

Dean Fund Committee Meeting
September 16, 2008
Wheeler Center
4251 Stone School Rd., Ann Arbor
MINUTES

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

Members Absent: Warren Attarian, Charles Cares

Staff Present: Kay Sicheneder, Kerry Gray

Al Gallup called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

The minutes from the August 19 meetings were reviewed. **Don Gray motioned** to approve the August 19 meeting minutes. **Merrill Dudley seconded**. Committee unanimously approved.

Old Business

- **Project Proposal From**

- **Committee** discussed changes to the Project Proposal form that were made at the May/June meetings. Considerable discussion surrounded question 2 of the proposal form "How does the project meet the criteria of the Dean Fund Committee? Demonstrate why this project cannot be accomplished without Dean Funds." **Mr. Gray** wanted to encourage residents to submit project ideas and felt the tone of the question was antagonistic. **Mr. Gray motioned** to change question 2 of the proposal form to "Have you sought other sources of funds?" **Seconded by Mr. Gallup. Supported by Ms. Dudley and John Bassett. Opposed by John Remsberg.**

- **Cherry Trees on Hikone Street.**

- **Mr. Remsberg** continued discussion of cherry trees on Hikone in honor of the 50th anniversary of the relationship between the City and Hikone, Japan. He is interested in identifying areas within the City where Cherry trees can grow and possibly starting a grove. Huron Parkway and Geddes were suggested as possible planting locations.

Mr. Gallup will contact Ms. Rusty Shumacher who is part of the group that has been involved in the Ann Arbor/Hikone, Japan relationship to see if they would be interested in participating with the DFC in celebrating the anniversary.

- **Fall Tree Planting Update**

- **Kay Sicheneder** updated DFC on the fall tree planting. She has created a preliminary tree order and Bill Dale, City forestry staff person, has been going and marking tree planting locations. With DFC the City will plant approximately 100 trees. The planting will occur in November.

- Rotary Club will plant approximately 80 trees, the park where this fall's planting will occur has not been determined.
 - Cherry trees will be planted at Rose Park by Hikone Street, this is unrelated to the Hikone cherry tree discussion that the DFC has been having.
 - A question was asked about who plants trees in the downtown area. Both the City and the DDA do tree planting. Kay and Kerry need to meet with Susan Pollay of the DDA to better coordinate their tree planting program with the City's.
- **DFC Publicity**
 - **Mr. Bassett** met with Nancy Stone (Public Services Communication Liaison with the City) in July to discuss how the DFC could get more visibility. The product of their meeting was a communications plan developed by Nancy that all the members received. **Mr. Bassett** reviewed the communication's plan with DFC members.
 - **Ms. Sicheneder** discussed that many residents don't really understand what the Dean Fund is and how the City can and cannot use the money. Most residents think that Forestry can tap into the Dean Fund money to do all sorts of forestry activities. She stated that there was a lot of misinformation about the Dean Fund out there.
 - **Mr. Bassett** mentioned that they should try to get information about the Dean Fund out to City staff. Nancy provided two methods to reach city employees through A2 News and Notes or A2 News Quarterly.
 - DFC members discussed how they could get a monthly article in the Ann Arbor Observer or Ann Arbor News. **Mr. Gray** said he would contact Steve Gibson with the Ann Arbor News about doing a DFC article. Charles Cares also has a contact with the Ann Arbor News that may be useful in the future.
 - **Kerry Gray** will also contact Nancy Stone to see if she knows how the DFC could get a monthly DFC/trees article in the A2 Observer or News.
 - **Mr. Bassett** discussed the last two bullets on page 3 regarding youth education options he thought the DFC may be able to do. Both the activities involve providing grants to nature areas/environmental education groups to do tree education/outreach to youth. The Committee discussed if they were legally able to grant out money to do these types of activities since they are not directly related to planting/maintaining the city-owned trees. Committee would like to ask this question of the City Attorney's office if they are able to attend the October meeting.
 - Committee members brought up other possible youth education activities they might be able to be involved in, including Arbor Day activities at the elementary schools. **Ms. Dudley** said she would contact Mr. David Segal, head of the naturalist program for Ann Arbor Public Schools to see if he would be interested in participating in an Arbor Day/tree planting event(s) sponsored by the Dean Fund.
 - Discussion of Dean Fund website is tabled until the November meeting.
 - **Other Items**
 - Are the Dean Funds signs up in the Champagne neighborhood where trees were planted this past spring? Ms. Sicheneder believes that the signs are up. They are on sign posts underneath other signs.

- **Ms. Dudley** think that the DFC needs to adjust/create bylaws including creating staggering terms for the members since currently all members terms are expected to expire on the same date. **Ms. Gray** will ask Lisa DeWolfe for an electronic version of the Committee's Points of Policy and Procedure (November 2004) and will send to the members.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 21- 8:00 a.m. at the Wheeler Center

Agenda Items: Financial discussion with City Treasurer Matt Horning- adding funds to corpus
Possible legal discussion with representative from City Attorney's office (*not confirmed*)
Potential projects ideas for spring (utilizing carryover money).
Update on status of fall tree planting project

ACTION ITEMS:

Ms. Gray:

- Follow up with City Attorney's office regarding attendance at October meeting.
- For October meeting with Ms. Sicheneder: provide project ideas for the carryover money that currently resides in the City investment pool.
- Contact Nancy Stone regarding monthly DFC/tree article in A2 Observer or News.
- Update project proposal form with changes from September meeting.
- Send electronic version of DFC Points of Policy and Procedure to Committee

Ms. Sicheneder:

- 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
- Contact Mr. David Segal, head of the naturalist program for Ann Arbor Public Schools to see if he would be interested in participating in an Arbor Day/tree planting event(s) sponsored by the Dean Fund.

Mr. Gallup:

- Contact Ms. Rusty Shumacher about the Ann Arbor/Hikone, Japan relationship and whether they would be interested in participating in an anniversary planting with the Dean Fund.

Mr. Gray:

- Contact Steve Gibson with the Ann Arbor News about doing a DFC article.