

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

April 6, 2021

8:30 – 9:45 AM

February 9 Meeting Minutes	8:30 – 8:35	Leslie
Treasurer's Report	8:35 – 8:40	Jim
Governance Report VOTE	8:40 – 8:45	Kate
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Charge - VOTE Program Sponsorship Board/Staff Webinar discussion	8:45 – 9:15	Leslie, Valerie, Liz
50 th Anniversary Updates Virtual Gala Fundraising status What Do We Have in Common?	9:15– 9:30	Lynn, Alex
Other Business	9:30 – 9:45	Leslie

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2021 Board Meetings (8:30 a.m.)

June 15, 2021

October 12, 2021

December 7, 2021

Events

Annual Meeting April 15

50th Anniversary Gala April 30

Duckling Day May 9

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting February 9, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Public Garden met via Zoom conference call on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 8:30am.

Members present: Leslie Adam (Chair), Bear Albright, Jim Bordewick, Catherine Bordon, Gordon Burnes, Valerie Burns, Claire Corcoran, Linda Cox, Kate Enroth, Alexandra Hastings, Elizabeth Johnson, Abigail Mason, Frank Mead, Barbara Moore, Anne Mostue, Jeff Mullan, Beatrice Nessen, Margaret Pokorny, Patricia Quinn, Brent Shay, Anne Swanson, Colin Zick, Diane Rooney (ex officio), Molly Sherdan (ex officio), and Sherley Smith (ex officio).

Members absent: Janie Walsh

Also present: Liz Vizza (President), Lynn Page Flaherty (VP of Advancement & External Affairs), Bob Mulcahy (Director of Parks Care & Capital Projects), Susan Abell (Director of Communications & Outreach), Steve TenBarge (Finance Manager and Brewer Plaza Liaison), Amanda McGuire (Development Manager), Eric DiTommaso (Parks Care Specialist), Jan Trousilek (Communications, Outreach, & Design Associate), Hannah Williamson (Development Associate), Laura Mercure (Executive Assistant). Gwen Hadden, DEI consultant to the Friends, was also present on the call.

Ms. Adam, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

Minutes of the December 9, 2020 Board Meeting

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

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2020 Board Meeting as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Bordewick noted that the annual audit is underway. Ms. Mason reported that the Investment Committee has a meeting scheduled next week.

Governance Report

Ms. Enroth referred to the Governance Report, dated February 9, 2021 which was circulated with the meeting materials. Per the report, two votes were proposed.

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

VOTED: to amend the Bylaws to change "Executive Director" which is first used in the Bylaws in Article V, Section 4, to "President, who shall serve as the chief executive of the Friends," and each time thereafter President shall replace Executive Director in the Bylaws. Also, a typo in Article V, section 11 shall be corrected to reference section 2 and not section 1.

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

VOTED: to approved the list of potential candidates for the Council as presented

Strategic Plan

Mr. Burnes provided updates on the Strategic Plan. He noted that while the initial draft was created during 2019, due to COVID delays, and the need to re-examine the goals through an equity lens, there have been delays in releasing the plan. A draft plan was included with the meeting materials. It was agreed that except for some style editing, the plan would be presented essentially as is at the April Board meeting. The final document will be adjusted to be useable by the Board internally, as well as having a version which could be published on the website.

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

VOTED: to approve the content of the Friends of the Public Garden Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and move it forward with the goal of finalizing the document this spring.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Ms. Adam provided an introduction to Ms. Hadden, the DEI consultant working with the Friends. Ms. Hadden provided an overview of the definitions of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She noted that throughout the work that she will lead with the staff and the Board, it will be important to always keep in mind the mission of the Friends. She stated that it is her belief that cultural and socio-economic diversity are as important as other types of diversity. It is not just a conversation about gender or race. Ms. Hadden will be undertaking a series of interviews in the broader community to find out what the impression of the Parks are, in more diverse areas of the city, and whether people feel welcomed into them.

The goal to increase diversity at the Board level remains important, but it was recognized that this is a difficult and long-term task. Many boards are seeking candidates from the same diverse pool. We need to examine what the Friends' Board offers to diverse candidates in terms of networking connections and opportunities. Increased Board diversity is a long-term goal.

