

April 12, 2017

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

2017 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 2017

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Public Garden convened at 5:10 pm on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at the First Church of Boston, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston, MA. First Vice Chair Colin Zick welcomed members and guests.

Welcome

Mr. Zick welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked elected representatives including Councilor Josh Zakim and Senator Jay Livingstone for attending. Mr. Zick spoke briefly of the long term nature of the mission of the Friends and the importance of caring for the Parks for future generations as well as current users. He invited those who are available to attend an upcoming event to celebrate the planting of a memorial tree for the Friends late Board Chair Anne Brooke at the newly restored George Robert White fountain on June 7, 2017. Mr. Zick also thanked those board members whose terms have expired and are stepping off the Board at this time.

Minutes

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

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2016 Annual Meeting as distributed.

Governance Report

Ms. Kate Enroth, Chair of the Governance Committee, reported that the Committee recommended the election of Allison Achtmeyer, Leslie Adam, Gordon Burnes, Elizabeth L. Johnson, Frank Mead, Katherine O’Keeffe, and Allan Taylor 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 another very strong year. In particular, he thanked all members of the Friends, both past and present, for their generosity. He also reported that the campaign to fund the Henry and Joan Lee Sculpture Endowment, which was announced at the 2016 Annual Meeting, is nearing completion, having achieved \$2.3 million of the \$2.5 million goal.

Director’s Report

Ms. Vizza reported on many of the past year’s activities as well as plans for the coming year. The Friends spent \$1 million on tree, turf and sculpture care across the three parks. Extensive

tree care, including pruning of 350 of the 1700 trees in the parks, occurred. Turf improvements were undertaken, including 2700 pounds of soil amendments for the Commonwealth Avenue Mall. 21 of the 42 pieces of sculpture were maintained or conserved, under the guidance of Sarah Hutt. This year will mark the 30th year of the Rose Brigade in the Public Garden, and a “China Altman Rose” will be planted in June to commemorate the founder of this wonderful group of volunteers. The Boylston Street border will be completed this year, and the Border Brigade will help care for it, as well as the Beacon Street border. The George Robert White Fountain restoration project has been completed. The Brewer Fountain Plaza programming has begun and this year will feature an expanded food truck program, the revenue from which helps to offset programming costs. Public Programs continue to be important and planning for both this year’s Duckling Day on May 14th and Making History on the Common on June 5th are well under way. The popular Public Garden free tour program, “Untold Stories of the Public Garden” will continue this year. The Boston Common User Survey has been completed. The Community Preservation Act was passed in Boston and the Friends continues to be part of the process of implementing CPA including recommendations for individuals to serve on the Community Preservation Committee which will oversee spending the anticipated \$20 million in funds this Act will raise, to ensure that park interests are well represented. The Friends also, as always, continues to advocate for the three parks throughout the year to bring attention to the impact of overuse/misuse of the Common for large-scale events, public safety within the Parks, and the impact of nearby development – most notably the proposed Winthrop Tower project. 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 Staff Appreciation Lunch at Maggiano’s. She expressed her thanks to all the members of the Friends, the Board of Directors, the Council, and the excellent and hardworking staff. Ms. Vizza also recognized other elected officials at the meeting, including Representative Bryon Rushing and Senator Will Brownsberger, and City Councilors Michelle Wu and Tito Jackson.

Guest Speaker

Ms. Vizza introduced Mr. Alex Krieger, FAIA, principal of architecture firm NBBJ, professor at the Harvard School of Design, and recent recipient of the Boston Society of Architect’s Award of Honor.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Bordon
Secretary