

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors
of
Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation, INC
October 13th, 2022

The board of directors of Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation, INC held an annual meeting on October 13th, 2022, at 6:30pm. This meeting was held online via Zoom.

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 March 2022 board meeting were emailed to the board prior to the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. A vote was taken and the minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer Report

Todd presented a financial review and reports:

- Foundation cash is \$ 26076.69. YTD contributions on pace for a good year for fundraising. Best year for cash on hand and donations since foundation transitioned to maintenance mode.
- Todd's Quicken program currently not receiving downloads from Chase and Paypal so numbers on reports not reconciled. Bob and Todd will work to fix.

Ongoing Business

Bob led a discussion on the following topics:

2022 Fundraising Status

- Letter mailed Sept 12th; thru 10/13 we have received \$7,600 from 178 donors; solid results so far; prompt response from donors
- Aintree increased donation to \$3,000; typically \$1,500 (not included in above total)
- Townes of Fox Chase contributed \$250 in January (included above); letter requested donation for 2023 sent
- Jayme's recent online post generated several donations -- thanks Jayme for sending this out
 - Jayme mentioned that a neighbor was willing to create a formal Facebook page to improve this method of community outreach about median
 - A discussion followed on the benefits of a facebook page
 - David said that he would administer page to ensure correct message is being delivered to community
 - Will decide on this issue next meeting
- Many positive comments saying good job, boulevard looks lovely, etc. Two donors said the payee name is too long.
 - Todd researched what needed to allow donors to use a different name on the payor line of checks
 - We would need to file paperwork with Illinois to create an assumed name
 - Approval would be supplied to the bank to allow donors to use this shortened name on check
 - Cost would be \$150 for 5 years (\$30 per year) to file this with Illinois
 - FCMBF suggested as potential Assumed Name / DBA
 - Will discuss again next meeting

Landscape Update

- Conducted walk-through with Sitarz on Aug 20th (see notes from walkthrough at end of minutes). All members of Board were present.
- Action items from walkthrough currently being addressed
- Weeds in grass were sprayed, including north side of boulevard parkway
- Mulch/wood chips spread on center islands; mums & decorative cabbage planted at entrance replacing begonias

- received approval from park district to put mulch on portion of south entrance hill not mulched by resident, work to be completed soon
- Perennials removed at Southgate/Highgate island; replacements planned in spring to avoid salt this fall (Sedum Dazzleberry)
- Dead tree replacement by the City expected later this fall; shrub replaced by City in Aintree Rd island

Motorist Visibility Issues

- Issue identified 10/3; juniper shrubs removed; native grasses cut back on same day - this area will be seeded with grass; no future plantings in the area to maintain clear line of sight
- Jayme responded to online comments - asking for other areas where motorist visibility is a concern
- Jayme provided copies of facebook pages that show Foundation has been responsive to community concerns in a timely fashion. Todd will file these pages in records of foundation.
- Will continue to seek input in future correspondence
- Bob mentioned he is currently working with another Chasse donor on a visibility issue. He will verify with resident the shrub that is impacting visibility and take action with Sitarz.
- A current Certificate of Liability for Sitarz was provided in conjunction with work being done on Park District property. This should automatically be provided every year. Todd filed this in the records of the foundation.

Fall Decorations at Entrance

- Thanks to Marti for her efforts in conceiving the design, making the wreaths and scarecrow and installing everything on 10/3 - thanks to Jayme for purchasing the gourds/pumpkins and taking pictures
- Display will be included in the Park District's Gallery of Ghoulish Homes Tour on Oct 14 thru Halloween
- Still working on the spotlight on the scarecrow, issues with the electrical circuit

New Items

- Addressing dying trees in south parkway are behind 245 Chase Circle; not sure if in parkway or on personal property - waiting on City response
 - Unclear who owns trees – Bob will have Jeff pick up branches in the interim
- Miscellaneous inquiries: Chasse entrance sign; moving Horse statue; lighting for Horse statue
 - All common inquiries from donors
 - Entrance signs are responsibility of neighborhoods
 - Not feasible or appropriate to move horse statue

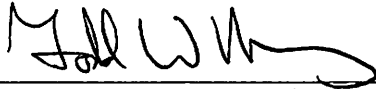
- Entrance lighting issues -- lights are turning on mid-afternoon, 3 "uplights" on columns not working - Aintree Association will be addressing
- Stone walls and caps at all major entrances within Aintree (including Dunham Rd) were power-washed by Sitarz; significant improvement especially removing the dirt, grime and mold on concrete caps at Dunham Rd – thanks to Aintree for funding this improvement
- Holiday Wreaths from Boy Scouts ordered; to be installed week of Thanksgiving - 3 for Median Foundation; 4 for Aintree
 - Bob will supply invoice and new address for payment by Todd