A discussion followed about how important it is, and will be, to welcome all while informing park users about allowed/encouraged uses of the three parks so that the Friends is not just perceived as saying "no" to certain behaviors. The Friends helps manage all three parks, but the Parks have different use profiles, they have different supporters in some cases, and are viewed differently from people not in the immediate neighborhoods. The Common has the broadest user base, the most diverse allowed uses, and will attract a more national audience once the King Memorial is in place. However, the Friends' name continues to impress upon many people that the organization is focused only on the Public Garden, which can be perceived as unwelcoming due to the fencing, use restrictions, abutting neighborhoods, donor base, etc. The name of the organization, being centered both on the Garden and the word "friends", continues to raise issues in the broader community that the Board will need to address at some point in the near future.

Advocacy Workplan 2021

Ms. Burns referred to the February 2, 2021 draft of the Advocacy Work Plan 2021 which was distributed in the meeting materials. The document covers 9 primary goals, and 2 broader goals, where the Friends can and should focus their efforts. She provided a brief overview of the document and noted that with a new Mayoral administration, there would also be a new incoming Parks Commissioner. Many of the advocacy goals are not new, such as safety on the Common and the issues around homelessness. Other goals, such as work to support the Tool Shed project and waterfowl health in the lagoon, are a newer focus for the organization.

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

VOTED: to approve the Advocacy Work Plan for 2021 as presented.

50th Anniversary Updates

Virtual Gala – Ms. Adam, Ms. Vizza and Ms. Flaherty provided updates. The Virtual Gala, which replaces the Green & White this year, will be on April 30, 2021. A consultant has been hired. The event will provide a venue to publicly launch the fundraising campaign. The goal is to have raised \$3.6M by this event.

Projects – Ms. Vizza updated that the Public Garden 60% design documents are almost complete, and Mr. Mulcahy will be meeting with the Parks Department to present them. The Mall lighting project continues on a block by block basis. An unexpected large gift to fully fund the lighting of the Sarmiento has moved that statue up in the schedule.

While there has been little success with foundation fundraising, a corporate fundraising plan is being created.

Other Business

There being no additional business, Ms. Adam adjourned the meeting at 10:00am.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Bordon, Secretary

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

2020 Surplus Explanation and Transfer Request Board of Directors Meeting April 6, 2021

Last fall we projected an Operating Surplus of \$441,500 for 2020. At the December 9, 2020 Board Meeting, the Board voted to transfer \$450,000 to the Temporarily Restricted Funds - split \$150,000 each to the Common, Garden and Mall Tree Funds to be used in 2021. These transfers left a small projected Net Operating Deficit of \$8,500 for 2020.

The audit of our 2020 financials was recently completed and we ended the year with an Operating Surplus of \$582,000 (before the \$450,000 transfer), over \$140,000 more than projected. This higher than projected Operating Surplus was primarily due to higher than expected support for Renewals, Sponsored Benches & Trees, and Unrestricted Gifts.

Based on this outcome and the goal to move substantially all of any Operating Surplus into the subsequent fiscal year, we are requesting Board approval to transfer an additional \$130,000 of the Operating Surplus to the 50th Anniversary Spending Fund. This fund allows us the flexibility of using the funds for anything related to the 50th. In the event these funds ultimately are not needed for the 50th, they can be moved to another temporarily restricted fund at a later date. Assuming the Board approves this request, a total of \$580,000 of the Operating Surplus will be transferred as described above, leaving a modest Net Operating Surplus of \$2,000.

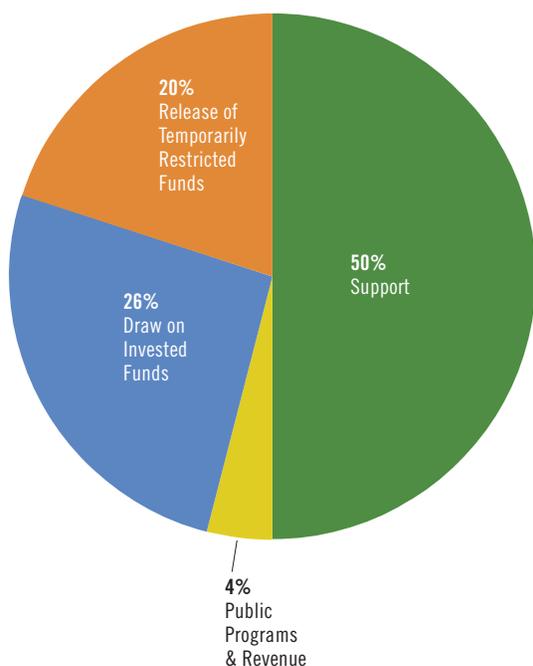
Some of you may recall this is the same approach taken and approved by the Board in 2018 to deal with an unexpected increase in the 2017 Operating Surplus.

