

City of Ann Arbor

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

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

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 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

- Chairperson Wortman: participating remotely from Washtenaw County, Michigan.
- Member Sundy: participating remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan.
- Member Wieland: participating remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan.
- Member Curtis: participating remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan.
- Member Nybell: participating remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan.

Note: Member Sundy left the meeting at 11:00 AM. Quorum remained.

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

*Staff Present: Nick Jacob, Public
Works Supervisor - Forestry*

Present 6 - R. Donald Wortman, Tiffany Giacobazzi, Lynn Nybell,
Richard Wieland, Kimberley Sundy, and Brooks Curtis

Absent 1 - Molly Brookshire

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add Bryant Community Center Meeting Report

Wieland moved to approve the agenda as amended. Nybell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[23-1512](#) July 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Wieland moved to approve the July 11, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Curtis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

23-1513 August 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Nybell moved to approve the August 18, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Wieland seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Guests

Downtown Development Authority - Amber Miller

Amber Miller gave a brief overview of the DDA and how they approach their work and potential partnership with the EDFC in the future.

Potential collaboration opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- Education and Advocacy for trees. Amber requests the committee attend the Circulation Study engagement opportunities that will take place in the winter of 2023 to advocate for trees.*
- Help identifying small projects/partnerships that the DDA could assist with (i.e., tree care, tree planting, etc.)*

The committee recommends the following to the DDA/Forestry:

- Forestry and the DDA work together to identify aging canopy for removal and replacement, specifically the Bradford pear trees along Ann Street just north of Main Street.*
- Canopy Gaps for possible planting, specifically along Main Street near Real Seafood and KouZina.*
- Consider an "Adopt-a-tree" program similar to the Adopt-a-Park program for long term care of trees within the DDA.*

Buhr Park Planting Project - Melissa Schacht & Adam Fercho

Melissa Schacht (Adopt-A-Park) and Tom Kerr (Resident, 2011 Devolson Ave) outlined the goals, objectives, and history of the Hikone Cherry tree and it's relationship to Ann Arbor's Sister City, Hikone, Japan. This project will honor our relationship with Hikone, Japan while showcasing the symbolism of the cherry tree: beginning, hope, and renewal in spring. It will also invite residents to learn more of the sister city program and Buhr Park as an inviting entryway into the park.

The committee supports this project and are happy to contribute the \$4,550.00 to purchase and install the trees and provide watering for the first year. They like the mix of Kanzan cherry trees and native trees,

especially the serviceberry. They would like signage posted in recognition of Elizabeth Dean and the trust that made this planting possible on site.

23-1514 Buhr Park Tree Planting Project

Wieland moved to fund the Buhr Park Tree Planting project, not to exceed \$4,550.00. Sundry seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

Staff Report - Tiffany Giacobazzi

Staff updated the committee on the bylaws and discovery of oak wilt in Bird Hills Nature Area. The committee stands ready to assist staff and the community in the oak wilt project and/or in monitoring for oak wilt as needed.

23-1519 September 12, 2023 Staff Report

23-1515 Oak Wilt Memo

Budget Reports & Updates - Tiffany Giacobazzi

23-1516 September Budget Report

23-1517 September Projects and Budget Breakdown Report

West Park Oaks Project Update - Tiffany Giacobazzi & Committee Members

Treatment of the three bur oak trees in West Park was completed on September 11, 2023. Park staff will remove turf, apply compost, and mulch the area this fall (2023) or spring (2024).

South Maple Project Update - Tiffany Giacobazzi

No update at this time.

Old 4th Ward Project Update - Tiffany Giacobazzi

Trees were planted by Forestry with additional trees to be planted fall 2023. Routine pruning is scheduled within the next few years. For these reasons, the committee denies the project proposal request. Staff will notify the applicant.

Wieland moved to deny the Old Fourth Ward Project on the grounds forestry planted the requested trees and pruning will take place within the next few years during Forestry's routine pruning cycle. Nybell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

EDFC Project Proposal Application Form Update - Tiffany Giacobazzi

23-1518 EDFC Project Proposal Form

Change question 6 of the application form to:

"Have you talked over your project with members of the community, City staff or City Council? If yes, with whom and how?"

Nybell moved to approve the EDFC Project Proposal Form as amended. Sundry seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bryant Community Center Meeting Report - Lynn Nybell & Richard Wieland

Members Nybell and Wieland met with Krystal, Community Action Network (CAN), to discuss EDFC outreach efforts and planting project in the Bryant Neighborhood. Krystal recommends future engagement take place with other efforts for greater turnout and participation by residents. There are four other CAN locations and suggests the committee consider one or more of those neighborhoods for future planting projects.

Committee Chair Elections

Curtis nominated Wieland for Chair of the committee. Wieland accepted the nomination, with the condition he will serve one two-year term. The committee would like to see opportunity for leadership within the committee vary and limit Chair terms to one two-year term. Staff and the committee will work on updating bylaws to reflect this.

The committee members has been impressed and grateful to Wortman

for his leadership the past several years. They thank him for his time and commitment to the committee.

Curtis nominated Member Wieland as Chair of the Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee. Sundry seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per speaker)

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

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NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

- Shovel-ready projects: Hikone/Arrowwood for consideration. Chairperson Wieland will lead this effort.*
- Equity-based project update: S. Maple.*
- Gallup Park update*
- West Park update*
- Elm Tree Treatment Discussion: Chairperson Wieland will pull together some estimates for next meeting.*
- EDFC Strategic Plan update*
- Buhr Project update*
- Budget update for FY25*

ADJOURNMENT

Wortman moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 AM. Wieland seconded. Motion passed unanimously.