

## Heather Gardens Foundation Notes

August 14, 2024 Meeting

1. All five members of the committee were present.
2. Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm
3. Eloise updated members as to her health, telling us she probably will not be needing surgery any time soon.
4. Approved report from regular meeting on May 8, 2024
5. Financial reports from May, June, and July, 2024 were reviewed. We presently have \$48,718.84 available to spend in our checking account. In addition, we have approximately \$150,000 in Treasury Bill and Notes.
6. Matt Martela attended our meeting and explained approximately where he will place trees using the \$5000.00 which the Foundation has allocated to him for this purpose. He thinks he will purchase no pines but is looking at ornamental Cleveland Pears which have small white flowers in Spring, giving off a lovely smell. These new trees will be planted probably in October as they will require less watering at that time. The Russian Olive trees are being removed a few at a time and, going forward, he will be planting more water-wise trees and shrubs than were planted in the past.
7. New Business
  - A. Eloise suggested the possibility of The Foundation Committee providing Lottery Funds oversight. It was the consensus of the Foundation Members that they would not be in favor.
  - B. We also discussed Combining Foundation categories. Consensus was obtained in the following areas:
    1. Beginning in January of 2025, we could eliminate the separate category for trees and combine it with "Community Enhancement," "General Use," "Roads and Grounds," "Landscaping," or another category that makes sense. However, it was unanimously decided that the money presently in the category labeled "trees" continue in that category until it is used up as the people who donated to that category anticipate our using that money for trees. We would be out of integrity with our donors to use it otherwise. If we change the categories, we will need to change the request for donations form, the application for funds form and the PMs.

2. It was moved and approved that the \$324.50 in the Roads and Grounds category, the \$425.70 in the Clubhouse category and the \$65.00 in the Golf category be moved into the general fund and that those three categories be eliminated.

3. Next month we will discuss what one or two categories might best represent our plans to consolidate our categories to give us the most flexibility to create the best community enhancement possible for our residents. We discussed the need to make a long-range plan for Foundation Committee Funds as the needs today are different than they were when the Foundation first began. In the beginning Heather Gardens was out on the prairie and trees/grass/plants were the biggest needs. Today, approaches to landscaping are changing. In this age of climate change, mandates from the City of Aurora to work towards "Water-Wise" landscaping, and the need to create a more efficient landscape, the Foundation must become forward-thinking. Our future decisions will require that we continue to enhance our community in even better and more efficient and potentially more beautiful ways than before.

C. At the September meeting, Matt will bring us options for upgrading and/or supplementing our lighting options for Christmas 2024 as well as considerations for 2025.

In addition, he would like us to consider another golf course landscaping project near the driving cage that could include shrubs, flowering plants and trees.