

Keene Public Library
Building and Grounds Committee

Meeting held February 18, 2022 at 1:00 PM (DRAFT)

Members present: Gail Zachariah, Paul Henkel, Carl Jacobs, Scott Martin, and Sally Rinehart

New Business - Additional Microphones - Nik Morton of the City IT Department has been acting as a consultant in determining audio Visual needs in Cohen Hall and Heberton Hall. He has arranged to loan us an improved mixer so we can evaluate it over the next 60 days. It has capacity for accepting input from the additional microphones we need to allow panel discussions and for effectively conducting meetings. The microphones needed are:

2x Additional cabled microphones Shure SM58 - \$99/each - \$198/SubTotal
3x Shure SLX24/SM58 Wireless Handheld Microphone System - \$599/each -
\$1797/SubTotal
\$1995 Total.

There is some money earmarked for AV improvement and it is believed this is an appropriate expenditure of a portion of those funds. The Buildings and Grounds Trustees voted to recommend the Board purchase these additional microphones.

Landscaping - It was suggested we provide guidance about the relative importance and suggested timing of the soil treatment, trimming of trees and the replacement of the crabapple tree in the bid. This will assist our Facilities Department, the Finance Committee and the Board in determining a course of action. See cost of proposed tree work attached.

Paul Henkel contacted arborist Frank Grano of Bartlett Tree to ask what he felt was most important about the appropriate phasing of the work. Frank said the soil treatment around the Thayer Oak is most important to maintaining its health. The soil treatment should be done in the Spring. Cost is \$2660. Soil treatment in the fall is \$750. Subtotal \$3410.

Trimming of the large Pin Oak on Winter Street will include removal of a "hanger" over the sidewalk which could potentially be a hazard to a pedestrian. The Thayer Oak has a few dead branches, and it should be trimmed to provide better clearance to the building. Frank said it is best for the tree to do the trimming during the dormant season. Other smaller tree trimming is best done at the same time. He said trimming involves bringing equipment up onto the lawn, so he would definitely avoid the wet Spring days to avoid soil compaction. Cost of tree trimming is \$4810.

Removal and replacement of the Crabapple Tree is NOT time sensitive and it could wait another year. Frank said the Crabapple is in decline and he does not recommend spending \$ on trimming it. If City Facilities staff wish to trim dead wood as it evident, he thinks that is fine. Cost of replacement would be \$3250. One idea discussed was to be open to a donor funding a replacement tree. So cost to replace the crabapple is NOT included below.

We have been told the City Facilities budget can only support \$3000 of the above work. Buildings and Grounds Trustees voted to prioritize the work in line with the arborist recommendation above and suggests the Board consider funding \$5220 of the cost. The overall cost to accomplish soil treatment and tree trimming would be \$8220, and if the Board chooses to proceed, it will require Trustees funding \$5220 of the cost.

During discussion consideration was given to whether additional bids should be obtained. The expertise of others might not match Bartlett Tree expertise, and Andy Bohannon has a long term working relationship with them. They have been particularly successful at keeping the trees healthy during construction. So Trustees present did not think that is necessary.

New Business – Cohen Hall Exit Signs - We discussed the marking of the northwest corner exit from Cohen Hall. Having clear marking of exits - over and above what code requires - could be important because the public enters via an open unrated stairway. In a fire emergency a crowd of 200 people will need to exit through one or both of the two rated fire exit stairways. The rated stairways are unfamiliar to them. Andy Bohannon suggested we have Fireman John Bates review this. Carl Jacobs noted that theaters commonly point out their exits to the audience before a performance, and he suggested the Library consider doing so. Over time this will train returning members of our audience.

Old Business -

The color of the new lockers was discussed. It was thought fir green, black or brown would help the lockers blend in with the landscaping and with the courtyard behind.

Next meeting date: Friday March 18 at 1 PM

Paul Henkel, Chair
February 18, 2022