

January 22, 2018

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

Executive Committee Minutes January 22, 2018

The Executive Committee of the Friends of the Public Garden met at 69 Beacon Street at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 22, 2018. Members present: Ms. Adam, Ms. Bordon, Ms. Burns, Ms. Mason, Mr. Clendaniel, and Mr. Zick. Executive Director Elizabeth Vizza was also present.

Ms. Adam, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order.

Minutes

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

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2017 Executive Board Meeting as amended.

PR Communications with Solomon McCown

Ms. Burns updated the group that an initial meeting with the PR team was held and that the scope of work has been specified. Solomon McCown will spend the next 1 to 2 weeks gathering information by holding 1-1 interviews with stakeholders, as well as some focus groups. A wide range of opinions and input will be sought. A full media plan will be developed.

FOPG Goals

Ms. Vizza reported on the 2018 Organizational Goals document which was distributed. She noted that the language and overarching goals have been taken directly from the 5 Year Strategic Plan and that we are in year 5. While the goals are fixed by the Plan, the objectives can be revisited based on current situations and previous progress that has been made against the Plan. A reasonable goal for 2018 would be to review the existing Strategic Plan to determine progress and to determine if a new plan should be created, and if a Board offsite should be held. Metrics will need to be determined to gauge progress. Budget and staff resources need to be looked at if a new strategic plan is determined to be needed.

Updates

FOPG/BPRD Partnership Plan

Ms. Vizza reported that the operations manual is being worked on, Commissioner Cook and the Friends will review it this spring with the goal of it being incorporated into an MOU.

Hempfest Advocacy

Ms. Adam reported that the Friends have met with other groups that have been impacted by Hempfest and are preparing materials to bring to the City's legal counsel.

MLK Memorial

Ms. Adam and Ms. Vizza have met with Paul English to discuss a proposed Boston MLK memorial. The Common is being considered as a possible location. They presented a map and a listing of existing statues and plaques in the park and also referenced that there will be a comprehensive master plan for the park. MLK Boston has issued an RFQ for the project with the goal of narrowing the field to five potential artists.

Shaw Memorial

Ms. Vizza and Ms. Burns reported that the most recent cost analysis for the project has increased from \$2.5M to \$3.0M. The NPS is still committed to providing half the funding from the Helium Fund. The Pierce Trust has committed \$500K. The Friends has committed \$250K. The City has committed \$500K thus far, although they recognize that additional funds will be needed. It is to be determined if these will come from the Winthrop Square project, the new CPA, or other City sources. The Pierce Trust has separately approved a \$100K grant to the Museum of African American History to support education to happen during the renovation. The Friends has also allocated \$15K to programming.

Brewer 150th!

A celebration is being planned for June 14th to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Brewer Fountain.

Winthrop Square Next Steps/Agreements

Ms. Vizza and Ms. Adam reported that the IAG has been scheduled to meet and that the DEIR for the project has been issued. The Friends External Affairs Task Force is scheduled to meet January 23, however there do not appear to be any outstanding issues that will impact the park that are still on the table. The Friends will continue to stay very engaged. Mr. Taylor is on the IAG. The Board and the membership will be kept up to date on issues and developments on the project and the Friends will continue to monitor the City's and the developer's commitments closely – the Downtown Planning Study, the Common master plan, the Millennium mitigation funds payments, and the transfer of funds from the City to the parks Department to fund the master plan.

Boston Common Master Plan

A draft scope for this document is almost completed, to be sent to the Parks Department for their review.

Other Business

Board Portal on Website – Ms. Abell and Ms. Jordan joined the meeting at this time to discuss what functionality is wanted and what is possible for the Board Portal. They will look into additional software tools such as Dropbox and Google docs to store and share information for the Board. Ms. Abell and Ms. Jordan left the meeting at this time.

Council Charter

Mr. Clendaniel outlined a change to the Charter to allow membership on the Council to be updated by the Governance Committee after proposed members are approved by the Board. The Governance Charter would also be updated to reflect such a change.

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Adam adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Bordon
Secretary