

Newton Conservators - Treasurer's Report on 2021 Finances

In 2021, the unrestricted net assets of Newton Conservators reached \$352 thousand, an increase of \$63 thousand, which broke the prior year's record increase of \$58 thousand. This was due to even stronger donations and continued growth in investment market value.

Revenues in 2021 were \$39 thousand, 19% higher than 2020 and 73% higher than the previous three years. Memberships were high, but gifts made up most of the increase. As in the previous year, we hypothesize that during the COVID restrictions, people had more time to do charitable giving and also were more appreciative of our open spaces. Operating expenses before special projects were \$22 thousand, including one-time expenses for an accountant's review of our 2020 financials (required due to high grant project activity that year) and for implementation of a new constituent donation management system.

During 2021, per our investment spending policy, we transferred to operations \$6.4 thousand of 4-percent-spending-policy investment income from the board-designated endowment to cover special projects; however, again due to the unusual year, there were no special project expenses. The \$6.4 thousand will stay in the "Spending Policy Board Designated Endowment" balance sheet account, which had an ending balance of \$17.8 thousand, and is available for future projects.

Investment growth was high, with market value (unrealized gains) increasing by \$28 thousand and other investment income bringing the total increase to \$46 thousand. After transfers to the Ordway Endowment Interest account, the new CR Monitoring investment account, and the Spending Policy account, the increase was \$33 thousand. Overall, the ending balance of unrestricted net assets was \$352 thousand, which includes \$148 thousand in the original Board-Designated Endowment, \$18 thousand in the accumulated spending policy account, and \$186 thousand more currently undesignated but available for the organization's needs.

Restricted assets increased from \$130 to \$190 thousand at year end, half due to receiving \$30K from the city for the new CR Monitoring fund, and half due to activity in several of the efforts that we fiscally sponsor: Houghton Garden fundraising net of restoration costs, Save the Cove fundraising net of costs, and completion of the first phase of Riverside trail work. Of the \$190 thousand of restricted funds, \$49 thousand is invested in the Fidelity Multi Asset Index Fund (formerly named 4-in-1) which has 85% in equity index funds, while the balance is in shorter term vehicles (Fidelity Money Market, Treasury notes, and our checking account).

Unrestricted net assets, totalling \$352 thousand at year end, are invested primarily (79%) in the Fidelity Multi Asset Index Fund, with the balance in Money Market and Treasury notes.

Total assets, unrestricted and restricted (including \$53 thousand in city escrow funds for Conservation Restriction monitoring at 2 city properties - there is a matching \$53 thousand liability), ended the year at \$595 thousand, an increase of \$123 thousand from 2020.