Respectfully submitted,

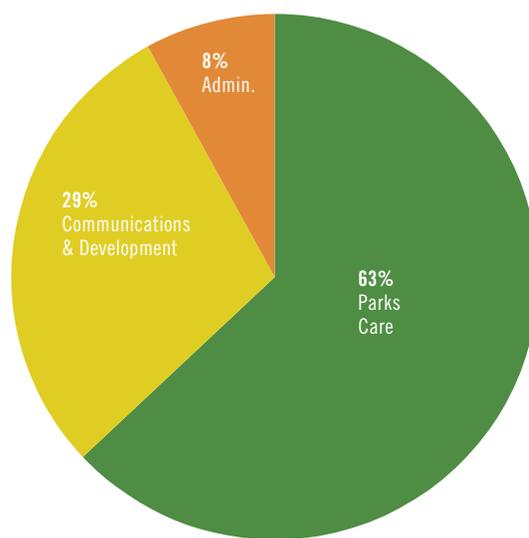
Jim Bordewick, Treasurer

Financial Performance

2020 Income



2020 Expenses



OPERATING RESULTS (in thousands)

INCOME	2020	2019
Support	\$ 1,548	\$ 1,836
Public Programs & Revenue	112	218
Draw on Invested Funds	804	744
Release of Temporarily Restricted Funds	600	770
Total Income	\$ 3,064	\$ 3,568
EXPENSES		
Parks Care:		
Common, Garden & Mall	\$ 680	\$ 1,311
Public Programs	328	291
Personnel & Overhead	565	550
Total Parks Care	\$ 1,573	\$ 2,152
Communications & Development:		
Communications	\$ 36	\$ 61
Development Events	8	140
Personnel & Overhead	678	377
Total Communications & Development	\$ 722	\$ 578
Administration	\$ 187	\$ 221
Total Expenses	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,951
Transfer to Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$ (580)	\$ (600)
Net Surplus	\$ 2	\$ 17

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION (in thousands)

ASSETS	2020	2019
Current Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 638	\$ 711
Pledges & Accounts Receivable	334	173
Prepaid Expenses	36	30
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,008	\$ 914
Investments	\$27,620	\$ 25,330
Property & Equipment	\$ 703	\$ 747
Performance Deposit	\$ 35	\$ 35
Total Assets	\$ 29,366	\$ 27,026
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable & Accruals	\$ 310	\$ 543
Mortgage Payable	165	209
Pilot Bathrooms (fiscal agent)	1,093	1,093
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,568	\$ 1,845
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	\$ 6,138	\$ 6,072
Temporarily Restricted	6,916	4,908
Permanently Restricted	14,744	14,201
Total Net Assets	\$27,798	\$ 25,181
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 29,366	\$ 27,026

Friends of the Public Garden, Inc.

Notes to Operating Results and Statements of Financial Position

Operating Results

Total Income was \$3.1 million in 2020, 14% lower than the \$3.6 million received in 2019. Support, which consists of Membership, Designated and Undesignated Contributions, Bequests, and Special Event proceeds, was 16% lower than the previous year primarily due to the cancellation of the Green & White Gala. Sponsorships for Benches and Trees were down 25% compared to 2019, but we still exceeded budget for those programs in 2020. In spite of economic conditions resulting from the pandemic, Membership Renewals came in 4% higher than in 2019. The Duckling Day and Making History on the Common events went virtual and Brewer Fountain Plaza programming was cancelled. The rolling three-year average of our investments, measured at September 30, 2019 for the 2020 draw, increased from \$18.6 million to \$20.1 million. Income from Temporarily Restricted Assets decreased due to a smaller pool of funds available from the previous year.

