

Dean Fund Committee Meeting  
October 11, 2011  
Wheeler Center, 4251 Stone School Rd, Ann Arbor  
**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Bonnie Ion, John Remsberg, John Bassett, Jane Imonen,

**Staff Present:** Kay Sicheneder

**John Bassett** called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**Action Item #1- Approval of Agenda**

The Dean Fund Committee (DFC) reviewed the October agenda. **Mr. Bassett** moved approval of the October 11, 2011 agenda. **Ms. Ion seconded**. The Committee unanimously **approved**.

**Action Item #2 – Approval of June Meeting Minutes**

The DFC reviewed the August meeting minutes. **Ms. Ion** moved approval. **Ms. Imonen seconded**. The Committee unanimously **approved**.

**Action Item #3 – Proposed DFC Bylaws**

**Ms. Sicheneder** reported that she emailed **Kerry Gray** regarding the status of the review of the proposed DFC Bylaws by the office of the City Attorney. She expects **Ms. Gray** to be back in the office next week. **Mr. Bassett** postponed action on the bylaws until the City Attorney has approved them and all DFC members are present to adopt them.

**Information Item #1 Budget Update**

The DFC reviewed the budget report dated 1 July-10 October 2011. **Ms. Sicheneder** noted that the expenses for Post Plant Care (Activity 6317) in this budget report are on target for the fall watering of newly planted trees. She pointed out that very little has been spent in any of the other activities as yet. Trimming, pruning and stumping in the rejuvenation projects will begin this fall. The planting budget has not been committed to a project yet. **Mr. Remsberg** suggested we start looking at projects for spring planting.

At the November meeting, **Ms. Sicheneder** will provide the DFC with an updated table that summarizes the actual amount expended in FY 2010-2011 by Project Name.

**Mr. Remsberg** expressed his concern about the Dean Fund surplus in the City's pool of investments (which the DFC refers to as "the checking account"). He would like to see, in writing and on a regular basis, how much money is in the "checking account" and how much interest it is earning. **Ms. Ion** and **Ms. Imonen** said that that, as new DFC members, they would like to have the financial administrator of the City's pool of investments attend a DFC meeting. **Ms. Sicheneder** will pass on this request to **Ms. Gray** to schedule for an upcoming meeting.

### **Information Item #2 Update on Rejuvenation Project**

**Ms. Sicheneder** distributed copies of the 30 September 2011 letter sent to residents in the rejuvenation areas. She reported that, despite the mailing, one resident on Morton Ave. was not aware of the project and has expressed concern about the number of removals. **Ms. Sicheneder** reported that of the more than 100 trees on this stretch of Morton only 11 are targeted for removal, but they happen to be clustered near the home of this concerned citizen. Once this issue has been resolved, the removals and other rejuvenation work will begin. Most of the trimming, pruning, and removal of trees and stumps will be done by contractors. She hopes that all this work will be completed in time to replace the 11 removed trees this fall but, if not, planting will resume or begin in next spring.

### **Information Item #3 Update on Dean Grove/Memorial Planting**

**Ms. Sicheneder** reported that she has identified trees that are dead or in poor condition that need to be removed in the Dean Grove. She has ordered trees for planting, including two Kousa dogwoods a serviceberry, and some river birch. She plans to plant a beech in memory of Chuck Cares, a bald cypress in honor Don Gray, a dogwood in honor of Betty Graham, and a Kousa dogwood in honor Merrill Dudley. She also plans to aerate the soil and mulch around the base of trees in the grove to help their root systems and protect their boles from mower injury.

### **Discussion Item # 1- Elizabeth Dean 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**Ms. Ion** said that she would like to have the historic information collected by Merrill Dudley for use in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. **Mr. Bassett** will contact Ms. Dudley to see if we can obtain the information she has collected. **Ms. Ion** suggested that this celebration be held in conjunction with one or more related events such as the Garden Tour or Green Fair, including an informational component. **Ms. Sicheneder** suggested that the rejuvenation project streets could serve as the informational component. **Ms. Ion** would also like to see a poster or other information displayed.

### **Discussion Item # 2 – Honoring Merrill Dudley**

**Mr. Bassett** asked Ms. Dudley via email if she would like the DFC to plant a tree in the Dean Grove to honor her service on the committee. She was agreeable to the planting of a Kousa dogwood.

**Next Meeting – Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 9a.m. – Conference Room B-Wheeler Center**