New Items for Discussion

- Should we continue to maintain north parkway (city owned) and south entrance hill (park district owned)?
 - Discussion on merits of expanding scope of median maintenance
 - Funds are available
 - Within scope of charitable purpose
 - May want additional approval from City or North parkway added to license, still attempting to set up meeting with City
 - Board generally in favor of expanding scope
 - Formal motion will be held next meeting to annex these areas
- Meeting with City Public Works?
 - City has been unresponsive to setting up meeting to discuss numerous items
 - We will continue efforts to reach out to City
- Pollinator garden/monarch waystation in median suggestion – Marti
 - Discussion on merits of establishing a pollinator garden
 - Bob educated board from his research on what is involved in establishing pollinator garden
 - May not contribute to aesthetically improving median despite worthwhile purpose – is this appropriate for median
 - Sitarz will support this effort but doesn't recommend placement within median area; there is a higher maintenance cost for a pollinator garden (e.g hand weeding and unique care of plants); Sitarz will assist in plant selection and will work with his garden suppliers for recommendations
 - Board generally undecided if pollinator garden is appropriate for median
 - Bob will reach out to Marti for more information and pictures of her personal pollinator garden /monarch waystation
 - Bob mentioned that we have several large groupings of pollinator friendly plantings currently in the median (e.g. Nepeta and Black-eyed Susan), but we need to emphasize using more pollinator friendly plants within the median planting areas
 - Board will discuss and decide at next Board meeting

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

Dated: 10/15/2022



Signature

Todd Henning, Treasurer / Secretary

Items tabled for discussion or for approval at next Board Meeting

Creation of a Facebook page to promote median

Formally Annex north parkway (city owned) and south entrance hill (park district owned)

Creation of a pollinator garden / monarch waystation as part of 2023 improvements

Creating an Assumed Name for Foundation for 2023 fundraising cycle

Items from Boulevard Walkthrough with Jeff Sitarz on 8/20/2022

Entrance Island/Surrounding Areas

- Jeff will contact Aintree about mulch on north entrance hill (near statue and around trees) and areas adjacent to the stone pillars (Park District property maintained by Aintree)
- "Good" mulch (shredded bark) to be used in front, center island and on portion of Highgate/Southgate island between curb and sidewalk
- Trim low hanging trees in middle and sides of front entrance
- Jeff will provide quote for mulch, include option for south side Park District hill area not covered by Aintree or areas already mulched by Anne Hyler (nearby resident) – Bob to talk with Park District to secure approval for Median Foundation to care for these landscape areas and trees on south side of entrance including weed control for grass
- Bob to check with City regarding wood chips or hopefully something better; otherwise Jeff will provide wood chips for remaining islands from Highgate/Southgate to Winners Cup Circle
- Jeff will edge all the landscape beds and trim trees, remove dead limbs (included in our annual maintenance contract)
- Jeff to apply another round of weed kill in the grassy areas (including grass area between curb and sidewalk on north side of Fox Chase Blvd from Highgate Course to Aintree Rd)
- Jeff will remove begonias at front and plant Kale/Mums in late Sept/early Oct
- Jeff to provide quote to Aintree to power wash stone entrance pillars, walls and concrete caps (covered with dirt/algae)

Highgate/Southgate to Chasse Circle Island

- Remove struggling Black-eye Susan plants and move to other beds
- Remove all Nepata and replant into front island near stone pillars
- Plant a row of new Sedum Dazzleberry between curb and existing junipers (Jeff to provide quote)

- Remove existing Beardtongues that are struggling, Jeff to give quote for replacement plants
- Trim low tree branches/remove suckers
- Spread dirt/grass seed in bare spots

Chasse Circle to Aintree Rd Island

- Forsythia in landscape bed near Chasse Circle are struggling, but we will leave them as is (remove plants as they die/look bad)
- Trim huge fir tree away from Blvd, widen bed around it
- Stake crooked tree?
- City to replace dead tree (Bob to contact Jeremy Craft)
- Trim suckers from trees/trim low hang branches
- Remove volunteer Black-eye Susan plants from flower hill; Jeff to check for replacement perennial plants for Sedum on north side that are not doing well

Aintree Rd to Keim Trail Island

- Remove struggling plants from northeast edge of bed near Aintree Rd, spread dirt and plant grass to shrink the landscape bed – maintain clear vision at this intersection for cars turning east onto Fox Chase Blvd.
- City to replace dead yew (Bob to contact Chris Gottlieb)