

Highland Park Conservancy, Inc.
Annual Meeting, Wednesday, April 25, 2018
Olmsted Lodge, 180 Reservoir Avenue, Rochester, NY
Minutes of Meeting

Members Present: Approximately 100

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President JoAnn Beck at 7:05 PM. The Conservancy Board has 262 voting members. The number required for a quorum therefore would be 27. Since more than 27 members were present, it was declared that a quorum was present. JoAnn reported that the Notice of Meeting was mailed to all 262 members on March 31, 2018.

2. Welcome

JoAnn introduced Monroe County Parks Director Larry Staub who welcomed the meeting attendees and noted the County's appreciation of the Conservancy's Highland Park activities, including its numerous tours and lectures and volunteer gardening efforts.

JoAnn introduced Monroe County Parks Superintendent of Horticulture Mark Quinn who stated that the County and the Park are in complete support of the rebuilding of the Children's Pavilion.

3. Minutes of the April 2017 Annual Meeting

The minutes of the April 2017 Annual Meeting were distributed to members prior to the commencement of the Meeting. Edna Claunch, seconded by Julie Everitt, moved their approval. The Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

4. Annual Report

JoAnn provided a summary of the following accomplishments by the Conservancy in 2017:

- Development of a Strategic Plan, with key assistance from Tom Argust.
- Plans to restore the Children's Pavilion by 2022, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted.
- An increase in membership from 177 to 262.
- An increase in the number of events, programs and attendees.
- First members Holiday party.
- New website and Instagram account, resulting in an improvement of communications with both the members and the community-at-large. The Facebook page has 2,500 followers.
- Production of the Children's Pavilion video.
- Rochester Area Community Foundation grant for production of a Highland Park history video. A "trailer" of the video was shown.
- Institution of a Finance Committee (see paragraph 6, below).
- Volunteer gardening activities resulting in a modest reduction of invasive weeds.

- Integration of the volunteer gardeners from the former Rochester Civic Garden Center grounds who will continue their gardening activities at the Warner Castle under the auspices of the Conservancy.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented by Julie Everitt and copies were distributed to meeting attendees prior to the meeting. A member, seconded by a member, moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was approved by unanimous vote.

6. Approval of Finance Committee

The Board created a Finance Committee to update the accounting practices of the Conservancy. Edna, seconded by a member, moved to approve creation of the Finance Committee. The creation of the Finance Committee was approved by unanimous vote.

7. Election of Directors

The following individuals were nominated by a Board Committee:

JoAnn Beck
Jane Chapman
Edna Claunch
Lucy Cook
Julie Everitt
Mary Fisher
Mary Gaudioso
Diane Hampton
Thomas Kicior, Jr.
Milli Piccione
Susan Rodio
Marjorie Searl
Marie Via

Edna, seconded by Richard Dempsey, nominated Mary Walsh to the Board of Directors from the floor.

JoAnn reported that 62 proxies were received, all of whom voted for the slate of nominees nominated by the Board Committee.

Margie, seconded by Nan Galbraith, moved to accept the entire slate of nominees. The entire slate of nominees was unanimously approved.

8. Tribute to Father Amann

JoAnn announced that Father Amann, who recently retired from active participation on the Board, was conferred with the title Director Emeritus of the Conservancy. Father Amann was a

founding member of the Conservancy and was active for many years in leading tours of the Park, using his late brother's poems to add to the appreciation of the Park.

9. Speaker

JoAnn introduced the guest speaker, Sue R. Steele, Landscape Architect. Sue was instrumental in designing local projects such as El Camino, the Brickyard Trail and Art Walk. Her talk focused on the relationship between contact with the natural world and health and well-being.

Sue answered questions from the audience following her talk. Finally, Sue was presented with a gift from the Conservancy for generously sharing her knowledge with us.

10. Contribution from the Friends and Neighbors of Seneca Park

JoAnn announced a contribution from the Friends and Neighbors of Seneca Park towards this year's Annual Meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Edna, seconded by Julie and the meeting was adjourned.

The Annual Meeting was followed by a reception, with refreshments.