

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

9:00 AM

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

877-853-5247

Webinar ID: 943 5402 4789

Electronic Meeting

Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Chairman Richard Wieland - home, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County

Member Kimberley Sundy - home, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County

Member Samuel Rosewig - Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor Township, Washtenaw County

Member Robertson Davenport - Michigan Medicine, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County

Member David Penland - home, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County

Member Lynn Nybell - home, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County

Member Brooks Curtis - home, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County

Staff present: Jamie Pauline, Urban Forest Partnership and Outreach Coordinator; Remy Long, Parks and Recreation Deputy Manager - Open Space; Victor Morales-Rios, Parks and Recreation Deputy Manager - Maintenance; Hillary Hanzel, Landscape Architect

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Curtis motioned to approve the agenda as presented.

Member Nybell seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

26-0618 Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee Meeting Minutes of March 10th, 2026

Member Sundy motioned to approve the meeting minutes for March 10th, 2026, as presented. Member Rosewig seconded. The motion

passed unanimously.

[26-0617](#) Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee Meeting Minutes of March 12th, 2026

Member Nybell motioned to approve the meeting minutes for March 12th, 2026. Member Sundy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

How to Increase Tree Plantings While Reducing Damage and Park Maintenance Time - Richard Wieland

- *The EDFC members stressed the importance of equity in their plantings and expressed the desire to balance tree planting with responsible spending. Parks was encouraged to design for improved maintenance.*

- *All areas, even low-maintenance areas, will require maintenance. (Example: Mulch installed to deter mowers/reduce area requiring mowing will still need yearly reapplication.)*

- *Parks has struggled with gradual encroachment of vegetative buffers (overhang, etc.) onto mowing paths. Staff have concerns that the eco-islands pitched by the Tree Town Urban Forest Team (TTUF) could potentially eat into recreational space. Natural emergences of invasives may occur, and Parks does not have the human power to attend to such situations.*

- *Native groundcover would be an excellent solution, but long-term commitments from Parks and from volunteers are the biggest obstacles. Volunteer commitment is not always reliable and ranges from episodic to consistent. Parks staff stressed that volunteering has costs attached to it and requires staff guidance/management, and there are only two full-time volunteer coordinators.*

- *Any planting projects in Parks must be reviewed by Parks. Larger plantings need to be approved by the Parks Advisory Commission and have a legal agreement in place with the participating volunteer group.*

- *Hillary Hanzel provided the following list of recent/upcoming Parks projects that may need investment:*

- *Corner of Maiden Lane/Fuller Park B2B trail*
- *Gallup Park walking trail behind Children's Fishing Pond*

- Landsdowne Park (trees were removed near the playscape, and a resident has requested replacement)
- Buhr Park tree screening

- The committee requested a list of opportunities from Parks be forwarded.

- Parks staff stated that the department is about to enter a 5-year comprehensive plan. This new plan is an overhaul of the previous process and involves a new contractor to assist in consultation.

Parks staff left the meeting at 9:42am.

Bicentennial Park Update - Jamie Pauline

Planting will take place this month.

Elm Trees - Richard Wieland

Member Davenport left the meeting at 9:55am. Quorum was maintained.

Member Curtis motioned to approve \$4,000 for the Dutch elm disease preventative treatment of three elm trees. Member Sundry seconded. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

26-0632 Davey Tree Expert Company Quote for 2026 Elm Treatment - Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee

Staff Report - Jamie Pauline

EDFC will not attend Huron River Days due to scheduling conflicts.

Chairman Wieland and Member Sundry will attend the LSNC Earth Day event.

26-0634 Staff Report for the Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee - April 14th, 2026

The EDFC will not attend Huron River Day due to scheduling conflicts.

Leslie Golf Course Orchard - Jamie Pauline

Member Rosewig left the meeting at 10:15am. Quorum was maintained.

Pauline went to the golf course and marked the sites for planting. She is

awaiting response from golf course management confirming the proposed layout before proceeding.

Hikone Proposal - Richard Wieland

Chairman Wieland, Member Nybell, Member Curtis, and Pauline walked the site with Torey Madura. Torey would like to replace trees that are missing or in very poor condition first. She would also like whatever usable wood can be reclaimed for the benefit of CAN programs.

The city will pay for removals/stump grinds.

Once trees blossom, types of cherry can be determined. The project will likely be pushed to FY2027.

Arbor Day Planting - Richard Wieland

The Arbor Day planting will take place on April 15th at 1pm at Pioneer High School. Student volunteers will assist.

Leslie Science and Nature Center - Richard Wieland and Jamie Pauline

Margolis bid on eastern white pines, white spruce, and Norway spruce in the contract. Planting is being considered on the northern end of the playscape near the treeline.

[26-0633](#) Project Proposal Form: Leslie Science and Nature Center - April 2026

Citizen Pruner Equipment - Nicholas Jacob

This expense is not in the budget for this fiscal year, so consideration will be pushed to FY2027.

Member Nybell left the meeting at 10:32am. Quorum was maintained.

Financial Overview - Richard Wieland

Chairman Wieland said he would update the financial overview.

[26-0619](#) Elizabeth Dean Fund Longer Term Plan and Priorities - April 14th, 2026 - Version A

[26-0620](#) Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee Budget Performance Report - April 1st, 2026

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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No public comment was made.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

- *Leslie Science and Nature Center - Phase 2*
- *Golf course orchard update*
- *Bicentennial Park update*
- *Elm treatment update*
- *Hikone project update*
- *Parks project list*
- *May budget review*

ADJOURNMENT

Member Sundry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Member Curtis seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (4-0), and the meeting adjourned at 10:41am.