

**FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN**  
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
April 11, 2018

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Public Garden met at The Omni Parker Hotel, Boston, on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 4:00pm.

Members present: Mesdames Adam, Anderson, Bordon, Burns, Corcoran, Cox, Johnson, Mason, Pokorny, Quinn and Messrs. Albright, Burnes, Mead, Taylor, and Zick.

Members absent: Mesdames Achtmeyer, Nessen, O’Keeffe, and Mr. Clendaniel.

Ms. Vizza and Ms. Halpern were also present for the meeting.

Ms. Adam, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

**Minutes of the February 7, 2018 Board Meeting**

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

**VOTED:** to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2018 Board Meeting as amended.

**Governance Report**

Ms. Quinn reported on efforts of the Governance Committee to increase diversity on the Board and the Council. Ms. Vizza has met with Carol Fulp, President of The Partnership, and has engaged their services to help with this. Ms. Adam has also met with Steven Wright of the law firm Holland & Knight. Candidates for the Board and the Council that would help to increase diversity in many areas – race, age, neighborhood, background – would be considered.

Ms. Quinn also reported that three of the Council members who had been previously approved for membership, have accepted joining the Council. Response from a fourth nominee is still pending. She also referred to the report dated April 11, 2018 Council Nominations to be approved by the Board of Directors, which provided information and details about an additional three individuals that the Governance Committee would like to approach for membership on the Council.

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

**VOTED:** to approve the three proposed Council members.

Ms. Quinn also reviewed the slate of Directors which would be presented for approval by the Friends membership at the Annual Meeting, directly following the Board Meeting. She also offered a heartfelt thank you to Ms. Pokorny, who will be cycling off the Board at this time, although she will remain as Chair of the Commonwealth Avenue Mall Committee.

### **PR Communications Consulting**

Ms. Adam reported that Solomon McCown presented their report, Insights Presentation and 2018 Strategy, to the staff earlier in the day and that it stimulated a lively discussion. The value of the report, and its actionable items, as well as the potential further benefit from continuing with the relationship with SM was discussed. It was noted that the current budget has funds allocated for a full year of PR consulting.

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

**VOTED:** to approve an extension of the existing 6-month contract with Solomon McCown, scheduled to end July 1, 2018, for an additional 6 months.

### **Updates**

#### **Shaw/54<sup>th</sup> Reconstruction Project**

Ms. Vizza provided an update on the Shaw/54<sup>th</sup> project. The construction documents are in process. The tripartite agreement is near to complete, with the remaining issues dealing primarily with the process by which the City will transfer funds to the Federal government/National Parks Service, as they are the project lead. The budget appears to be settled, with the NPS having provided input regarding their mandatory rates and adjustments, at \$2.8M. The NPS is still committed to providing half the necessary funding. The Friends portion remains at \$250K, the Pierce Trust at \$500K, and the City is anticipated to assume the rest. The project will be bid out in the fall of 2018, with construction due to start in the spring of 2019. Concurrent programming around the project will be developed, and a committee, including several high-profile honorary members, is being organized to support this effort.

#### **Friends/Parks Partnership Plan**

Ms. Vizza and Ms. Adam referred to the Framework DRAFT, dated March 14, 2018, of the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department and Friends of the Public Garden Cooperative Agreement, which was circulated prior to the meeting. They noted that the first goal is to complete the Operations Manual and that working meetings have been scheduled to achieve this. A more complete Partnership Plan will follow.

#### **Pilot portable bathrooms on Boston Common**

Ms. Burns, in her role as advisor to the Harold Whitworth Pierce Charitable Trust, reported further on the proposed pilot program to bring portable toilets to the Boston Common.

Upon a motion being duly made and seconded, with Ms. Burns abstaining, it was

**VOTED:** to authorize the Executive Committee to finalize an agreement to serve as fiscal agent between the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Harold Whitworth Charitable Trust, for the purpose of furthering the grant of \$1M by the Trust to the City, to pilot portable bathroom facilities on the Boston Common.

### **Executive Session**

At 4:45 pm Ms. Adam requested that the Board move into Executive Session. Ms. Vizza and Ms. Halpern left the meeting at this time.

Ms. Adam reviewed with the Board the process of discussions and feedback which has occurred related to the annual performance review of Ms. Vizza. After a thorough and thoughtful discussion by the Board of recently available salary surveys, as well as known information from other similar non-profit organizations, as well as current market conditions, and

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

**VOTED:** to approve the Salary and Bonus as proposed for Ms. Vizza, Executive Director.

There being no other business, Ms. Adam adjourned the meeting at 5:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Bordon, Secretary