

Dean Fund Committee Meeting
December 08, 2009
Wheeler Center
4251 Stone School Rd., Ann Arbor
MINUTES

Members Present: Warren Attarian, John Bassett, Chuck Cares, Merrill Dudley, Al Gallup, Don Gray

Members Absent: John Remsberg

Staff Present: Kerry Gray, Kay Sicheneder

Warren Attarian called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the October 13 meeting were reviewed. **John Bassett motioned** to approve the October 13 meeting minutes. **Al Gallup seconded**. Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda

Committee reviewed agenda items. **Kerry Gray** asked to add two items to the agenda: bylaws and meeting time. **Mr. Bassett motioned** to approve agenda as amended. **Mr. Gallup seconded**. Committee unanimously approved.

Budget

Committee reviewed budget documents.

Committee members asked about City Forestry budget and current budget issues. **Kay Sicheneder** explained that there have been reductions in the General Fund forestry budget. Forestry crew member, Tom Bater retired in November and will not be replaced. There is a good budget for tree planting and stump removal. Forestry crews are doing basic trimming for sign and intersection clearance. Trimming is underfunded.

Dean Promenade

Ms. Sicheneder provided an update of the work that has occurred on the Dean Promenade. Crews completed the trimming of the trees along the Promenade and the removal of the four dead Linden trees. The stumps will be removed in the spring along with planting the replacement trees. Ginkgos will be planted in the four locations to match the Ginkgos that were planted on the same block in front of Conor O'Neills a few years ago.

Old Fourth Ward Planting

Ms. Sicheneder described the Old Fourth Ward planting. Approximately 50 trees were planted. The species used included several species of oak, tuliptree, serviceberry, hornbeam, river birch and cherry. A resident in the neighborhood created a maintenance flyer for neighborhood residents to encourage them to help water and maintain the trees. Forestry will also do maintenance on the trees. Signs recognizing the Dean Fund's assistance in planting the trees have been placed on Catherine and Lawrence streets.

Pattengill Elementary School Project

The Dean Fund committee received a request to plant a tree on the extension near the driveway at Pattengill Elementary School. The Committee discussed the project and the level of assistance it will receive from school (students and scout groups are proposed to water tree in the summer). There is a concern that because the driveway is at a curve in the road that the tree can obstruct the view of drivers exiting the parking lot. **Don Gray motioned** to approve request provided the tree does not obstruct the view (per Staff review). **Chuck Cares seconded**. Committee unanimously approved.

Reinvesting in the Corpus Policy

Merrill Dudley stated that there is already a policy for reinvesting in the corpus in place per the November 2004 Points of Policy and Procedures. **Mr. Attarian motioned** that in accordance with the Dean Fund Committees Points of Policy and Procedures, due to the low interest rates on T-Notes that the Committee will not reinvest in the corpus during fiscal year 2010. **Ms. Dudley seconded**. Committee unanimously approved.

Brainstorming Project Ideas

Mr. Gallup suggested replacing the crabapple trees that are growing along the right-of-way in front of Vets Park. Several of them have been lost or removed over the last several years and are in need of replacement.

Ms. Dudley is making a list of all prior Dean Fund projects and once complete, would like each Committee member to take a few projects, visit the site and report back to the Committee on its condition.

Other locations for projects provided by Committee members included: Orchard Hills/Maplewood/Bromley, E. Nixon/M-14, major thoroughfares.

Committee asked that **Ms. Gray and Ms. Sicheneder** identify locations that need removal and replacement for the Committee to review and choose projects to fund at the January meeting.

Staggering Terms

Ms. Gray will contact the Mayor's office to discuss how the formerly staggered terms of the Committee members changed to all terms expiring on the same date.

Committee members reviewed the order of appointment based on past rosters and came up with the following list from longest serving member to shortest serving member:

Don Gray*
Merrill Dudley*
Warren Attarian*
John Remsberg*
Chuck Cares
Al Gallup
John Bassett

*Were on the Committee in 2004 and according to City Charter would be unable to be reappointed when their term expires in 2011. They must leave the Committee for one term and can be reappointed after a 2 year absence. Ms. Gray will verify with the Mayor's office that this information is correct.

Meeting Time

Committee approved changing the meeting time to 9:00 a.m.

Feasibility of Setting up a Separate Fund

Committee discussed the option of setting up a fund through the Community Foundation. **Mr. Cares** said after the initial \$10,000 investment to set up the fund, the fund would need to grow to \$50,000 before any money could be granted out. 5% per year would then be removed from the fund, 4% for grants and 1% for Community Foundation administration.

Committee members asked if the Community Foundation could develop a brochure and help market the fund. **Mr. Cares** said he would look into that.

Ms. Gray stated that if the Committee was interested in pursuing this fund that City staff could not assist in fund raising and that this would have be a project pursued solely by the Dean Fund Committee members.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 13 at 9:00 a.m.- Conference Room B at the Wheeler Center.