



Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation, Inc.

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July 2015

Foundation Officers

Connie Thullen
President
20 Stirrup Cup Court

Christopher Naese
Vice President
12 Highgate Court

Bob Walters
Treasurer
2014 Bridle Court

Committee Chairs

Lynne Hepler
Communications
1010 Thoroughbred Cir

Todd Henning
Corporate
2010 Bridle Court

Dear Neighbors,

We are headed into the first year that maintenance is our priority. No new large plantings are on the agenda. We will have to deal with whatever winter damage has been done, but for the most part we have accomplished our planting plan which started in 2009! Hurray! Our annual request for support seems to be stabilizing at the \$30 level to cover on-going maintenance costs and replacement of damaged plants.

The new forsythia have tried hard this spring, but it looks like it'll be another year before we get a show of some color in the spring. Our hillside Tulips did a nice job this year, but the poppies didn't do so well. New plants went in last fall. We await their splendor. And didn't you just love the Black Eyed Susan show last fall? I thought it was spectacular and look forward to that again this fall.

Our newest project is more forward thinking. The spring show of multi-stem flowering trees in various places along the Median is something that I always look forward to each year. But, for the last couple of years, we have seen the loss of major branches. These trees are looking their age and we are seriously studying what to do about them. We are starting to save for their replacement, en masse. It will be hard to see these mature trees be gentrified, but we feel that a total replacement cluster by cluster will be more in keeping with that grove appearance that we have come to appreciate. This way all the trees in a particular grove will be the same age, just like now. There are 5 such points along the Median and we will treat each group as an entity and take care of them as they show the signs of morbidity. We are working closely with the city to discuss supply of specific varieties to keep the look we love at a price we can handle for removal and replanting. There will be more information on the website as we get closer to action on this project www.foxchaseboulevard.org.

In the spirit of replacement of old wood, I have decided to retire from the Foundation Board. Between serving the Community of Aintree and pursuing the circuitous route to the establishing the Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation, I have been engaged for 10 years now. I've decided that reseeding the Foundation Board with a vigorous, energetic and inspiring new vision would be a good thing. We have been very fortunate to have a couple of neighbors express interest and attend meetings and contribute to the ongoing efforts of the Foundation since it became official, so my replacement was not difficult. Todd Henning will be taking an official seat on the Board as the Secretary/Treasurer and Bob Walters will be replacing me as President.

It has been a real honor to work alongside Chris and Bob who have been involved for a very long time. Each has served in their specific neighborhoods before they joined the Foundation Board and they have been responsible caretakers of this project. I am grateful to leave the work in such capable hands.

(Over)

I will urge anyone with an interest in horticulture, administration, communication or just a desire to get involved in Community work, to let us know through the website and we will include you as a member-at-large. You can have a more active voice in what happens next. This will keep each neighborhood represented. All this for a few hours a year – honestly!

Keeping unsightly brush to a minimum along the Boulevard continues to plague us. The city policy is that brush must be placed on the **address side** of the property for pick-up. We are vigilant and the city promptly responds when we see infractions.

Again we are working with the city for our mulch supply and plan to apply a fresh layer and shovel-tip edge the landscape beds later this summer.

We continue to be grateful for all the support and interest in the median. We appreciate the feedback and hope we are being responsive to your concerns. We again want to thank Jeff Sitarz for his work and reasonable rates to us! We thank Midwest Groundcover for their consultation and great plants. We thank Aintree Community Association and the Townhomes of Fox Chase for their support again. And, most of all, we thank YOU for continuing to share our vision and interest in maintaining this great asset to our community. We hope you urge neighbors to contribute, as well, even if it is not the full \$30. We appreciate any donations. They can be made directly through the website or by snail mail using the enclosed donation form and return envelope.

Sincerely,
Connie Thullen