**Friends of the Public Garden**

2018 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2018

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Public Garden convened at 5:40 pm on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at the Omni Parker House Hotel, 60 School Street, Boston, MA.

**Welcome**

Ms. Adam, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She recognized Jay Livingstone, who came briefly. Ms. Adam also offered thanks to the Members and staff of the Friends, including all those in attendance.

**Minutes**

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

**VOTED:** to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2017 Annual Meeting as published.

**Governance Report**

Ms. Patti Quinn, Chair of the Governance Committee, reported that the Committee recommended the election of Bear Albright, Linda Cox, Kate Enroth, Barbara Moore, Patti Quinn, and Anne Swanson to three-year terms on the Board of Directors.

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

**VOTED**: to approve the slate as presented.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Mr. Bear Albright, Assistant Treasurer, referred to the Treasurer’s Report published prior to the meeting. He reported that the Friends, once again, had very strong year. Membership support was up 20% over the previous year, to $1.9M. The Henry and Joan Lee Sculpture Endowment has achieved its $2.5M goal. The overall endowment of the Friends currently stands at over $20M and showed gains of 17.9% in 2017. Overhead costs for the Friends increased only 4% in the same period. Finally, he noted that the Friends has increased its spending in the parks, over the last 5 years, an average of 11% per year.

**Director’s Report**

Ms. Vizza reported on the many activities that the Friends undertakes in the parks. She reported on Tree Care, encompassing support for planting, pruning, and disease control. She thanked consultants Norm Helie and Chris Helie for their hard work. Regarding Turf Care, Ms. Vizza noted that the Friends has assumed responsibility for irrigation contracts for all three parks. She thanked conservator Sarah Hutt and her team for all their work on Sculpture Conservation, including the extensive Channing Monument project in 2017. She reported on progress on the Shaw/54th Reconstruction Project, and the three-way agreement between the Friends, the Parks Department, and the National Parks Department for this $2.8M project, which will begin in the spring of 2019. Ms. Vizza highlighted the successful George Robert White Memorial Fountain restoration which occurred last year. She remarked upon the continued success of the Rose Brigade as well as the newer Border Brigade. She noted that this will be the 7th season of programming at the Brewer Fountain and that there will be a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Fountain on June 14th, 2018. Coming up, she reminded everyone that the 9th annual Making History on the Common will happen on June 4th, 2018, and that Duckling Day will once again be held on Mother’s Day. She encouraged everyone to learn more about the “Untold Stories of the Public Garden” docent-led tours, which are now in their 4th year.

Regarding advocacy, Ms. Vizza referenced the Friends’ role in the upcoming Boston Common Master Plan process, which is a result of the Winthrop Square Garage development. She also noted the Friends’ hard work to bring attention to plans by the MBTA to install advertising at station entrances near the parks. Ms. Vizza proudly highlighted the role of the Friends and the support of its members in the passage of the CPA last November. Ms. Vizza also reminded everyone that the Friends is a part of the Boston Parks Advocates network. Finally, she noted that this is the 48th year of partnering with the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department and that the Friends will continue the important work of advocating for increased Parks Department budgets with the City.

**Guest Speaker**

Ms. Vizza introduced City Councillor Michelle Wu, who spoke about the role and importance of greenspaces and parks to her, her family, her constituents, and to all citizens of Boston.

There being no other business, Ms. Adam adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Bordon

Secretary