

## 2017 Annual Report - Commonwealth Avenue Mall

### **Pruning**

**\$61,050**

Friends consultant, Norm Helie and Friends Project Manager, Bob Mulcahy have continued the sequenced pruning program that has now been in place for several years. Barrett Tree has continued to be the primary contractor for this work. With the several bad storms this spring, we are happy to report, almost no damage to any of the Mall trees. We are convinced this is because of the regular pruning being done.

### **Disease Control**

**\$50,625**

Year five of the European elm bark beetle monitoring program has been very helpful in our disease control efforts, providing us and the Parks Department data on periods of beetle activity and volume of beetles. We are using this IPM data to concentrate our use of insecticides and fungicides during the highest periods of activity to alert us as to the low activity periods when it is safe to prune. The Friends also continued to monitor the trees for DED indicators, looking at yellowing branches and removing these branches to look for signs of streaking. Samples are taken and sent to the lab for confirmation and the tree is treated in appropriate steps, all important prevention measures. This work is coordinated by Bob Mulcahy, Norm Helie and City Arborist Greg Mosman.

### **Soil Improvement and Fertilization**

**\$33,800**

Because of the continued illegal use of the Charlesgate block of the Mall as an off leash dog recreation area, we suspended any extra ordinary turf care measures as this would be throwing money down the drain. We will keep the irrigation system operational. All other blocks received aeration, liquid soil amendments, and seeding. This season the program will be increased in intensity.

### **Irrigation**

**\$28,630**

Cambridge Landscape has been contracted by the Friends to operate the irrigation system on all blocks of the Mall up to Charlesgate East. New more easily accessible control boxes have been installed in the Arlington-Clarendon blocks. Research is underway into a more modern system to control the timing, which could be done remotely and could be more weather dependent, as a way to save water and be more beneficial for the trees and turf.

### **Sculpture Conservation and Maintenance**

**\$15,000**

Regular washing and waxing of Mall statues has been carried out according to the recommendations of Collections Care Manager Sarah Hutt. There will also be some assessments done of the stone bases of several of the Mall sculptures. This is year nine of this program.

### **Sculpture Lighting**

**\$4,300**

This year we contracted with Available Light to do a plan for the lighting of three of the sculptures on the Mall: the Garrison, the Collins, and the Morison. We did a mock-up of the lighting proposals in February and are currently developing a presentation that will be made to

the Landmarks Commission for their comments and feedback. While we hope to be able to light the Morison as an initial project, we need to have the other two designed with costs – which have more complicated installation issues – which as a package would make a fundraising appeal to the neighborhood more effective.

**Sponsored Trees**

**\$7,775**

We planted five new trees on the Mall in 2017 and replaced three oaks that did not establish. The oaks were under warranty so no cost was borne by the Friends.

**Park Rangers**

**\$1,666**

This is the Mall's allocation for the \$5,000 contribution to the Friends of the Boston Park Ranger Mounted Unit. This is not in the FY18 budget.

**Graffiti Removal**

**Donation**

Patti Quinn continues her one-woman graffiti removal service, sanding and removing graffiti from the Mall benches. The graffiti situation on the Mall is pretty much under control due to the speedy removals.

**Statue Landscaping**

**Donation**

The Garden Club of the Back Bay continues to care for the plantings around the Collins and the Sarmiento. A small wire fence was placed around the Sarmiento last summer and has served to keep the dogs out of the beds. It will be kept in place as long as it is in good repair.

**Volunteer Watering**

**\$1,250**

Susan Juretschke recruits and schedules volunteer waterers for the newly planted trees. We water these new trees for three years after planting and others when appearing stressed. The improved irrigation system has made this task much more efficient.

**Litter Pickup**

**\$7,600**

John Babb will be working for us again this summer to do the extra litter pick up from spring until the first snow. This year he will extend his pick up once a week or so into the Charlesgate block.

**TOTAL Expenditures**

**\$211,696**

Submitted by Margaret Pokorny, Commonwealth Avenue Mall chair