

Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee

STAFF REPORT: MAY 11, 2021

COMMITTEE RESIGNATION

Sam Burnstein resigned his position on the committee April 15, 2021. We are now searching for his replacement. There has been one application submitted, however, it will likely take two to three months before it gets on City Council's agenda for approval.

17-YEAR CICADA EMERGENCE

You should expect to hear cicadas soon! Staff have noted holes in the ground starting to pop up around the city. www.a2gov.org/cicada.



POTENTIAL PROJECTS

1. Staff met with Finance about the projects approved by the committee and they determined the conifer community park, golf course, and Leslie Science and Nature Center (LSNC) projects were too similar are considered one project. We were given the following options:
 - a. Continue with the project, but would need to go to City Council for their approval, or
 - b. Reduce the scope of the project to stay below the \$25,000 project maximum which wouldn't require going to City Council.

Staff Liaison reached out to Committee Chair Wortman for guidance and it was decided that full funding would remain in effect for the community park plantings (\$14,000) and the golf courses and LSNC would split the remaining funds equally, each now receiving \$5,250 for a new not-to-exceed cost of \$24,500.00. Staff would not have time to take the full project to City Council before the end of the fiscal year.

Staff revised the golf club and LSNC plans and reissued a request for quotes as one project. Once quotes are in and a contractor selected, staff expects planting to take place in June.

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION CHANGE

With Finance's decision on the conifer trees plantings being one project, this may have implications on all planting projects the committee does moving forward. If all planting projects in one season are considered one project, that means the committee either:

1. need to leave staff enough lead time to take project(s) to City Council, which would require approximately 3+ months lead time, or
2. limit tree planting projects to under \$25,000 per planting season. This would mean the committee would be able to spend \$50,000 per year on tree planting, leaving the remaining \$10,000 for other tree related items such as plant healthcare, tree protectors, tree removal, and stump grinding. Staff just wants to make the committee aware of the impact to future projects when deciding which projects to fund and at what level.

Staff will support either way the committee wants to move forward.

ITEMS OF NOTE

1. The Natural Features Committee (NFC) SEAS Project. The project is underway. The students are in the process of being hired by the City for the field work/verification of data for this summer. At the end of this project, staff will have an updated Urban Tree Canopy Analysis, updated Natural Features Layer in GIS, and total carbon sequestered in our natural areas, among other valuable data.
2. Urban and Community Forest Management Plan Update. The city received one bid in response to our Request for Proposal for the management plan update. Davey Resource Group (DRG) was the sole applicant. We have awarded them the project and are in negotiations with them now to get project costs closer to the project budget. Kerry Gray will be project lead for DRG. This committee will be a key stakeholder in plan development. We will likely ask one or two of you to represent the committee in our stakeholder group. We will also hold general public engagement sessions, in which any resident is welcome to attend. Thank you to Chris Graham (NFC Chair) and Don Wortman for their participation in the selection process.