

**Dean Fund Committee Meeting**  
**August 19, 2008**  
**Wheeler Center**  
**4251 Stone School Rd., Ann Arbor**  
**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Warren Attarian, John Bassett, Merrill Dudley, Al Gallup, Don Gray, John Remsberg

**Members Absent:** Charles Cares

**Staff Present:** Kay Sicheneder, Kerry Gray

**Warren Attarian** called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

The minutes from the May 20, 2008 and June 17, 2008 meetings were reviewed. **Merrill Dudley motioned** to approve the May 20 and June 17 meeting minutes. **John Basset seconded.** Committee unanimously approved.

**Additions to the agenda:**

**Al Gallup** requested that the replacement of crabapple trees at Veteran's Park and Pioneer High School be added to the agenda.

**John Remsberg** discussed the cherry trees on Hikone Street. Next year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the relationship between the City and Hikone, Japan. Hikone donated the cherry trees to the city. **Mr. Remsberg** asked if the Dean Fund Committee (DFC) could plant cherry trees in honor of this relationship and if there are good locations within the City where cherry trees could thrive.

**Old Business**

- **Mr. Attarian** stated that there was a good chance that Mayor Hieftje would be the Council representative on the DFC. He would not be attending the meetings but would be the go-to person if the DFC had questions/concerns/issues that it wanted brought to Council's attention.
- **Spring Planting 2008**
  - **Kay Sicheneder** updated DFC on the spring tree planting in the Champagne neighborhood. Over 100 trees were purchased and planted. They had enough trees to also plant along Marshall and Verle Streets near the same area. City staff is currently doing post planting care that is being funded by the DFC. Gator bags were on all of the trees, and they are filled periodically (about every 3 weeks) by City staff and some of the residents. None of the trees were staked.

**Ms. Sicheneder** said that the neighbors were very excited about the tree planting but a neighbor reported that kids were vandalizing some of the trees. **Ms. Sicheneder** mentioned how important it is to get kids involved with trees and recommended getting schools involved in neighborhood plantings.

The DFC approved \$64,110 for planting and the City spent \$61,841.

- **Ms. Sicheneder** discussed the watering of trees in the downtown area. The trees in the downtown area, particularly Lindens along Washington, have been very stressed this summer. While the City does not typically water downtown trees, due to the poor state of the trees, City staff did water all of the downtown trees. **Ms. Sicheneder** is working with the DDA to construct a better tree planting pit using permeable pavement and structural soils.
- **Budget**
  - **Kerry Gray** met with City Treasurer, Matt Horning, in April and there was approximately \$145,000 of Dean Fund carryover in the City investment pool. There is approximately \$11,000 in carryover from the FY08 budget bringing the total in the City's investment pool to approx. \$156,000. As mentioned in the email **Ms. Gray** sent on May 1, the Dean Fund Committee cannot spend this money unless they get a supplemental appropriation from City Council or have it appropriated in next fiscal year's budget.
  - In order to begin spending the \$156,000 **Ms. Gray and Ms. Sicheneder** will bring project ideas to the October meeting. Once projects are selected in October/ November, **Ms. Gray** will begin the process of requesting a supplemental appropriation from City Council.
  - A discussion ensued regarding adding a percentage of the yearly budget to the corpus. The Committee asked that City Treasurer Matt Horning and someone from the City's Legal Department attend the October meeting. Possible dates for the October meeting are the 21<sup>st</sup> or the 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Ms. Gray** will contact Mr. Horning and the Legal Department to check their availability on these two dates. Questions/issues that Committee would like Mr. Horning/Legal Department to address:
    - Advice on corpus
    - How can Dean Fund hedge against inflation?
    - Can a line item be included in City budget that appropriates a percentage of the Dean Fund budget for reinvestment in the corpus?
    - Can Dean Fund accept donations?
  - **Ms. Dudley** will contact the previous Dean Fund Committee Chair Bob Elton to get some history on reinvesting into the corpus of the fund.
  - **Mr. Gallup motioned** to table the vote on reinvesting into the corpus until after the October meeting. **Ms. Dudley seconded**. Supported unanimously by Committee.

## New Business

- **Tree Planting**
  - The fiscal year 2009 DFC budget is \$79,031, of that approximately \$58,000 has been appropriated for tree planting. The City's General Fund tree planting budget is \$124,000. The total Forestry budget is approximately \$968,000.
  - **Ms. Gray** provided DFC with the City's FY09 tree planting plan that was developed this spring. She showed a map that identified locations throughout the City where tree planting has occurred since 2004 and potential tree planting locations for Fall 2008 and Spring 2009.
  - **Mr. Gallup** suggested the Dean Fund support the planting of trees along Jackson Avenue between Maple and Huron. This area is a gateway into the City. **Ms. Sicheneder** said the right of way extensions along this stretch of the road are very narrow and she would be okay with planting in the front lawns but not in the extensions.
  - After discussion, **Donald Gray motioned** to appropriate \$54,000 for the fall 2008 planting season for the purchase of trees, their planting and after care, in locations identified by the City in the FY09 tree planting plan. **Mr. Remsberg seconded.** Supported unanimously by the Committee.
    - This will spend nearly all of the DFC's FY09 budget, but the DFC is looking to receive a supplemental appropriation from City Council to spend some (or all) of the \$156,000 that is in the City's investment pool.
- **Project Proposal Form**
  - Tabled until the September meeting
- **Crabapples**
  - **Mr. Gallup** stated that the Kiwanis Club is interested in replacing the crabapple trees that have died in Veteran's Memorial Park. The Kiwanis Club wanted to know if the Dean Fund would be interested in providing money towards this project. **Ms. Sicheneder** stated that the City has a lot of money for tree planting in parks (due to the millage) and that Dean Fund money would not be needed for this project. **Mr. Gallup** requested from **Ms. Sicheneder** an estimate of how much it would cost to replace the crabapples lost at Veteran's Park. **Mr. Gallup** also mentioned that there were a lot of dead trees around Pioneer High School from Pauline to Main Street. **Ms. Sicheneder** stated she would look into this.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 16- 8:00 a.m. at the Wheeler Center**

**Agenda Items:** Project Proposal Form updates

Dean Fund Committee publicity, city website, and communications plan

Update on status of fall tree planting

Cherry Trees on Hikone Street

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Ms. Gray:**

- Contact Matt Horning and a representative from the City's Legal Department to attend the October meeting
- For October meeting with Ms. Sicheneder: provide project ideas for the \$156,000 carryover money that currently resides in the City investment pool.

**Ms. Sicheneder:**

- Identify planting locations and order trees for Fall 2009 Dean Fund planting project.
- Provide Mr. Gallup with an estimate of how much it would cost to replace the crabapples lost at Veteran's Park.
- For October meeting with Ms. Gray: provide project ideas for the \$156,000 carryover money that currently resides in the City investment pool.

**Ms. Dudley:**

- Contact the previous Dean Fund Committee Chair Bob Elton to get history on reinvesting into the corpus of the fund