

Dean Fund Committee Meeting
June 8, 2010
Wheeler Center
4251 Stone School Rd., Ann Arbor
MINUTES

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

Staff Present: Kerry Gray, Kay Sicheneder

Warren Attarian called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Meeting Minutes and Agenda

The minutes from the January and May meetings were reviewed. **John Remsberg** motioned to approve the January 13 and May 11 meeting minutes. **John Bassett** seconded. Committee unanimously approved.

Committee reviewed agenda items. **Kerry Gray** requested that **Al Gallup's** project request be added to the agenda. **Mr. Bassett** motioned to approve agenda as amended. **Mr. Remsberg** seconded. Committee unanimously approved.

Budget

The budget summary was reviewed by the Committee. **Kay Sicheneder** noted that the Dean Promenade work including stump removal and tree planting was not included in the budget summary.

Mr. Attarian asked what the FY11 budget should be spent on. **Don Gray** who attended one of the urban forest management plan public meetings stated a lack of tree maintenance was a key issue that was brought up by residents attending the meeting. Residents want the trees to be maintained.

Al Gallup discussed the issue of maples dropping large limbs and thinks that the Dean Fund should be focusing on maintenance.

Ms. Sicheneder stated that there are about 700 trees listed a Priority 1 Removals (most hazardous trees) identified in the new tree inventory. The City is focusing on their removal but they cannot all be done in one year. The City also has a list of trees with a maintenance recommendation of Priority 1 Trim (trees that have large branches that pose an immediate hazard), that also need to be addressed but with the prioritization currently focused on the removals, she does not have funds to do trimming. She is down to 8 staff people to do Forestry work.

Mr. Gallup asked **Ms. Sicheneder** what are her priorities: (1) priority trimming; and (2) assistance with monitoring construction activities and to conduct field investigations (i.e. forestry summer intern).

Chuck Cares stated that he is in favor of funding tree maintenance.

Update on Dean Fund Projects

Planting on the Promenade- the stumps were removed and the new trees (Ginkgos) were planted on June 4, 2010.

Crabapples at Vet's Park- Al Gallup's Project request

Mr. Gallup described how Vet's Park along Maple and Jackson Ave had lost about 11 crabapple trees over the last several years. His proposal is to replace these crabapple trees. The trees currently there are Hopa crabapples but **Mr. Gallup** would be open to other suggestions since that species does not seem as hardy. Suggested varieties from committee members included Floribunda or Zumi.

Mr. Gray motioned to support the project to replant crabapples along Maple and Jackson Ave in Vet's Park in the Fall of 2010, with the species and cost to be determined. **Mr. Bassett seconded.** Committee unanimously approved.

Member Terms

Committee discussed member terms and staggering. **Mr. Gray** stated that he would like to leave committee either before or when his term expires in 2011. **Mr. Attarian** will discuss with Mayor a plan for staggering terms.

Update on Urban Forest Management Plan

Ms. Gray updated the committee on the development of the city's first urban forest management plan. The city held two workshops, one on May 20 at Tappan Middle School and the second on June 1 at Forsythe Middle School to get public input on tree planting, trimming, removals and the development of the plan. A total of 25 residents participated in the two workshops and provided good feedback. Following the workshop, the city will conduct an on-line survey (paper copies to be available for those without internet access) to get additional input from residents. Our public engagement/meeting facilitation consultants JJR will be developing a public engagement strategy followed by selection of the stakeholder committee and then plan development.

Additional Items

Merrill Dudley has been compiling a list of past Dean Fund projects. When complete she would like each Dean Fund Committee member to take several projects to visit and then report

back to the Committee on their status. **Ms. Dudley's** project list will be added to the July agenda.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 13 at 9:00 a.m.- Conference Room B at the Wheeler Center.

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

- Member terms (Warren Attarian)
- Dean Fund Project List (Merrill Dudley)