

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

9:00 AM

This meeting is Audio only. To speak at public comment call:

877-853-5247

Webinar ID: 99642895904

Electronic Meeting

Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:04 AM.

ROLL CALL

- Member Collins: participating remotely from Lakeview, Logan County, Ohio.
- Member Nybell: participating remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan.
- Chairperson Wortman: participating remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan.
- Member Westerman: participating remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan.

Note: Tiffany Giacobazzi is Staff Liaison and non-voting member of the committee.

Staff Present: Jamie Pauline, Public Works Technician - Forestry; Matt Waldsmith Public Works Supervisor - Forestry.

Present 5 - Ken Westerman, R. Donald Wortman, Tiffany Giacobazzi, Elizabeth (Beth) Collins, and Lynn Nybell

Absent 1 - Elisabeth Merrill C. Dudley

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Changes include:

Add Approval of Agenda to the agenda.

Collins moved to approve the agenda as amended. Westerman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

22-0039 November 2021 Meeting Minutes

Changes include:

Page 2 - File 21-1945, paragraph 2: add y to "the" in the last sentence. Should read "They would prefer to continue to meet remotely."

Westerman moved to approve the November 9, 2021 meeting

minutes as amended. Nybell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

Staff Report - Tiffany Giacobazzi

[22-0041](#) January Staff Report

Budget Reports & Updates - Tiffany Giacobazzi

[22-0040](#) January 2022 Budget Report

[22-0042](#) January Project & Budget Breakdown

Note:

- Jackson Median Tree Planting Project: Tree costs came in under expected costs.
- Riverside Park Tree Planting Project: Contractor is not able to find river birch trees. These trees will be planted in the future when this species is available.

Westerman moved to unencumber \$3,980.00 from the Jackson Median Tree Planting Project and \$4,660.00 from the Riverside Park Tree Planting Project. Nybell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Goal Setting Exercise - Don Wortman

During brainstorming and discussion, staff brought up a large bur oak tree in Mushroom Park that needs extensive pruning. The project is expected to cost approximately \$1,500.00 to complete. The committee is interested in supporting this project and will contribute \$1,000.00 toward the work in partnership with the parks department.

Westerman moved to allocate funds, not to exceed \$1,000.00, to prune a large bur oak in Mushroom Park. Collins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

22-0073

Goal Setting Exercise

Chairperson Wortman asked the committee to participate in a visioning exercise to help in setting goals and provide staff direction on project type, location, and selection criteria. Each committee member was excited about this exercise and provided the following comments.

- Chairperson Wortman: In review of the Elizabeth Dean Trust documents, which states "repair, maintain, and replace" ... Wortman's priorities are as follows:

(1) Repair, maintain, and replace trees on Main St. and the Dean promenade. This would include tree planting, watering, fertilizing, trimming, etc. of the trees on Main St.

(2) Repair, maintain, and replace groups or collections of trees within the city that have particular significance to the City of Ann Arbor. This includes the Dean Grove, Redbud Grove, Soldiers Row, Burns Park fairgrounds/racetrack trees, and ornamental tree collections planted by Eli Gallup along Riverside Park, Stadium Blvd, Vet's Park, Awixa, etc.

(3) Maintain champion trees within the City of Ann Arbor. For example this would include the chinkapin oak at Wurster Park, bur oaks at West Park, white oak in front of Zingerman's Roadhouse, etc. (Refer to the city's directory of champion trees for other locations.)

(4) Repair, maintain, and replace trees along major roadways and entranceways into the city such as: Jackson Rd., Washtenaw Ave., S. State, N. Main, and Plymouth Rd.

- Member Collins: Would like to see trees planted everywhere and protections provided to existing trees.

(1) Prioritize neighborhoods over park plantings. Note this does not mean no plantings in parks, but parks shouldn't be the focus of plantings. The food forest planting in Leslie Park is an example of a great park planting project.

(2) Use the budget allocated each year. Spend all the money and get trees into the ground.

(3) Underserved (low income and diverse) neighborhoods.

(4) Gateways into the city.

- Member Nybell:

(1) Dean signature projects (Dean promenade and Vet's Park as examples). There is opportunity for recognition for Elizabeth Dean and educational outreach to residents. We should maintain and enhance those projects.

(2) Neighborhood based projects. Criteria for prioritization should include: tree canopy cover, impervious surface, floodplain, etc. These

projects are also opportunities for education and outreach with local community members.

(3) Forward-looking projects. These would include pioneer projects like the food forest planting in Leslie Park. Projects that will have a direct impact on the climate and food issues.

(4) Responding to issues that arise. It would be nice to keep funds available for projects that arise unexpectedly and have the flexibility to respond to resident requests as needed.

Member Westerman: Agrees with what other committee members have put forward, but would add the following:

(1) Tree equity. Be proactive and adjust where we plant. There is a direct correlation between neighborhood income to tree canopy. Plant and prioritize these areas/neighborhoods.

Staff Comments: Matt Waldsmith: Because many of the gateway roads are not city roads (MDOT/County), the city does not have the funding level to maintain these trees to the same level as others within the city. EDFC funds would really improve these areas (Jackson, N. Main, Washtenaw, etc.) and have noticeable impact.

Potential Tree Planting Project Area Update - Jamie Pauline

22-0072 Project Selection Example

The committee is excited by the Tree Equity Score map and comparing that to income and other environmental factors to help in project location selection. Staff will prepare possible project briefs for the committee to review at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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**City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

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NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

- *Sarah Alanis, Projects, Boards, and Commissions Coordinator*
Introduction
- *List of Potential Projects*
- *Main Street Promenade Discussion*
- *List of trees that need care (Matt Waldsmith)*

ADJOURNMENT

**Nybell moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 AM. Collins seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.**