

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors
of
Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation, INC
October 1, 2019

The board of directors of Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation, INC held an annual meeting on October 1, 2019, at 7:00pm at 2014 Bridle Court.

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

Robert Walters

Todd Henning

Lynne Hepler

Chairpersons Present:

Jayne Muenz (Southgate volunteer)

The following directors were absent:

None

Chairpersons absent:

None

Governance

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the February 2019 board meeting were emailed to the board prior to the meeting. Lynne pointed out a spelling error in one name and a correction was made. A motion was made and seconded to accept the corrected minutes. A vote was taken and the corrected minutes were accepted.

Treasurer Report

Todd presented a financial review and reports:

- Foundation cash is \$19419.46
- Income is on pace to meet budgeted contributions.
- Expenses in line with budget but Todd noted the following:
 - No mulch, tree pruning expenses yet this year
 - Watering below budget due to wet summer
 - Postage expenses higher. Bob purchased a large number of stamps before the price went up.

Fundraising Status

Bob presented update on fundraising. Highlights:

- mailing released first week of September
- 149 donors for total of \$5,860 thru Sept 27th, includes \$250 donation from Townes of Fox Chase
- plan to post signs for a week in mid-October, saw slight uptick in donations last year after posting signs
- requested \$1,500 donation from Aintree Homeowners Association consistent with last year
- will submit request for Townes of Fox Chase donation for 2020.
- Bob noted that the foundation is slowly accumulating funds in excess of what is needed to maintain the median. A short discussion followed as to the implications and ways to remedy. Given that Sitarz has not completed the replacements from the freeze / thaw damage from last year it may be possible that outflows may increase at the end of 2019. No action was taken at this time, but the foundation will monitor for excess funds.

Ongoing Business

Bob led a discussion on the following topics:

Landscaping Plans

- City tree replacements for two dead trees in median near Aintree Rd is planned for this fall/spring
- Sitarz maintenance update:
 - Shrubs were hit hard by the freeze / thaw especially by Chasse circle. Some may be cut back and allowed to fill in but some may need to be replaced.
 - Will move grasses at Highgate/Southgate intersection and cut the junipers shorter (this will help remedy the vision problem for traffic), also move Black-eyed Susan perennials and move Nepeta's by junipers to replace

perennials; replace Hostas at entrance (more Nepeta's? or gro-low sumac to fill in)

- Additional tree pruning planned to remove damaged branches
- Trimming this year was delayed to allow bushes to fill in from winter freeze; hopeful that burning bushes at Chasse will fully recover in the spring
- Placed dirt and grass seed in bare spots at entrance median
- Will stake crooked Oak tree in median to try to straighten
- May need supplemental perennials (Phlox) planted in Aintree "hill" after removing volunteer Black-eyed Susan plants
- Sitartz wanted to know if we wanted to cut back the black-eye susan plants in the fall or leave them to spring like last year. Bob will get back to them that they should cut back in the fall.

Press Release / Media Coverage

Lynne reviewed recent efforts in outreach through media.

- Kane County Connects and St Charles The Den are the next targets for outreach
- Emphasis on informing public of our bootstrap efforts to improve the community with the cooperation of the City
- Jamie mentioned she has a contact that will be willing to take pictures of the median and will follow up with Lynne. Our goal is to get pictures of all 4 seasons on the median. Getting pictures or videos with a drone is also a possibility.

Brush Dumping update

- Good progress over summer, very few brush incidents reported
- City continues to contact residents which is helping
- Will continue being vigilant in reporting incidents to City officials, contacting residents as appropriate

Holiday Wreaths

- Three (3) holiday wreaths to be placed at Dunham Rd entrance - coordinated with Aintree Community Association. Wreaths placed at Aintree and Squire Ln entrances - will purchase from Boy Scout Troop 13 again this year. Same price as last year.

Questions/Requests from 2019 mailing from Donors

- Bob received the following Questions from donors. Each was discussed by the board and Bob will follow up with each donor on our response. Bob plans to add the Q&A to the website.
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- Q - Can we have City install speed bump on Fox Chase Blvd to slow down traffic?
 - A – Item (h) of our Charitable purpose is to engage in other activities related to improving the median area of Fox Chase. While this gives us latitude to take on projects outside of horticulture, speed bumps would be outside the median area on the street and beyond the scope of our objectives. In addition, our license with the City is limited to the median as outlined in our improvement plan. Jayme had similar experience in a different neighborhood of St Charles and remarked it is difficult to effect grassroots change with the City in this area.
- Q - Who takes care of Chasse Circle entrance sign?
 - A - The foundation has inquired with the City as to the owner of the sign and found there is no formal record establishing the sign. The sign is currently cared for by a resident and on private property. Unfortunately, the sign is outside the median area and outside the scope of improvements with which the foundation can be involved.
- Q - Fox Chase Blvd/Dunham Rd needs lighting
 - A – This issue was addressed 3 years ago in cooperation with the Aintree homeowner association. Brighter lighting was installed in the existing light pole at that time. Aintree homeowner’s association would be the organization to coordinate future improvement to the lighting.
- Q – Can we install flagpole in median area and raise flag during special days (e.g. 9/11)
 - A – While a new flagpole would be located within the median and covered by item H of our charitable purpose (see above), it would be beyond the scope of the license with the city since our improvement plan did not include a flagpole. We would need to address this issue with the city to get their approval and permit. Even if the city approved of the change there are concerns that we could continually maintain the flagpole with the respect that is required. At the minimum, additional chairman positions would need to be added to the foundation to ensure the flagpole is properly used and maintained.

New Items

- Annuals v perennials at entrance
 - The City plantings at the entrance are now all perennials.
 - Bob will reach out to the City to see if the future plan includes any annuals. The foundation thinks annuals will add a better look to the entrance.

- Currently there is space at the tip of the entrance median that is open. Sitarz will add mums and cabbage kale in this area.
- Efforts at resident engagement / recognition
 - Todd mentioned that the foundation could recognize residents in some way for maintaining their property adjacent to the median
 - Another idea was allocating a portion of the median to interested individuals or groups to maintain contributing time and labor rather than funds. Since the foundation is well funded at this time this is not something that is needed.
- Tax benefits of donations to foundation
 - Todd mentioned that the new tax law has reduced the ability for some donors to benefit directly on their tax returns by taking an itemized deduction for their contribution.
 - Some retired donors are allocating a portion of their RMD from retirement funds to the foundation and getting a tax benefit through a different strategy.
 - Todd will write a short article explaining this strategy that the board can consider for the website or future informational mailings.

There being no further business, upon a motion made and carried, the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting in February or March of 2020.

Dated: October 2, 2019



3-24-2020

Signature

Todd Henning, Treasurer / Secretary