

City of Ann Arbor

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

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

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

Richard Wieland called the meeting to order at 9:01am.

ROLL CALL

- *Chairman Richard Wieland: home, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County*
- *Member Samuel Rosewig: Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor Township, Washtenaw County*
- *Member Kimberley Sundy: Boston Logan International Airport, Suffolk County, Massachusetts*
- *Member Robertson Davenport: Michigan Medicine, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County*
- *Member Brooks Curtis: home, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County*
- *Member Lynn Nybell: home, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County*
- *Member David Penland: home, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County*

Staff in attendance: Paul Matthews, Public Works Manager, EDFC staff liaison; Nicholas Jacob, Urban Forestry & Natural Resources Planning Coordinator (Interim); Jamie Pauline, Urban Forestry Intern

Present 7 - Lynn Nybell, Richard Wieland, Kimberley Sundy, Brooks Curtis, Samuel Rosewig, David Penland, and Robert Davenport

Absent 1 - Tiffany Giacobazzi

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add:

- *Gallup Park sign unveiling (after River Days)*
- *Avalon Housing (after library plantings)*

Nybell motioned to approve the agenda with the suggested changes. Sundy seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 8th, 2025

Davenport motioned to approve the minutes for April 8th, 2025.

Curtis seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

25-0975 Draft Meeting Minutes - April 8th, 2025

BUSINESS**Staff Report - Jamie Pauline**

Correction to staff report: Matthews clarified that the city's legal team has not yet made a final decision on whether the EDFC can plant on rights-of-way for MDOT-maintained roads. The city itself can plant in these easements to achieve their planting goals.

25-0970 EDFC Staff Report: May 13th, 2025

Outreach Events**LSNC Event - Richard Wieland & Rob Davenport**

Wieland and Davenport attended the event as representatives of the EDFC. They reported a good turnout. Wieland estimated that about 150 kids came to their table to decorate the upcycled wood cookies. The table was within view of a small planting project the EDFC funded and that is slated to be completed this season, so Wieland and Davenport were able to highlight this as an EDFC contribution.

Free Tree Giveaway - Rob Davenport & Brooks Curtis

Curtis reported that the event was successful. A few extra seedlings were left over at the end of the event, but additional organizations came to claim these. Davenport was not able to attend.

Huron River Days Update - Jamie Pauline

Pauline reached out to Parks to arrange for the EDFC to have a table. Parks confirmed that they would set aside a table for the EDFC.

The forestry crew is slicing more wood cookies from tree limbs that would otherwise go to waste. Pauline will deliver these to Wieland's house on Friday so he can bring them to the River Days event on Sunday, and she will forward the emails with details about setup to the EDFC members who can attend. Wieland, Davenport, and Curtis will work the table. Nybell will not be able to attend as was originally planned.

Gallup Park Sign Unveiling - Jamie Pauline

The mayor's assistant confirmed his availability for the event. Pauline sent out invitations to Ward 2's representatives on the city council but has not yet heard back. Committee discussed other invitees. Sundry volunteered to bring snacks for the event. All committee members plan to attend.

Because invitees include staff at Community Action Network, Wieland disclosed that he is a major donor to this group.

Parks had no species preferences for the two trees that will be planted at this event. Species suggestions during the meeting included horsechestnuts, buckeyes, swamp white oak, river birch, and/or London planetree. Pauline will coordinate with Margolis to have the trees delivered to the park for the event.

Budget Report - Jamie Pauline

[25-0967](#) Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee Budget Performance Report - May 1st, 2025

Projects Budget & Breakdown - Jamie Pauline

[25-0971](#) EDFC FY2025 Projects Budget & Breakdown - May 13th, 2025

3-Year Plan Review - Richard Wieland

[25-0968](#) Elizabeth Dean Longer Term Plan and Priorities - May 13, 2025 - Version A

FY2026 and FY2027 Tree Contract Update - Richard Wieland & Paul Matthews

Contract expenses will increase by 3 percent. Contract amount will increase to \$75,000 for FY2026.

An additional \$15,000 will be budgeted for maintenance, although this will not fall under the planting contract.

Ann Arbor Library Planting - Richard Wieland

Wieland contacted Eli Neiberger and Len Lemoire at the Ann Arbor District Library to go over the idea of planting near libraries. Of the five branches, only Malletts Creek and Traverwood can accommodate plantings directly adjacent to the buildings.

