

Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center Donation and Gift Policy

Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center solicits and accepts gifts for purposes that will help the organization further and fulfil its mission. Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center urges all prospective donors to seek the assistance of personal legal and financial advisors in matters relating to their gifts, including the resulting tax and estate planning consequences. The following policies and guidelines govern acceptance of gifts made to Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center for the benefit of any of its operations, programs or services.

Use of Legal Counsel—Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center will seek the advice of legal counsel in matters relating to acceptance of gifts when appropriate. Review by counsel is recommended for:

- A. Gifts of securities that are subject to restrictions or buy-sell agreements.
- B. Documents naming Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center as trustee or requiring Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center to act in any fiduciary capacity.
- C. Gifts requiring Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center to assume financial or other obligations.
- D. Transactions with potential conflicts of interest.
- E. Gifts of property which may be subject to environmental or other regulatory restrictions.

Restrictions on Gifts—Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center will not accept gifts that (a) would result in Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center violating its corporate charter, (b) would result in Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center losing its status as an IRC § 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, (c) are too difficult or too expensive to administer in relation to their value, (d) would result in any unacceptable consequences for Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center, or (e) are for purposes outside Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center's mission. Decisions on the restrictive nature of a gift, and its acceptance or refusal, shall be made by the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Center's Director-Naturalist.

Gifts Generally Accepted Without Review—

- *Cash.* Cash gifts are acceptable in any form, including by check, money order, credit card, or on-line. Donors wishing to make a gift by credit card must provide the card type (e.g., Visa, MasterCard, and Discover), card number, expiration date, and name of the card holder as it appears on the credit card.
- *Marketable Securities.* Marketable securities may be transferred electronically to an account maintained at one or more brokerage firms or delivered physically with the transferor's endorsement or signed stock power (with appropriate signature guarantees) attached. All marketable securities will be sold promptly upon receipt unless otherwise directed by Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center's

Finance Committee. In some cases marketable securities may be restricted, for example, by applicable securities laws or the terms of the proposed gift; in such instances the decision whether to accept the restricted securities shall be made by the Executive Committee.

- *Bequests and Beneficiary Designations under Revocable Trusts, Life Insurance Policies, Commercial Annuities and Retirement Plans.* Donors are encouraged to make bequests to Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center under their wills, and to name Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center as the beneficiary under trusts, life insurance policies, commercial annuities and retirement plans.
- *Charitable Remainder Trusts.* Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center will accept designation as a remainder beneficiary of charitable remainder trusts.
- *Charitable Lead Trusts.* Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center will accept designation as an income beneficiary of charitable lead trusts.

Gifts Accepted Subject to Prior Review—Certain forms of gifts or donated properties may be subject to review prior to acceptance. Examples of gifts subject to prior review include, but are not limited to:

- *Tangible Personal Property.* The Executive Committee shall review and determine whether to accept any gifts of tangible personal property in light of the following considerations: does the property further the organization's mission? Is the property marketable? Are there any unacceptable restrictions imposed on the property? Are there any carrying costs for the property for which the organization may be responsible? Is the title/provenance of the property clear?
- *Life Insurance.* Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center will accept gifts of life insurance where Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center is named as both beneficiary and irrevocable owner of the insurance policy. The donor must agree to pay, before due, any future premium payments owing on the policy.
- *Real Estate.* All gifts of real estate are subject to review by the Executive Committee. Prior to acceptance of any gift of real estate other than a personal residence, Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center shall require an initial environmental review by a qualified environmental firm. In the event that the initial review reveals a potential problem, the organization may retain a qualified environmental firm to conduct an environmental audit. Criteria for acceptance of gifts of real estate include: Is the property useful for the organization's purposes? Is the property readily marketable? Are there covenants, conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, encumbrances or other limitations associated with the property? Are there carrying costs (including insurance, property taxes, mortgages, notes, or the like) or maintenance expenses associated with the property? Does the environmental review or audit reflect that the property is damaged or otherwise requires remediation?
- *Naming Opportunities.* Naming opportunities which a donor has expressed an interest in funding should be acted upon by the Executive Committee after

consultation with the Executive Director of the Bucks county Department of Parks and Recreation. Naming opportunities may include, but not be limited to structures or positions. Value of naming opportunity needs to cover maintenance costs. Additionally, from time to time, cases arise where there is a desire to recognize an individual for outstanding service to Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center. In such cases, the Executive Committee will review and will make recommendations to the full Board to determine the final outcome of the request.

Additional Considerations

- *Corporate Matching Programs*—All corporate matching gift forms are to be executed according to rules set by the corporation or foundation for the employee match.
- *Acknowledgement of Contributions*—Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center will acknowledge contributions in writing within 5-7 business days of the receipt of the gift. All contributions will receive a gift receipt acknowledgement from the Center. Additionally, gifts of \$1,000 and above will be acknowledged under the signature of the President/Director-Naturalist.
- *Calendar year-end Documentation*—All donors (gifts \$250 and above) will receive notification of the total amount of their calendar year donation. This notification will be mailed by January 31 of each year.

Approved by Board on September 14, 2011