Total Expenses for 2020 were 16% lower than in 2019 offsetting the decrease in Income. Parks Care spending came in 48% lower compared to the previous year, but we were still able to meet our goal of providing essential tree, soil and turf care work and some sculpture maintenance in the parks. Spending on Public Programs was higher due to the 50th anniversary temporary art project on the Common, which will be installed in the fall of 2021. In Development, while we saved the expenses of the canceled Green & White Gala, we added the cost of having a consultant provide development and 50th anniversary capital campaign help after the departure of our Development Director early in 2020. The consultant also led a successful search for a new Vice President of Advancement & External Affairs. The decrease in Administration resulted primarily from the cancellation of the in-person Annual Meeting and a reduction in office operations. We transferred \$580,000 to Temporarily Restricted Funds for tree work in the three parks and 50th anniversary projects in 2021. We ended the year with a small Net Surplus.

Statements of Financial Position

Investment performance for 2020 was 14%, in line with our benchmark. Our performance remains in the top 25% of the Cambridge Associates universe of endowments of less than \$100 million. The increase in Pledges Receivable was due to pledges made for the 50th anniversary capital campaign. The decrease in Accounts Payable was due to payments made to Shaw/54th Memorial project contractors. Lastly, we are acting as the fiscal agent for a \$1.5 million grant from a charitable trust for a multi-year pilot program to bring temporary public restrooms to the Boston Common. Due to the pandemic, the 2020 season was cancelled so no grant money was spent.

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

For the April 6, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting

1) The Governance Committee recommends that the following persons be elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning in April 2021 after the Annual Meeting on April 15, 2021:

Kate Enroth
Barbara Moore
Katherine O’Keeffe
Anne Swanson
Roger Tackeff

VOTE

Roger Tackeff is a resident of Brookline, and he joined the Council for the Friends last year. He is Chairman and CEO of Renaissance Properties, a real estate development firm. He has been active in many civic and philanthropic organizations, including a longtime member of the Boston Preservation Alliance Board.

2) The Governance Committee recommends that Imari Paris Jeffries be approved to become a member of the Council.

VOTE

Imari is the Executive Director of King Boston. He has extensive professional experience in nonprofit management, community activism, education reform, and social justice matters. He is a Board Member of the University of Massachusetts. He has worked closely with the Friends regarding the installation of the King Memorial in the Boston Common.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Enroth, Chair
Patricia Quinn, Vice Chair
Leslie Adam, Board Chair
Jeffrey Mullan
Margaret Pokorny
Brent Shay
Elizabeth Vizza, ex officio

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

for the April 6, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting

Prepared by Liz Vizza

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Our work with DEI consultant Gwen Hadden has progressed. The DEI Task Force worked with her to draw up a Charge, which is included in your packet. Gwen is currently finalizing interviews with selected community leaders from neighborhoods throughout Boston to understand how they view our parks. Initial findings are that people of color do not see the parks as relating to their lives. They said that if there were events that connected to their culture or included people of color, that would be a draw and make them feel included. She will also be working with the Board and Staff to facilitate webinars and other activities to explore a broader understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion as it relates to the Friends and the parks. Our first session is scheduled for May 20 at 6:00, a discussion about a webinar entitled Green Space, White Space convened by The Boston Foundation. DEI Task Force member Valerie Burns will co-facilitate the discussion with Gwen, and information will be sent in advance about the webinar.

Monument Review Task Force

We are continuing our conversations with the City about partnering with them to scrutinize the monuments in our parks, looking at several initially as pilot examples of how to respond to problematic narratives (the Native Americans on the Founders Monument on the Common), as well as how to lift up inspiring stories that are not broadly known (the Crispus Attucks Memorial, also on the Common and also called the Boston Massacre Monument). The change of leadership in City Hall has meant a pause on the work of partnering, but we are continuing to move the effort forward internally. The work on monuments in Chicago has been an inspiration for us as we think of goals and process.

