

April 13, 2016

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2016

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Public Garden convened at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at the First Church in Boston, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston, MA. Vice Chair Colin Zick welcomed members and guests.

Chair's Report

On behalf of Chair Anne Brooke, Mr. Zick welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Councilor Josh Zakim for attending. Mr. Zick congratulated Executive Director Liz Vizza on being named one of Boston's Women in Preservation by Preservation Massachusetts.

Minutes

Upon a motion being duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2015 Annual Meeting as distributed.

Governance Report

Ms. Patti Quinn, Vice Chair of the Governance Committee, reported that the Committee recommended the election of Christine Anderson, Claire Corcoran, and Beatrice Nessen to three-year terms on the Board of Directors.

Upon a motion being made and duly seconded, it was unanimously

VOTE: to approve the slate as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. William Clendaniel, Treasurer, referred to the Treasurer's Report distributed at the meeting. He reported that the Friends had a spectacular year. In particular, membership is up, and many gifts have increased over the previous year. He thanked all members for their generosity. He also reported that while the endowment for the Friends was slightly down in 2015, it had done well in comparison to other comparable institutions.

Director's Report

Ms. Vizza reported on many of the past year's activities as well as plans for the coming year. Extensive tree care, including pruning and disease controls, occurred. Turf improvements were undertaken, including 12 acres of the Common that were treated with lime for the first time. The panels in the Common that are part of the off-leash dog program are continuing to receive focus. Thirty-two pieces of sculpture were maintained or conserved. A new steward was hired for the Mall. The Rose Brigade now has two co-chairs, China Altman and Carl Foster, which will help that group continue into the future with their good work. The second 225' section of the Boylston Street Border project has been completed. The White Memorial Fountain Project will be completed in 2016, thanks to the generous contributions from neighbors of \$400k for the project and \$300k for a maintenance fund. The Brewer Plaza saw its first post-construction year in 2015, and this year will again feature programming, including a rotating schedule of four food trucks, overseen by the Friends. Planning for Duckling Day on May 8th and Making History on the Common on June 6th are well under way. The

docent program is being relaunched as the “Untold Stories of the Public Garden” and will feature free one-hour tours, twice a day, three days a week. A user survey for the Common will be undertaken in 2016. And the Friends will continue its advocacy work with the City, with focus on public safety and development near the parks. The Friends is also partaking in advocacy efforts citywide, as part of the Boston Parks Advocates, to get the Community Preservation Act onto the November ballot, and to help “Green Voices” be heard in the Imagine Boston 2030 project.

In addition to thanking the staff of the Friends, Ms. Vizza recognized the work of the Boston Parks Department for all their efforts in the parks and she said that the Friends would again host a Parks Department Appreciation Lunch for all the grounds and horticulture staff that work in our parks. She also noted that the newly released City budget appears to have level funded the Parks Department.

Henry and Joan Lee Sculpture Endowment

On behalf of Chair Anne Brooke and the Friends, Mr. Zick announced the creation of the Henry and Joan Lee Sculpture Endowment. The fund is being launched with a goal of raising \$2.5 million to care for 42 sculptures and fountains in the parks, which will support the Friends’ annual average expenditure of \$100,000 for sculpture care..

Mr. Henry Lee, on behalf of himself and his wife, Joan, thanked the Friends for this announcement. In particular, he thanked Ms. Brooke for having chaired the Friends so ably.

Guest Speaker

Mr. Zick then introduced Mr. David Dearing, Curator of Paintings & Sculptures at the Boston Athenaeum, who gave a slide presentation about the sculpture collection in the parks, entitled Museums Without Walls.

There being no other business, Mr. Zick adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Bordon
Secretary