Bugle* letter regarding his charge to GPAC to facilitate a strategic plan. Members expressed enthusiasm at the Mayor's unexpected yet welcome call as well as the need for clarity regarding financial and strategic support from the Town as well as procedures for collaboration among Town staff, Council, and members.

The committee members and visitors discussed the vacant space at the south end of Montrose Avenue. Bill Elwood shared photos of the area which consists of a stone-lined swale for drainage, a healthy pine tree, some struggling azaleas immediately adjoining the street, and a fence in need of repair/replacement. The combined group discussed and agreed that the area could be improved to the extent of becoming a destination area to include, for example, a bench. That said, the group also noted that a larger project that involved public space planning would be somewhat beyond GPAC's mission and budget—and that GPAC had sufficient work (e.g., strategic plan) before collaborating with the Parks Committee. Consequently, the group decided to recommend,

1. That the Town determine whether it is responsible for the fence.
2. If so, the Town repair/replace it.
3. The Town, in consultation with consultant Phil Normandy, plant hollies and/or camellias to screen the fence to some extent—the choice and number of which to be at their collective discretion.

Additionally, the Committee concurred on the Neighbors-Helping-Neighbors' (NHN) goal to increase the number of benches within the Town limits is meritorious and would allow people of all ages to enjoy Garrett Park's arboretum and "humanize" all town public spaces. GPAC members also agreed to look for opportunities to integrate this goal and NHN in future efforts, projects, and plans.

Committee members also discussed the backlog of arboretum trees to be tagged, that there are multiple versions of the arboretum "database" (i.e., spreadsheet) that complement yet do not exactly correspond to each other. After discussion, the members agreed that Town of Garrett Park host the definitive database and that it be available to

Town staff, the consulting town arborist/expert, and GPAC members—with entry/editing rights limited to some, but sorting/searching rights available to all.