50th Anniversary

60% design plans and specifications for the Public Garden Campaign project are almost ready for review with Parks. On the Mall, three statue lighting schemes were presented to The Landmarks Commission, and they have asked that this review continues at a next meeting. There were questions about the electrical cabinets needed to provide power and controls for the lights. On the Common project, the fabrication team and artist Janet Zweig are continuing work on the cabinet and boxes for *What Do We Have in Common?*, and the Art Committee has met several times with Now + There. Committee members are working with communications staff on the messaging for this project, which will be coordinated with Now + There. We see this project as core to our mission of caring for this greenspace that belongs to us all.

Safety

In our budget advocacy letter to the Mayor, we asked that an interagency safety plan be contracted for the Common and Garden that addresses the intersecting issues of drug trafficking, acts of violence, and the challenges faced by the unhoused in our parks. Both the safety of the parks and the lives of those struggling with addiction, mental illness, and homelessness are critical issues to address.

Boston Common Master Plan

Final details of recommendations for the Boston Common Master Plan are being worked out with the Friends close involvement and writing of the plan is being reviewed by the planning team. We are hoping for a draft to be released this spring, with time for feedback about priorities and finalizing the written and graphic plan during the summer. The costs for the plan's proposals are estimated to be \$107 million.

Sunshine Modeling and Downtown Plan

The Downtown planning process was well on its way when the pandemic shut work down. Some planning processes of the BPDA have restarted, but this one has stalled. Working with members of the Advisory Group, we drafted a letter to Director Brian Golden urging him to restart the process, and 21 AG members added their names. Meanwhile, we are revising the sunshine modeling presentation for presentations to City and State elected officials, once the External Affairs Task Force reviews it.

Public Garden Tool Shed/Gardener's Cottage

We are moving ahead on our work with Parks and the Boston Society of Landscape Architects, to convene a team of historic architects and landscape architects to envision a restored maintenance facility that serves the needs of the Parks staff while also providing a public-facing component for interpretation as well as information about the Garden and the Friends/City partnership. The work will shine a light on the building's needs as well as potential. The concepts will contribute to renovation planning, if the request in the Parks budget for design funding is granted. City Councilor Kenzie Bok said that she would advocate for it to remain in the budget that Mayor Janey is finalizing.

King Memorial

The sculptural element of The Embrace has been approved by the Art Commission. The larger plaza design still needs to be refined and approved by Parks and Landmarks. We are working to schedule a meeting with King Boston and Mass Design Group to review revised plans.

Boston Park Advocates (BPA) and Mayor's Race

In 2013, BPA sponsored several forums with the Mayoral candidates to raise the profile and importance of parks to the candidates. We will be organizing again to conduct forums, and solicit candidate opinions about greenspace. In 2013, each candidate filled out a survey that BPA posted on its website. Materials about the value and benefits of greenspace will also be prepared, as was done in 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Vizza

2020 Annual Report – Boston Common

This annual report reflects the reduced budget adopted to address the limitations on the Friends finances resulting from Covid-19 restrictions.

Pruning & Consulting Arborist **\$35,010**

This work represents our annual winter work and a revised pruning budget focused on our Elm Preservation Program. The warm season, bi-monthly, targeted elm pruning by various tree companies, assist us in this effort by removing dead wood and/or weakened branches. The annual winter work is a sequenced pruning program for all parks, that has been in place for nine years. All programs are overseen by our consultant, Norm Helie, with direction given by the City’s Tree Warden and FOPG Parks Care staff.

Disease Control **\$42,880**

This represents the annual Plant Health Program administered by Norm Helie of the Growing Tree and the annual trapping & monitoring of the European elm bark beetle by Chris Helie of The Growing Tree and part of the Elm Preservation Program.

Soil Improvement & Fertilization **\$64,505**

Eric DiTommaso and Norm Helie continued their second year of routine soil testing and analysis. The data collected in year one informed the formula of the amendments that we applied in 2020. This formula is adjusted to reflect the actual chemical needs of the soil. The amendments are one part of our annual Turf Care Program that also consists of aerating, seeding. In addition to this, the Friends assisted the Boston Parks Department on the mowing twice during the early summer because of equipment failures.

Irrigation **\$22,910**

Cambridge Landscape continued to monitor and improve the six irrigation systems on the Common. The Liberty Mall and Park Street area system was upgraded to a new “smart” controller. This was a first for the Common and over time more of these controllers will be introduced.

