

Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy  
Public Meeting of the Board and Leadership Council  
Tuesday May 1, 2012 – 6:00 pm  
Atlantic Wharf, 290 Congress Street

Meeting Minutes

Board: Georgia Murray, Bob Gore, Woody Lynn, Chris Manfredi, Maggie Hunt, Phil Griffiths, Susanne Lavoie, Chris Fincham, Clinton Bench, Young Park, Mike Cantalupa, Helen Chin Schlichte

GLC: Jason Aluia, James Chan, Deborah Spirio, Donna Freni, Francine Gannon, Ed Lambert

RKG Staff: Nancy Brennan, Jesse Brackenbury, Charlie McCabe, Steve Anderson, Jodi Wolin, Lisa Schimmel, Amy Dwyer, Darryl Milton

---

Georgia Murray opened the public session and asked for introductions from the board and the GLC. The first presentation was an overview of the Greenway public/private partnership, and an overview of the 3 years of evolution in operations and finances, including a demonstration of where the public can find all documents on the Conservancy's website, the types of documents and best practices as determined by Charity Navigator guidelines.

Georgia Murray and FinCom chair Bob Gore walked those present through an additional presentation on the breakdown of administrative expenses for the Greenway as well as a comparison of labor costs with DCR and Boston Parks. There was a discussion on the Conservancy's repair and replacement cost analysis noting that there is currently no source of funds to address the estimated \$12 million that will be needed to keep the Greenway in a state of good repair over 10 years. Diane Valle questioned the comparison to DCR and Boston Parks, Ed Lambert elaborated on labor costs associated with parks and supported the information provided in the presentation. Diane Valle had additional questions on the G&G program and the deferred maintenance costs - her questions were addressed by Jesse Brackenbury, Georgia Murray and Bob Gore. The presentation continued with an overview of the executive compensation study currently being conducted by an independent firm.

Nancy Brennan thanked the board and the leadership council and addressed some of the most recent questions and summarized the history of Greenway operations, including early challenges and more recent improvements. There was a discussion of the public/private partnership and the Conservancy's operation model. This prompted questions from Shirley Kressel regarding ongoing discussions with MassDOT in relation to the Secretary's letter of January 31, 2012, the open meeting and public records issue and the connection with the lease renewal. Additionally, she asked for the breakdown of the \$500,000 WORK, Inc. contract, all of the bids the Conservancy received for the contract and asked if it included a prevailing wage. These questions were addressed by Conservancy staff Jesse Brackenbury and Steve Anderson.

Diane Valle questioned the amount of money the Conservancy was spending on buying plants and flowers, noting that the (1%) of the budget being dedicated was not enough. Jesse Brackenbury noted that that the full picture includes plant materials provided by contractors. He reminded all that the Conservancy's priority is to preserve existing horticulture.

Greenway Volunteer Peter Zalewski and NE Aquarium CEO Bud Ris praised the Conservancy's volunteer program and contribution to the success of the Greenway district respectively.

Ann Thornburg noted that she has worked with dozens of non-profits and the Greenway Conservancy meets the highest standards for reporting and transparency and thanked the board for their leadership during the recent controversy.

Tom Powers from the BHIA also had supportive comments for the Greenway. From BHIA's experience as the private partner with the National Park Service and the Commonwealth, he echoed the necessity of the public private partnership. Additional members of the public noted their support for the public art on the Greenway and inquired about future plans for public art in the parks. Conservancy staff responded with information on the current public art master planning process and the online public survey.

Joanne Hayes-Rines president of the FOCCP noted how much she liked the sculpture Botanica and inquired about event plans during the tall ships.

Charlie McCabe took the opportunity to present and overview of the 2012 program schedule, noting that the Conservancy was working with other local organizations to partner for events for the Tall Ships.

Georgia Murray presented a brief legislative update on the budget amendments and other bills currently pending on the hill.

The public session was adjourned at 7:50 pm