- Curtis and Nybell liked the idea of planting along routes to libraries.

- EDFC will do a walkthrough in the autumn.

- Rosewig brought up the potential removal of large shade trees to expand sidewalks.

- Nybell highlighted the removal of large trees for the installation of power lines in the Sister Lake neighborhood as an example of canopy loss.

- Sundy encouraged neighbor empowerment as a part of the EDFC's strategy.

- Wieland suggested a walk at a later date

Avalon Housing - Richard Wieland

Wieland proposed contacting Avalon Housing about collaborating for planting projects. Pauline will review her maps to ensure that Avalon Housing was not already targeted in the previous housing-focused planting.

Shifted/Postponed Projects - Richard Wieland

Projects that have shifted fiscal years include South Maple Park (FY2027) and South Maple extension (Winewood) (FY2026). Wieland went over these in his 3-year plan review.

Bandemer-Barton Parks Request - Jamie Pauline

The EDFC had additional questions about the request to plant near the Barton-Bandemer tunnel. Specifically, they wanted to know 1) whether planting costs were included in the original plan and why funding was needed; 2) whether the proposed area is property of the City of Ann Arbor; and 3) whether Parks has any species preferences.

Hillary Hanzel provided answers (summarized below):

1) Tree clearing for construction access exceeded the anticipated area, and the nearby woodland is low-quality. Parks thinks they have space for more trees to enhance the new trail.

2) The City of Ann Arbor owns the land that would be planted.

3) While Parks wants to wait until the first round of planting is done before final decisions are made, they've planted the following so far: sycamores, sugar maples, tupelo, white oak, eastern redbud, flowering dogwood, and serviceberry, with birches as an option in wetter areas.

The EDFC wants Parks to fill out the paperwork for a formal proposal before a vote on funding is held.

Equity Planting Update - Jamie Pauline

As of this meeting, there were 30 plantings listed as "in progress," 29 of which are in the ground, and 11 were in Margolis's work queue.

Past Project Review - Jamie Pauline

Pauline reviewed several past projects.

1) Leslie Park Food Forest

- The Blazingstar peach was dead or dying.*
- The Balaton tart cherry and the Baby Gold #5 peach looked like they could be struggling.*

2) Soldiers' Row

- 2 dead trees*
- 2 gone*
- 3 struggling*

3) *S Maple*

- *10 trees were dead or dying. Warranty replants will be called in.*
- *4 trees were gone and therefore won't be eligible for warranty replants.*

4) *Pilgrim Park*

- *Many trees sustained damage from deer rubs.*
- *8 of 20 trees were dead or dying.*

5) *Baxter Park*

- *As with Pilgrim Park, many of the trees were damaged by deer rubs.*
- *3 of 20 trees were dead or dying.*
- *1 tree was gone.*

Deer damage was discussed at length. At Baxter Park, many of the trees had been protected by chicken wire. In Pilgrim Park, the trees were not protected. Most of the dead trees were likely killed by the deer. The EDFC's contract with Margolis does not cover deer damage, so any trees killed by the deer can't be replaced under warranty. The committee discussed options to protect surviving and future plants in parks.

Curtis suggested determining the percentage of trees killed by deer damage. Wieland expressed support for replanting missing and dead trees at Soldiers' Row and dead trees in the two parks. He also requested that Pauline find the contact information for the EDFC's collaborators on the food forest and forward it to him so he can follow up with them.

Note: Rosewig left the meeting at 10:06am. Quorum was maintained.

Creal Park Update - Jamie Pauline

The trees will be planted under contract with Margolis.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per speaker)

No guests attended for public comment, nor was a public comment submitted prior to this meeting.

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City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
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NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

- *Disadvantaged parks list*
- *Elms - Jacob and Pauline*
- *Follow up on PVC*
- *EDFC trunkline opinion*
- *Avalon followup (Wieland)*
- *Replacement of deer casualties and Soldiers' Row.*
- *Parks – formal proposal for Barton/Bandemer*
- *Food Forest – Wieland*
- *Followup from sign unveiling event*
- *Temporary signage*

ADJOURNMENT

Wieland motioned to adjourn the meeting. Curtis seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:27am.