Sculpture Conservation & Maintenance **\$58,136**

The Friends annual Sculpture Conservation Program was suspended, with exception of the seasonal care and operation of the Brewer Fountain. Also suspended was the pending restoration of the Brewer Fountain Lighting. All remaining work was focused on ongoing graffiti removal, regular sculpture monitoring and research dedicated to the evaluation of the public art collection under the Friends care.

Research & Documentation **\$4,022**

This represents time spent writing by The Growing Tree team in preparation for pending publication of the research and study of the European Elm Bark Beetle and a literature review of the History of Dutch Elm Disease in the United States.

Common Canine**\$100**

Minimal funds were spent on the program in 2020 due to not rotating the off-leash lawn panels and allowing the dogs to stay on the Parade Ground. A lack of events, due to Covid, allowed this decision to happen and gave an extended rest period to the other off-leash panels.

Total Expenditures in 2020**\$227,563**

2020 Annual Report - Public Garden

Like the rest of the world the Boston Public Garden was heavily impacted by the Covid pandemic. In 2019 the Friends spent almost one half of a million dollars improving our famous Garden but in 2020 we spent only a half of this amount. Landscape firms could not gather and the city's own park staff was reduced to a bare minimum. There was no Green and White Ball and even the Swan Boats ceased to operate. All very, very sad. But there was a silver lining. The Garden, as a healthy greenspace, was enjoyed by more and more families and surprisingly financial donations increased. The most notable physical changes included removal of large tree limbs broken during extreme storms and a renewed attention paid to the rose beds which had been heavily impacted by rodent invasions.

Pruning & Consulting Arborist **\$61,005**

This work represents our annual winter work and a revised pruning budget focused on our Elm Preservation Program. The warm season, bi-monthly, targeted elm pruning by various tree companies, assist us in this effort by removing dead wood and/or weakened branches. The annual winter work is a sequenced pruning program for all parks, that has been in place for several years. All programs are overseen by our consultant, Norm Helie, with direction given by the City's Tree Warden and FOPG Parks Care staff.

Disease Control **\$56,759**

This represents the annual Plant Health Program administered by Norm Helie of The Growing Tree and the annual trapping & monitoring of the European elm bark beetle by Chris Helie of The Growing Tree and part of the Elm Preservation Program.

Irrigation **\$20,377**

Cambridge Landscaping continues to monitor and improve upon the extensive "smart" irrigation system of the Garden, Adjustments that increase the plant collections' health and helps the City in their ongoing effort to conserve water are at the forefront of our water management goals for this property.

Soil Improvements and Fertilizer **\$11,780**

This represents the annual program of mulching around sensitive trees throughout the Garden and also includes funds for the Garden's annual soil testing.

Sculpture Conservation & Maintenance **\$36,182**

The Friends annual Sculpture Conservation Program was suspended, with the exception of the seasonal care and operation of the Ether Fountain and George Robert White Memorial. All remaining work was focused on ongoing graffiti removal, regular sculpture monitoring, and research dedicated to the evaluation of the public art collection under the Friends care.

Rose Brigade **\$24,104**

The work of the Rose Brigade continued throughout the entire season. A wonderful positive for those volunteers and the roses too! Cambridge Landscape assisted once again on the annual compost layer and Capizzi and Co. assisted in the hand pruning of the four topiary yews and one round of hand pruning of the aralia hedge of all four beds.

Border Beds	\$15,011
This represents pruning completed by Capizzi & Co and associated plant health amendments applied by The Growing Tree. The Border Brigade met monthly from August-November and provided another positive outlet to the dedicated volunteers of the Back Bay Garden Club.	
Sponsored Trees and Benches	\$8,830
This represents the fabrication and installation of one new bench and the purchase and installation of sponsor plaques.	
Geese Control	\$4,800
This represents four months of monitoring by Geese Police Boston.	
Research & Documentation	\$3,926
This represents time spent writing by The Growing Tree team in preparation for pending publication of the research and study of the European Elm Bark Beetle and a literature review of the History of Dutch Elm Disease in the United States.	
Tree Database and Tree labels	\$762
This represents the ordering and installation of new tree labels, including the purchase of new equipment to assist in the installation process.	
Litter Pickup	\$720
Garden Steward John Babb started in August of this past year and made weekly stops to clean along the Boylston promenade bench pads.	
Total Expenditures in 2020	\$244,256

