

*Greenway Leadership Council
June 23, 2010, 5:30 PM
185 Kneeland Street*

Minutes

Leadership Council Members Present: Ann Thornburg Chair, Donna Freni, Dan Nuzo, Dave Seeley, James Chen, Bill Lane.

Greenway Conservancy Staff: Nancy Brennan, Jesse Brackenbury, Linda Jonash, Steve Anderson, Tom Smarr, Amy Dwyer

Welcome and Meeting Minutes

Ann Thornburg welcomed all present and opened introduced Nancy Brennan for the Executive Director s Report

Executive Director s Report

Executive Director Nancy Brennan welcomed Amy Dwyer to the Conservancy and introduced her to the GLC. The Director s report focused on the current status of several projects on the RKG including food vending, status of movable park furniture and WiFi. Nancy also discussed the strategy of using creative low cost high impact ideas to continue to support community outreach and how to make the RKG a destination location.

Ann Thornburg and Nancy Brennan briefly discussed the recent media coverage on the Greenway.

Ann Thornburg took a moment from the meeting to recognize James Chen and welcome him to his first GLC meeting as a member.

Presentations

Ann Thornburg introduced Tom Smarr to present to the GLC on Tree Health. Tom discussed the tree planting process on the Greenway and the how they choose the specific varieties that are chosen for the RKG. Tom pointed out specific concerns with the trees in the Wharf district and Dewey Square. Tom outlined that aside from disease that they also deal with irrigation issues, general physical damage, staking trees and chaining bikes to trees. Donna Freni asked about the irrigation process specifically and Tom when into more detail. Tom continued his presentation with a discussion of tree replacement in the N.End parks and some additional steps they are taking to protect the trees such as the installation of tree rings. James Chen had a question about the when and how a decision is made to replace a tree and when should they be replaced with other species. Peter Gori had a question about the Don Redwoods in Dewey Square and if they should be replaced.

Park Use Guidelines

Ann Thornburg moved to stray from the agenda and opened the floor to Nancy Brennan to begin a discussion on the park use guidelines. Nancy Brennan called to the GLC s attention the organization of the guidelines which focuses on use and special events.

Nancy referred the GLC to several specific sections that the GLC had concern with prior to approval from the State including page 7, section V, paragraph 2 and page 8, section VI, paragraph 3.

Ann Thornburg asked all the members of the GLC present to support the final changes to the guidelines and all present consented.

Peter Gori had a statement on the guidelines. He suggested there be more focus on the guarantee of insurance, he suggested that the \$250 fee per hour be an incurred cost up front so that the RKG does not lose funds, finally he addresses the issue of the city's concern with public toilets and that it should be addressed.

At this time Ann Thornburg moved to move forward with the agenda and called on Peter Gori for his presentation.

Mary Soo Hoo Park

Peter Gori updated the GLC on the status of the Mary Soo Hoo park project. He noted that the BRA had reconsidered the design with the consultants which is about 25% complete. In respect to cost, the Brown Fund is considering additional support for the project. The initial capital estimate was \$410,000 but may be more. The BRA board approved the authorization for the Director John Palmieri to advertise the contract for the project.

Ann Thornburg asked about the timeline for the project, Peter Gori responded that there needs to be some further clarification on the timing and funding. The BRA, MassDOT and the RKG are working together and putting a process in place to move forward. MassDOT will continue to own the land with the possibility of the parcel being included in the RKG lease.

Harbor Park Pavilion

Steve Anderson reported to the GLC on the status of the Harbor Park Pavilion project. He stated that permitting was issued to fix the drainage issue. RKG needs permission from MassDOT to deal with the slurry wall and he is hoping to expedite the permitting and repairs. The solution will mean regarding a large section of the park.

Update on Park Operations

Jesse Brackenbury updated the GLC on park operations including food vending and first phase of additional park furniture. He began by discussing the recent support in the press was largely due to the community outreach and process for the vending initiative. Jesse then outlined each of the six vendors their varieties and the thought process for the location of each, as well as the success of each in the first week highlighting the Clover food truck. Jesse stated that three things will drive the success of this program: choosing good partners, getting the basics right and going slow.

James Chen asked if there were any plans to extend the vending program to Chinatown. Jesse said that for this pilot year it was hard to guarantee success there with all of the

construction in the park but with additional community outreach it would be likely in the future.

GLC Comments on the Greenway District Planning Study

Ann Thornburg open the meeting to Dave Seeley and Bill Lane for GLC comments on the BRA Greenway District Planning Study. Dave began by thanking the BRA and Peter Gori for the extension and stated that these comments were on behalf of all GLC members and that this process was a priority for the group. Ann Thornburg asked that all GLC members present to be sure that neighborhood representation was achieved and in addition wanted to be sure the GLC did not overstep in their role during this process.

Bill Lane stated that the GLC wanted to be sure that they focused on the study as a whole and not just individual district projects. He also urged active feedback from all GLC members, the board and the public.

Ann Thornburg asked for all edits/changes to be sent to her by end of business on Thursday 6/24/10 o ensure meeting the deadline for submission to the BRA for end of business on Friday 6/25/10.

The meeting was opened up to public comment and received one question.

Ann Thornburg adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.