City of Ann Arbor

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

Tuesday, October 13, 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 Samuel Rosewig - Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor Township, Washtenaw County

Member Lynn Nybell - Berrien County, Michigan

Member Kimberley Sundy - home, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County

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

Member Brooks Curtis - home, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County

Member Ellen Ward - home, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County

Staff present: Nicholas Jacob, Urban and Community Forester; Kyle Tite, Public Works Supervisor - Forestry; Jamie Pauline, Urban Forest Partnership and Outreach Coordinator

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Change:
- Move "Equity Based Parks Discussion" before "Buhr Park Proposal."

Member Ellen Ward motioned to approve the agenda with the proposed changes. Member Curtis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

26-1501 Draft Meeting Minutes for the Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee: July 14th, 2026

26-1752 Final Minutes for the Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee: July 14, 2026

Member Nybell motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Member Sundy seconded. Members Ward and Rosewig abstained due to absence at the July meeting. The motion was approved (5-0-2). Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council.

26-1725 Draft Meeting Minutes for the Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee: September 8th, 2026

26-1753 Final Minutes for the Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee: September 8, 2026

Member Rosewig motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Member Curtis seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per speaker)

All persons are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Citizens requiring translation or sign language services or other reasonable accommodations may contact the City Clerk's office at 734.794.6140; via e-mail to: cityclerk@a2gov.org; or by written request addressed and mailed or delivered to:

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

Requests made with less than two business days' notice may not be able to be accommodated.

No public comment was made at the meeting or submitted beforehand.

BUSINESS

Staff Report - Jamie Pauline

Member Sundy reported that the Green Fair last month was well attended. The tree cookies in particular were popular with humans of all ages as well as canine friends. The mayor visited the booth.

Additions:

- The pruning poles were purchased.

For next staff report:

- Include next year's Earth Day event, Mayor's Green Fair, and Huron River Days as placeholders.

- Include a planting event with Huron High School as a placeholder.

26-1723 Staff Report for the Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee: October 13th, 2026

Bylaw Approval - Richard Wieland

26-1508 Proposed Revision of the Bylaws for the Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee: September 8th, 2026

The revisions will be forwarded to the city clerk.

Member Nybell motioned to approve the revision of the bylaws, subject to review and concurrence by city attorneys. Member Sundy seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Hikone Update - Richard Wieland

Pauline and Chairman Wieland met with Darlene Jones, the secretary of the Living Hope Church of the Nazarene, which abuts the east side of Hikone Road. Many trees are in bad shape. Trees will need to be removed, and stumps will need to be ground.

Jones expressed some considerations:

- The church is responsible for mowing.

- The rocks were placed along the grass strip between the church lot and Hikone Road to prevent people from driving over the grass. The rocks must be returned to their places after any work.

The EDFC hopes to plant the new trees in the spring, pending approval of funds.

Equity Based Parks Discussion - Richard Wieland

Members suggested ideas including:

- Reevaluating lists while simultaneously ensuring that projects are not forgotten about.

- Prioritizing two parks and doing the walkthroughs, then offering to plant where mowing will be less of a problem.

Hillary Hanzel has not directly responded to the contents of the letter/proposal sent after the September meeting.

Jacob reiterated that there are many bureaucratic hurdles to clear when planting in parks, since they are an external department to Forestry. Additionally, the 2044 goal for canopy coverage in parks and recreational areas is 50 percent; current coverage is 48 percent.

25-0767 Economically Disadvantaged Parks List

Buhr Park Proposal - Jamie Pauline

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

The EDFC had some concerns and questions about the proposal.

- The number of trees was not specified in the proposal due to uncertainty surrounding species/cultivars. An email regarding the project initially pitched 70 plantings, but this would more likely than not have applied to cultivars classified as shrubs and therefore outside the EDFC's purview.

- The committee wants native plantings if they move forward with the project.

- The committee suggested that Parks also reach out to Tree Town Urban Forest Team about the project idea as well.

Member Nybell left the meeting at 10:02am. Quorum was maintained.

26-1716 Project Proposal for the Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee: Buhr Park, October 2026

26-1717 Buhr Park Ice Rink Proposal Map - October 2026

Parks Update - Jamie Pauline

- Parks has pitched the idea of identifying projects in the fall, developing the ideas over the winter, and then planting in the spring/fall.

- Member Sundy suggested that Parks attend the February meeting and that the EDFC state their intentions.

- Members expressed a desire for a more concrete process.

- Jacob mentioned that the Forestry Department is working toward getting a better response time.

- Parks is pursuing a front-loading bond, which could expedite projects that might have had to wait for several more years.

- Committee briefly touched on the idea of having a proportion of funds assigned to equity-based projects and a proportion of funds assigned to filling existing vacancies.

- Whether or not the projects Parks proposes will be equity-based is not known at this time. As recommended in the preceding discussion, the list Hillary Hanzel provided to the committee could be cross-referenced with the list of economically disadvantaged parks to determine if projects that have already been proposed could classify as equity-based projects.

Financial Review - Richard Wieland

This topic was covered in the Budget Meeting Prep discussion.

26-1726 Financial Overview for the Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee: October 13th, 2026

Budget Meeting Prep - Richard Wieland

Member Rosewig left the meeting at 10:23am. Quorum was maintained.

Chairman Wieland went through his financial overview and income projections.

26-1727 Budget Performance Report for the Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee: October

2026

ADJOURNMENT

Member Sundy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Member Curtis seconded. Motion was approved unanimously (4-0). Meeting adjourned at 10:32am.