2020 Annual Report - Commonwealth Avenue Mall

Pruning & Consulting Arborist

\$20,110

This work represents our annual winter work and a revised pruning budget focused on our Elm Preservation Program. The warm season, bi-monthly, targeted elm pruning by various tree companies, assist us in this effort by removing dead wood and/or weakened branches. The annual winter work is a sequenced pruning program for all parks, that has been in place for nine years. All programs are overseen by our consultant, Norm Helie, with direction given by the City's Tree Warden and FOPG Parks Care staff.

Disease Control

\$38,279

This represents the annual Plant Health Program administered by Norm Helie of The Growing Tree and the annual trapping & monitoring of the European elm bark beetle by Chris Helie of The Growing Tree and part of the Elm Preservation Program.

Soil Improvement and Fertilization

\$57,341

Eric DiTommaso and Norm Helie continued their second year of routine soil testing and analysis. The data collected in year one informed the formula of the amendments that we applied in 2020 in the efforts to lime the Mall. This formula is adjusted to reflect the actual chemical needs of the soil. The amendments are one part of our annual Turf Care Program that also consists of aerating, seeding. In addition to this, the Friends assisted the Boston Parks Department on the mowing of the Mall for the first time. This mowing will continue in 2021. The Friends now guides seeding, aeration, fertilization, irrigation, and mowing. The perfect combination for best maintenance practices.

Irrigation

\$20,782

Cambridge Landscape has continued to monitor and upgrade the irrigation system. The smart system is now operational and will allow for the much more rational use of the system resulting in better irrigation practices, as well as water conservation.

Sculpture Conservation and Maintenance

\$12,283

The Friends annual Sculpture Conservation Program was suspended, with exception of the annual conservation of the Women's Memorial. All remaining work was focused on ongoing graffiti removal, regular sculpture monitoring and research dedicated to the evaluation of the public art collection under the Friends care.

Sponsored Trees and Benches

\$21,567

This represents several projects to support both programs: including bulk purchasing of bench slats to be stored for ongoing bench projects; a down payment on the new stone bench in the AB block; corrective measures for newly planted trees from 2018-19; numerous bronze plaques and bases.

Kenmore Mall	\$19,051
This represents the fabrication and installation of six new benches and the final billing from Weston & Sampson’s Master Plan for the Kenmore Block preferred plan. The Parks & Recreation Department did receive capital funding in the FY21 City budget to further the plan developed by the Friends and create a set of Construction Documents. Timing TBD.	
Post & Chain	\$5,180
This number represents the cost for removal of all the posts and footings on the Charlesgate East lawn triangle.	
Mall Steward	\$6,408
Mall Steward John Babb started in August of this past year. John is now going as far as Charlesgate East on a scheduled basis. We are exploring with him the possibility of doing lighting maintenance on the Mall over the winter when snow is likely to cover the sculpture light fixtures in the ground.	
Tree Database and Mapping	\$2,330
Improvement to the tree inventory and database continue to be made with refinements to the species identification and numbering system being put into place by the Parks Care team. This year the Mall trees will be retagged with the new system. It is about time. I put these boiler tags on the trees 20 years ago. They served us well, but we are looking forward to the standardization of the numbering system through the three parks.	
Research & Documentation	\$3,926
This represents time spent writing by The Growing Tree team in preparation for pending publication of the research and study of the European Elm Bark Beetle and a literature review of the History of Dutch Elm Disease in the United States.	
Volunteer Watering	\$495
Susan Juretschke recruits and schedules volunteer waterers for the newly planted trees. We water these new trees for three years and several of the older trees that look stressed. The improved irrigation system has made this task much more efficient.	
Graffiti Removal	\$0
Patti Quinn continues her one-woman graffiti removal service, sanding and removing graffiti from the Mall benches. The graffiti situation on the Mall is largely under control thanks to Patti’s quick work.	
Total Expenditures in 2020	\$207,751