



## **FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**July 11, 2017**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**In attendance:** Dirk Danker, Dane Rankin, Catherine Ward, Jeanne Keene, Keecia Broy, Steve Burton, Will Leon, Darryl Baker, Dr. Alicia Evans, Lou Anne Johannesson

**Absent:** Heather Guido, Paul May, Dr. Carol Kelley, Jim O'Connor

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. The committee welcomed Jeanne Keane, new senior Director of Buildings and Grounds.

### **1. Tour of Longfellow Exterior:**

The committee toured Longfellow's exterior.

### **2. Public Comments:**

There was no public comment.

### **3. Action Items:**

The minutes from June 2017 were accepted by unanimous vote.

### **4. Landscaping Contractor**

Evans introduced Rob McAdam from McAdam Landscaping. She asked him the history his company had with the District. He stated that McAdam has a 20 year plus history working with the District. He reported that his company used to do a lot more services for the District. They maintained all the fields around the schools until five years ago. He also explained that 6 to 7 years ago the District decided to go green and asked the company to stop using any pesticides or weed control on the lawn. He stated that over the past few years, District 97 would occasionally look at additional projects they can do. More often than not, no additional work was done. He used to convey his concerns and his crew's through Norman Lane, former head of Buildings and Grounds and Don Vacca, former Senior Director. He reported that he was frequently frustrated with the two gentlemen. Often work was approved, and then at the last minute it would be called off. He stated that quite a few of the current problems with, for instance, overgrown bushes and shrubbery are issues he had tried to fix in the past. He specifically pointed to Whittier and Beye which have shaded areas where no grass grows, and where numerous bushes are dead or dying.

He stated that the company has some serious issues other school districts and the other properties with weeds and high-traffic area. Evans asked how he handles those issues and other properties that he contrasts with. He replaces grass completely with sod, or other materials. In most of their contracts they can use weed control products to solve the problems. Aid He stated that some of the grass areas around the District's schools are so bad with weeds they are more than 50% weed less than 50% grass. He also stated that there are large areas of school property that have dead or dying trees. He further stated that in the past he has pointed all that out to Buildings and Grounds. He stated that McAdams does not really do arbor work. When significant work needed to be done he was either told yes or no at spring arbor time to remove dead trees and dead branches. That work was subcontracted. He also explained that many times after recommendations related to the condition of the grounds he was told to begin and then told by the district hold off on working. Often work never got done. Evan stated that she was very concerned about the appearance of the properties of the district. She further stated that she personally had observed during the seeding in the spring season seeds just lying on top of dry soil. She asked if that is how his company seeds grass. He's didn't know the seed was on top of the soil. It should have been aerated and seeded properly. Evan stated that the contract calls for seeding but if it is not seeded grass will not grow. If it does not grow it is a violation of the current contract. He conceded that if seeding has not been done properly clearly grass will not grow. He further stated that it was very difficult for his company to guaranty grass in high traffic areas with no fertilizer and no weed control being allowed to be used on the grass. He stated that in the future the district might want to consider either landscaping carpet underneath the soil or sod, which is difficult to maintain in high traffic areas, or different types of groundcover such as stones, gravel or an alternative covering for high-traffic areas. He stated that the company has been working on an assessment of all the school properties and work that needed to be done. Evans asked when this report might be available to her. She asked if this is a formal report that he had done in the past. He said no, it was informal. He would often put together recommendations from his crew and what he had observed himself that needed to be done. Evans again him when she could see his assessment of current property problems. He stated that he would have a report ready for her within a two-week period of time. He stated that the company could try some alternative ideas to grow grass in areas that were overcome with weeds. Evans asked that he start at the school the committee was meeting at, Longfellow. Rankin asked if they would do an aeration of all the soil and seed again in the fall, in trouble areas. Danker asked if McAdam would include a time limit to solve problems if proposals are accepted. Baker asked when the final fall cleanup is usually done. McAdams stated that it's usually late in the fall but it certainly depends on the climate and leaf fall. He said it most likely mid-November. Keane asked if anybody at the school signs off on the work that is done on a weekly or monthly basis. McAdams stayed no, no one is ever been asked to check in with the schools when they do their maintenance. Evan stated that she would propose a way that corrects that in the future could. McAdams once again stated that controlling weeds is very difficult without pesticides or fertilizer. He also stated once again that most of the grass in large areas around every school are primarily weeds and not grass. He also stated that due to lack of maintenance of shrubbery, there's a lot of shades of grass will not grow. He remind the committee that in the past he had given recommendations to the living grounds to clear away the shrubbery and was either halted he was told no. He suggested that perhaps he should have the opportunity to look at re-turf all of the schools but that is very difficult to do during the school year when students are there. Evan stated that if the entire proposal is approved how long from start to finish work be done. He stated that it could possibly be done 3 to 4 weeks from the time of approval it depends on the type of project and manpower he would need to bring in. Evan stated she would set up an appointment with McAdams within a few weeks in the committee thanking for his time.

## **5. Warehouse updates**

Evans reported that there are several bidders, as high as \$820,000 currently. She will keep the committee informed.

## **6. Holmes Addition**

Evans asked the committee if they had a preference over the Board's approved plan for the west side. They all voted that the plan was fine.

## **7. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM**