

Fernwood Fund

Board Meeting Minutes (8/25/2020)



Date: August 25th, 2020 at 6:30pm
Location: Virtual, Google Meet
Attendance: Lorinda Flores, Amy Joyce, Mel Limas, Tara Baszler, David Eskra, Matt Ray, John Sanchez, Benjamin Stocks
Absent: Eric van Schyndle
Guests: Brett Mytys
Facilitator: Benjamin Stocks
Note Taker: Benjamin Stocks

Meeting Notes (actions are assumed due at the next meeting unless otherwise stated)

- Standing agenda topics:
 - No new grant requests or other items for the Principal's Report.

- Urban Ecology Center and Schlitz Audubon Center
 - In the 2019/2020 school year Urban Ecology Center trips were paid as students went.
 - Schlitz Audubon Center trips were paid up front, leaving a credit with Schlitz for up to four trips.
 - School accounts paid for both last year and have not been reimbursed by the MPS Foundation so the costs will still appear in the Fernwood Fund's financial statement even though those dollars are committed.
 - Likelihood is low that these trips will resume in 2020/2021, if they do it will be closer to spring.

- Updates on Projects from 2019/2020:
 - The West Playground has been paid for, the MPS Foundation still needs to reimburse the school accounts.
 - The water fountain project sponsored by the student group is going forward. The school accounts will make up the difference between the anticipated cost minus the combination of the student fundraising and the match from the Fernwood Fund.
 - The \$2,000 committed to the music program is on hold and should remain penciled into the Fernwood Fund's budget for now. Mr. Miller will do what he can for music education through the distance learning mechanisms in place.

- Fundraising:
 - Principal Sanchez will inquire with the Foundation as to the status of the contract to Gesture (auction and ticketing for Beers and Cheers) as well as inquiring about other fundraising options such as DonorsChoose. Likely fundraising will need to be done without taping local businesses or families while COVID measures stay in place.
 - Action: Ben will place an agenda item for September to discuss ideas or options on fundraising.

- Future Projects:
 - Lorinda discussed the playground Maryland Montessori installed for their older children and raised the idea of a future project for the Fernwood Fund to focus on more play structures for the older children at Fernwood Montessori.
 - The structures at Maryland Montessori were sourced from KOMPAN (<https://www.kompan.us/>).
 - There was originally a plan for a "phase 2" of the west playground that could cover some of the costs.

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- The playground at Maryland Montessori was estimated at almost \$100,000 with some funding coming through Reflo (<https://refloh2o.com/about-reflo>) or other grant program.s
- Action: Principal Sanchez will look into the fundraising options Maryland Montessori used.

- Board Operations:
 - As the COVID situation is likely to continue through the end of the calendar year, the Fernwood Fund needs to proceed with selection of officers for two year terms to stay within the by-laws. Additionally, Mel will be stepping away from the board in total at the end of the 2020/2021 school year.
 - Action: Ben will place an agenda item for September to select new officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer).
 - Action: Amy and/or Brett will reach out to representatives from the parents music group to ask them if they would like to join the Fernwood Fund Board.
 - Action: all board members (officers and members at large) should endeavor to contact other parents who may wish to be part of the Fernwood Fund Board and bring them to the September board meeting.
 - Board meetings in 2020/2021 will remain on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30, meetings will be scheduled with Google Meet options to allow the board to continue social distancing.
 - Meeting dates will be:
 - September 8
 - October 13
 - November 10
 - December 8 (traditionally an offsite event but that is TBD if situation allows)
 - January 12
 - February 9
 - March 9
 - April 13
 - May 11
 - June date is TBD based on if there is a spring fundraiser