

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors
of
Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation, INC (dba FCMF)
April 26th, 2023

The board of directors of Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation, INC held an annual meeting on April 26th, 2023, at 6:30pm. This meeting was held at 2014 Bridle Ct.

The following directors, constituting a quorum of the full board, were present at the meeting:

Robert Walters

Todd Henning

Jayne Muenz

Chairpersons Present:

David Jones

The following directors were absent:

None

Chairpersons absent:

Marti Rossdahl

Governance

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the October 2022 board meeting were emailed to the board on October 14th and approved via email on October 15th.

Election of Officers

Election of President: Bob Walters nominated, seconded, no further nominations, vote called, elected unanimously.

Election of Secretary/ Treasurer: Todd Henning nominated, seconded, no further nominations, vote called, elected unanimously.

Treasurer Report

Todd presented a financial review and reports:

- Final 2022 numbers
 - Slight increase in Contributions continue a trend year over year
 - Expenses higher in 2022 in the following accounts
 - Mulch – 2022 was a mulch year
 - Front Entrance Center Island
 - Landscape Maintenance – Sitarz increase
 - Decorations
 - Expenses more than inflows
 - Result of ongoing efforts to be responsive to donors and use excess cash
 - Foundation cash is \$ 21,246.83; a decrease from previous year
 - Still adequate reserves
- No additional funds to Tree Grove fund. Grove fund reserve is \$6010
 - City is covering cost of replacement trees for now
 - Fund seems more like a general reserve or contingency fund
- B&D insurance renewal
 - Fee increased slightly from prior years - \$450 to \$468

Ongoing Business

Bob led a discussion on the following topics:

2021 Fundraising Status

- Fundraising: 2022 results & plans/results for 2023
 - finished 2022 with \$8,644 from 205 donors; strong results exceeding prior years with late October reply requested)
 - 23% online donations (about half the donors covered the transaction fee)
 - so far have received \$677 from 6 donors during 2023 including \$300 from the Townes of Fox Chase
 - plan to mail annual fundraising letter in late August/early September again this year
 - draft letter to be distributed for review in early August

Spring / Summer landscape plans

- Sitarz annual maintenance fee increased by 5% for 2023; recommend accepting quote. Board agreed to increase - \$6400 to \$6700 per season.
- grasses and shrubs were cut back; beds will be cleaned up and edged
- new plantings to replace fallen tree in Aintree/Keim Trail island, move existing hydrangeas into shade Firelight Hydrangeas (tall) complemented by mix of butterfly/pollinator friendly plants such as Allium Millenium Purple Coneflower
 - May need to consider shorter variety of pollinators to maintain roadway visibility
- flowering perennials to replace struggling plants on Aintree "hill" (recommend mix of Salsa Red Coneflowers and Allium Millenium)
- remove native grasses blocking visibility
 - Follow up efforts to donor concerns last fall
- plant Red whopper begonia flowers at entrance again this summer
 - current plans pending feasibility of tulips – see new item below
- City to replace dead oak tree in island with a Dawn Redwood; plan to replace crabapple trees on south parkway near Southgate in the fall
- Walk through with Sitarz to be scheduled later this spring

Annex North parkway area

- parkway between sidewalk and curb from Highgate Course to Aintree Rd
- No change in agreement with the City needed
- Board agreed to include this area in maintenance activities

Butterfly Garden / Pollinator Friendly plantings in boulevard

- Bob led discussion on pro and con of establishing a dedicated pollinator / butterfly garden (see minutes October 2022)
- Discussion included the competing goals of esthetics of median landscaping vs the practicality and functionality of a pure butterfly garden
- Board agreed our mandate is to lean toward enhancing beauty of landscaping
- Board also agreed to incorporate sustainable pollinator friendly varieties whenever possible while maintaining quality landscaping

Update on facebook page

- Jayme led a discussion on the new Fox Chase Boulelard Median Foundation Facebook website
- Will add to foundation outreach to community
- Page was created in February and currently has 39 followers
- Molly is admin on this site and will monitor to ensure any question or concerns are forwarded to the board

Creation of DBA (Assumed Name) for Foundation for donor check writing

- Todd led a discussion on the feasibility of creating a DBA in response to donors concerns that the Foundation name was too long to write on checks
- Fee to create a DBA name with Illinois is \$150 for 5 years (\$30 per year prorated to anniversary of formation date)
- Board agreed the fee was nominal and creation of DBA would continue efforts to address donors concerns, when possible.
- Board briefly discussed best DBA name to address the need and agreed upon the initials - FCMF

Construction planned by City on Fox Chase Boulevard – New item


- Jayme informed the board the resurfacing begins in May
- Bob pointed out that unusual traffic patterns and construction debris may add to the harsh conditions for plantings in the median
- Bob also pointed out that we may need to temporarily cut plantings shorter if they impede visibility during periods of redirected traffic patterns

Feasibility of Tulips at front entrance – New item

- Marti asked board to consider tulips at front entrance
- Concern on how to deal with stem after bloom and timing of cut back
- May need to coordinate with Aintree entrance plantings
- Bob will address with Sitarz on concerns and possible complimentary plantings for tulip area after the bloom
- Board can discuss further and decide at our fall meeting (if approved, tulip bulbs would be planted in October/November)

There being no further business, upon a motion made and carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Dated: April 28, 2023



Signature

Todd Henning, Treasurer / Secretary