



**Elizabeth Park**  
CONSERVANCY

**MEMO**

**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Christine Doty, President & CEO  
**DATE:** July 16, 2019  
**SUBJ:** Report

**1/ The Kim Arboretum at Elizabeth Park**

I have sent out a press release about the accreditation of Elizabeth Park as an arboretum and the naming of the arboretum as The Kim Arboretum at Elizabeth Park. Similar information will be posted on our website soon.

In addition, board member Marian Kellner is working on developing signage for about 100 trees in The Kim Arboretum. In addition, a map of significant trees will be developed.

**2/ Projects**

• **Visitor Center Project—**

The construction contract is under review, with signing to occur within about a week. After the contract is signed, the actual work should begin within about 30 days, the time needed to get building permits from West Hartford and to organize and hire subcontractors.

Several donors have come forward to support a child-size bench in the Visitor Center and a bike rack outside. In addition, the Ethel F. Donaghue Trust distributed \$108,000 just recently for the parking lot and agreed to allocate the remaining portion of a prior distribution for the boardwalk to the parking lot.

• **Permanent Stage**

There will be a meeting tomorrow morning, arranged by our landscape architect and architect, to introduce the contractor on this project. The John Martin Foundation trustees have asked me for a status report, which I will complete as soon as I learn the date that work is expected to begin.

• **Fern Street Entrance**

The goal is to file for West Hartford Plan & Zoning approval at the end of this month, with a hearing to take place early September.

• **MDC Donation**

Thanks to our new Ambassador, Avery Buell, the MDC is already helping with water issues in the Park.

**1/ Finance / Development**

A review of the 6-month development results indicate that action is needed in the following areas:

- Creating a Fall Event



## Elizabeth Park CONSERVANCY

- Creating a Tree Dedication Program
- Encouraging a donation before year-end from Lelia Palmieri for the Rose Garden

Recent developments in fundraising that have been encouraging:

- Lux Bond & Green's dedication of 2 rose beds has been scheduled for August 1
- Jim Betts has contacted us on behalf of a charitable trust he administers; newly interested in supporting Elizabeth Park
- Thanks to Stephen Scanniello's contacts with rose growers, we intend to offer a donor the possibility of having a rose named after the donor (\$12,000 - \$15,000), if we succeed.

In addition,

- I have met with development staff to brainstorm and organize efforts going forward for balance of year.
- I have interviewed a possible candidate for events management, particularly Wine & Roses.
- I am mulling over how to move forward with a restarted Development Committee.