

## Foundation Committee Report For January 11, 2023

**Committee:** Eloise Laubach, Chair, Becky Cole, Charlene Plucheck, Terry Schumacher, Mavis Richardson, Vicki Spillane

The meeting was called to order at 1:00. A quorum was present. Charlane was absent.

Chair Comments centered on a meeting I had with Jon Rea and Matt Martella concerning suitable projects for Foundation funding.

Notes of November 9, 2022 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Financial reports were reviewed.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Someone (not a committee member) updated the Foundation Donation form. It is still not to the Committee's satisfaction.

### **New Business**

The following notes were taken by a committee member:

Reviewing the updated Donation form was Tabled.

Matt Martella (head of Roads and Grounds) attended the meeting and explained his requests for money to fund projects. He wants to fund projects that will make the biggest impact on the community in terms of improving the looks of Heather Gardens. After considerable discussion and explanation, four projects were approved by the committee and will be taken to the HGMD Board for approval:

1. \$500 for Flowering Annuals to be planted in new flower beds planned for in front of the Heather Gardens sign on Yale in order to approve the appearance.
2. \$1200 for 14 pads underneath 14 benches along South Heather Gardens Way and Marina Drive. Eventually, Matt would like to see us replace many of the benches, as well, as they give an unsightly appearance to people driving by. For now, just amending the pads underneath the benches will add curb appeal, ease of maintenance, and support for the benches.
3. \$1300 for a pad and bench for the area along the golf path to the south of building 215. There are presently no benches along this section of the pathway, and the bench will also assist in ameliorating ruts in the grass in this area.
4. \$3,300 for removal of weeds and to plant good quality sod in order to begin to enhance the area along Yale between S. Abilene street and E. Marina Dr in what is known as "the Yale Island." Soil amendment/prep will also be needed. This is the

beginning of a process to create more “Water Wise” areas on the Heather Gardens property.

The Foundation Committee voted to fund the entire \$7000 cost for all of these projects.

Next, we discussed the Foundations Donation Summary. The spreadsheet we reviewed was rather confusing to committee members as it didn’t seem to clearly explain where our money was coming from and where it was going. In particular, we needed further explanation of the interest earned on the Foundation’s investment and what \$1415.45 was spent on. Eloise asked Jerry Counts to come into the room to address our concerns. The spreadsheet has balances on it (Roads & Ground, \$324.50; Club House, \$375.70; and Golf, \$50) carried over from prior years which had been spent in those categories some time ago. When people donate money for a particular area we need to make sure their wishes are honored and that our Donation Summary reflects that the money is spent properly. Jerry said he would see if there was a clearer way to reflect where the money came from and where it was spent. The Committee will also review spending categories and determine how to ensure that money donated to us is actually spent in the way it was intended.

In addition, members of the committee learned that the \$1415.45 was actually the sum total of all the money earned from our investments in 2022! Apparently, 3 or 4 years ago the state required HGMD to separate our invested money from theirs. Committee members assumed this might be to ensure that the committee receives the money earned to spend through the Foundation’s donation process. However, HGMD began charging the Foundation Committee the exact amount earned through our investments, in this case, \$1415.45, for “Management fees” to “Manage” the money. Charging 100% of the investments as “Management Fees” seemed highly excessive and possibly illegal to committee members. Jerry said he would speak with the HGMD Board and let them know that the committee was upset and “wanted to take him to the woodshed” over this practice.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 pm.

Submitted by Eloise Laubach