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Henry Russel's Three Mile Drive Association Archives
(Russel's 3 Mile Assoc.)
1927-2002

½ Linear Foot

MS2003.013

The Archives of Henry Russel's Three Mile Drive Association Archives were brought to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society Resource Center in February 2003 by Mrs. Ayres Morison, wife of the organization's last president. Once organized, the documents were opened to the Public without restriction in March 2003.

The Association was founded in 1927 as a means of maintaining the quality of residences on Three Mile Drive between the Detroit River and Kercheval Avenue and insuring 'strict compliance with all building restrictions'. Ward Detwiler sent residents preliminary correspondence in August 1927 and when the Henry Russel Three Mile Drive Association held its first formal meeting on October 18, 1927. Mr. Detwiler was elected Chairman. The new group's first act was to petition the Village of Grosse Pointe Park to do something about the "undesirable and unhealthy condition of Fox Creek" soon followed by concern over possible construction of a Middle School at Three Mile and St. Paul.

Though having Articles of Association and By-laws from its inception, the Association was not formally incorporated until February 1953. From that year until 1980, as Henry Russel's Three Mile Drive Association, it filed annual reports with the State of Michigan. Over the years, its members continued to keep track of homes on Three Mile Drive, reviewing new construction and neighborhood improvements as they occurred. Members also took stands on local issues such as the 1976 proposed baseball fields at Patterson Park. Association members paid annual dues which covered required research and promotional materials. Though less active in later years, the group was not formally dissolved until 2002.

While there is some documentation of the beginnings of Henry Russel's Three Mile Drive Association, the majority of the materials found here were created from the 1950s onward. Included are Board minutes, Articles of Incorporation/By-laws, membership lists, property owner lists, documents and publications re local parks and residential variances

Individuals and Organizations of Interest:

Alphonse DePaepe
Ward Detwiler
Grosse Pointe Park

James Thayer McMillan
William Petzold
Helen (Russel) Wardwell

Topics of Concern:

Baseball
Municipal Ordinances
Parks

Preservation
Recreation
Sports

CONTENTS

SERIES I: Board Meeting Minutes 1950s-1970s

This series is made up primarily of minutes for annual and a few special meetings from the 1950s through the 1970s. If minutes were taken at earlier meetings, these have disappeared. There are no minutes documenting the dissolution of the organization.

1. 1950s
2. 1960s
3. 1970s

SERIES II: Finances 1956-2002

This very small series has two bank statements including the final one. There is some correspondence relating to other organizations such as EAN (Environmental Action Now) and a few bills, most of which deal with printing and research costs.

1. Banking/Donations 1967-2002
2. Correspondence/Bills 1956-1976

SERIES III: Legal 1927-1980

Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, as well as various revisions of these, are found in this series. There are also reports made annually to the State of Michigan following the formal 1953 incorporation.

1. Articles of Incorporation/By-laws Mainly 1950s
2. State of Michigan Reports 1955-1980

SERIES IV: Membership 1927-1979

This series contains the original correspondence relating to the organization's formation. There are detailed, annotated registers of property owners from various eras as well as lists of members who paid an annual fee (\$25.00 from at least the 1950s) to belong to the Association.

1. Establishment of 1927-1928
2. Participants 1928-1978
3. Property Owners 1927-1979

SERIES V: Issues 1958-1987

Concern for strict enforcement of ordinances is reflected in this series as well as in the minutes above. Lacking materials pertaining to earlier issues discussed by the group, the emphasis is primarily on the

appropriate development of local recreation areas, especially Patterson Park at the foot of Three Mile Drive. Of special interest is information about the Wardwell House.

1. Parks, Local 1960s
2. Parks-Patterson Park 1958; 1971-1976
3. Property-Ordinance Enforcement 1960s-1987
4. Property-Wardwell House 1977