

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN
2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
April 20, 2023

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Public Garden convened at 6:00 pm on Thursday, April 20, 2020 at the Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston Street, Boston.

Welcome

Ms. Adam, Board Chair, welcomed everyone. She thanked the elected representatives in attendance. She also thanked the Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods and the Parks Department.

Minutes

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

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2022 Annual Meeting as circulated.

Governance Report

Mr. Jeff Mullan, Chair of the Governance Committee, addressed the membership to present the committee's recommendation for election of directors in accordance with the requirements of Article V.3 of the bylaws. The Directors being nominated for 3-year terms beginning April 2023 are Claire Corcoran, Jeff Jarczyk, Jeff Mullan, Anne Mostue, Beatrice Nessen, and Janie Walsh.

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

VOTED: to approve the slate as presented.

He noted that the committee continues to look for qualified and interested people to serve as directors of the Friends and as members of the Council and that the committee's goal this year is to recruit two new directors.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Jim Bordewick, Treasurer, referred to the materials provided at the meeting. Mr. Bordewick thanked the generous donors of the Friends for their continued support of the organization. He noted that the most recent audit was completed successfully and without issues. 2022 finished with a modest surplus which would be transferred to the 2023 operating budget. He credited continued positive financial results for the organization to strong management, an excellent staff, and the generosity of the members. Mr. Bordewick highlighted several items from materials including that the 2022 budget represented a return to pre-covid budgeting expectations. He noted that the Friends continues to supplement the funds used to pay for the work in the parks with a quarterly draw from invested funds, which at the close of 2022 were \$27.6M.

President's Report

Ms. Vizza began her report by thanking the many volunteers who help support the Parks. She noted that the Rose Brigade, the Border Brigade, and the Docents are all back and working in the parks. She also expressed thanks for the staff and appreciated that everyone is now in person together in the office at least 3 days per week. Ms. Vizza mentioned the continued work to use a

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion lens across the organization. She noted that the bathroom trailer will open very soon and will again feature a vibrant mural wrap.

Ms. Vizza highlighted the completed Boston Common Master Plan which includes many proposed improvements and enhancements to the Common. Early action projects include updates to the Tadpole Playground to help support the large number of users, and creation of an accessible path that will allow visitors to access the Shaw 54th Memorial from the Common. She noted that the Boston Common Maintenance Trust Fund, which was created with \$5M from the Winthrop Square Garage project, continues to be utilized for much needed deferred maintenance projects on the Common.

Ms. Vizza noted that activation run by the Friends at the Brewer Fountain will return, and that the City is supporting a space for a beer garden at Tremont and Boylston Streets that will be operated by Emerson College and a portion of the revenue will support the park.

Ms. Vizza announced that the City has put significant funding into the budget for the Public Garden Tool Shed renovation/restoration.

She noted that Duckling Day and Making History on the Common will be back this year in a fully pre-pandemic format.

The 50th Anniversary \$5M Capital Campaign has been fully funded. The Green and White is upcoming next week.

Speaker: Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space for the City of Boston

After Chief White-Hammond's remarks, and there being no other business, Ms. Adam adjourned the meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Bordon
Secretary