

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

9:00 AM

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Electronic Meeting

Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Staff Present: Matt Waldsmith, Dan McConnell, Molly Maciejewski

Guests Present: Darlene Imus, Yankee Air Museum. Tom Bletcher, 834 Brown Street.

Present 7 - Benjamin Maier Muth, Edith Bletcher, Ken Westerman, R. Donald Wortman, Elisabeth Merrill C. Dudley, Tiffany Giacobazzi, and Elizabeth (Beth) Collins

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Westerman moved to accept the agenda as presented. Wortman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[20-0829](#) EDFC March 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Westerman moved to accept the March 10, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Collins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS**Guest Speaker: Molly Maciejewski, Public Works Director**

Molly presented an idea for the committee to consider: researching and gathering information on the history of the E. Dean Fund Committee and their projects over the years. This would highlight what the committee does and what wonderful things they've done for Ann Arbor's urban forest.

An example would be researching the WWI Redbud Memorial in Riverside Park. However, it is proposed that a comprehensive history be done, and not just on this one project.

Staff would then work with the committee to promote and provide public engagement around the E. Dean Fund Committee.

Committee Members have committed to assisting this project in the following ways:

- Beth Collins has committed to researching Meeting Minutes from past meetings.

- Don Wortman has committed to reaching out to the City Forester at the time of the WWI Redbud Memorial project to see if he can remember anything on that project and other projects the E. Dean Fund Committee did during his time as City Forester.

- Merrill Dudley has committed to reaching out to Darlene Imus with the Yankee Air Museum about resources that might help Darlene with her research on the WWI Redbud Memorial.

- All committee members have committed to listing projects, including any details they can remember about them, and bringing their lists to the July committee meeting.

20-0823 June 2020 Staff Liaison Report

Ferdon Planting Project: The committee would like staff to reach out to the adjacent property owner to where the trees would be planted to confirm they want trees planted there. If they do, the committee will discuss how many should be planted. Based on location of street signage, a maximum of 4 or 5 trees could be planted there.

20-0828 Vet's Park Soldier Row Dimensional Layout

Forestry staff staked tree planting locations on June 8, 2020. Planting is set to take place before June 30, 2020.

20-0827 Vet's Park Soldier Row Quote Form

Tree costs came in higher than expected due to tree shortages due to COVID-19 limiting delivery of stock. Total project costs increased by \$2,990.00 above allocated \$20,000.00.

Westerman moved to allocate \$3,000.00 towards post-planting watering of the Vet's Park Soldier Row tree planting for FY21. Wortman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

20-0824 June 2020 Financial Budget Report

Committee acknowledges no change to budget or projects as all projects were on hold during the last 3 months due to COVID-19.

[20-0825](#) FY20 Project & Budget Update Report

[20-0826](#) FY21 Project & Budget Update Report

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Potential Projects for FY21

- *Jackson and Maple: There is a large oak tree that the committee would like Matt Waldsmith to look at and see if it would benefit from fertilization treatments. Matt will investigate and report back at the July meeting.*

- *Westover and Jackson: There are a lot of Habitat for Humanity home that were built here. During the construction process, many trees were removed. A sidewalk still has to be installed along Jackson. The committee would like to consider planting trees in this area after the sidewalk has been installed.*

- *Downtown Tree Planting: There are many planting pits that either have stumps or are completely empty. Matt Waldsmith will pull together stump and vacant site locations for the committee to consider planting. When the planting area has been selected, staff will reach out to the DDA to potentially partner on a project.*

- *Fuller Median Strip by the Hospital: This is a large median strip, that currently has mature crabapples planted there. This would be a good location to potentially plant a large number of trees. Matt Waldsmith will investigate and see how many trees need to be removed and replaced. And how many additional trees can be planted.*

LEGAL REVIEW

There is conflicting statements in the Resolution approved by City Council on the authority of the E. Dean Fund and the E. Dean Fund Bylaws. Staff is going to request a legal review of both documents. This will take a long while as this will be put into their review queue. Staff will report to the Committee when the review is completed.

Committee acknowledged conflict and await results from the legal review.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

- *Vet's Park Soldier Row Project Update*
- *FY21 Potential Projects Update*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Two guests were present:

1. Darlene Imus, Head Librarian at the Yankee Air Museum. Darlene is assisting a reporter from the Ann Arbor Observer on a story about the WWI Redbud Memorial in Riverside Park. She is interested in any information on that project and the role the E. Dean Fund played in that project. She was also interested in any historical information on Elizabeth Dean and her gift to the City of Ann Arbor.

2. Tom Bletcher was in attendance, but did not make any comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Wortman moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 a.m. Seconded by Westerman. Motion passed unanimously.

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